



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God gives extraordinary peace.

THE BIBLE

Gideon Asks for a Sign: Judges 6

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Telephone Game
- **ACTIVITY** | Obstacle Course

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Peace Like a River
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives extraordinary peace.
- **VIDEO** | Crossover, Episode 1
- **SCRIPTURE** | Judges 6
- **ACTIVITY** | Extraordinary Me!
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Chew On This!
- **ACTIVITY** | Gideon's Torch
- **ACTIVITY** | Lead the Way
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Memory Fleece

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Human Fleece
- **ACTIVITY** | Fleece Tag



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY KATHIE PHILLIPS

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Obstacle Course

For this blindfolded obstacle course game, do not blindfold toddlers. Also you can simplify by only having one obstacle, such as a play tunnel.

ACTIVITY | Extraordinary Me!

Use blank paper with "[Name of child] is extraordinary!" written across the bottom. Trace each child's hand onto the paper.

ACTIVITY | Gideon's Torch

Instead of using cardboard tubes for this craft activity, use 9-ounce clear plastic cups.



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives extraordinary peace.

THE BIBLE

Gideon Asks for a Sign: Judges 6

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Telephone Game

- Good morning, friends! Our Bible story today is about a group of people who had to be good listeners. **Are you a good listener?** Great! I want to see how good of a listener you are by playing a listening game.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to sit in a circle. Explain to them you will whisper a few words to the kid on your left, who should then whisper the words to the kid next to them. This will continue until the last kid hears the words. That kid will then say the words aloud. You can whisper short phrases such as "Jesus loves you," "God is with us," or "We're all friends." (Vary the game by starting the opposite way or letting a few of the kids choose a short phrase to whisper.)
- You all did a great job listening! I can't wait for us to listen to our Bible story together!

ACTIVITY | Obstacle Course

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up an obstacle course in your space using traffic cones, hula hoops, jump ropes, etc. One adult leader will be blindfolded and another will guide the blindfolded leader through the obstacle course without touching them, only by giving them directions. Be extremely dramatic and as silly as possible. Then, allow a leader to blindfold a kid and lead them through the course, being sensitive that some kids might not want to be blindfolded.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Do not blindfold the children and simplify by only having one obstacle, such as a play tunnel.
- There is no way anyone would've made it through that wacky obstacle course alone without being able to see, right? They wouldn't have known where to go or what to do. But when someone is telling you what to do and all you would have to do is listen. For the next few weeks, we are

going to be talking about people in the Bible who were able to do great things because they heard from God and listened.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Peace Like a River

- If you know this song, feel free to sing along with me!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "[Peace Like a River](#)" from *Listener Kids*.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives extraordinary peace.

- This month, we're going to find our Big Ideas each week in this ordinary, boring box. It just looks like any ol' box, right? Maybe like the kind of box Amazon packages come in, or the ones you use when you move houses. But it's not! It is an extraordinary box because it has some extraordinary ideas inside.
- **Can one of you come and pull the red paper out of this box for us?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the Big Idea: God gives extraordinary peace! After you have read the message written on a piece of construction paper or a longer banner of bulletin board paper, glue or tape it to the outside of the box.

VIDEO | Crossover, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's preschool [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Judges 6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story from Judges 6 in a preschool Bible and read it to your preschoolers. We recommend *The Beginner's Bible*.
- **Who was the man in our Bible story today?** That's right, his name was Gideon.
- **What special job did God have for Gideon?** God wanted Gideon to free the Israelites.
- **Did Gideon think God would do what God had promised?** Maybe, but he wasn't sure at first. So, Gideon asked God for signs that God would do as promised.
- **How did God give extraordinary peace to Gideon?** God gave Gideon the signs he asked for. God wanted Gideon to know that God would always be him!

ACTIVITY | Extraordinary Me!

- God asked Gideon to do a special job, but Gideon thought God picked the wrong person. But God loved Gideon, and God was patient with him and proved Gideon had heard God correctly. Even though Gideon felt he was ordinary, God made sure he knew that with God's peace on his side, Gideon was extraordinary!
- God thinks you're extraordinary, too! You are a very special person made to do big things for God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give out the printable and have kids cut them out using safety scissors (or cut it for them beforehand). Preschoolers can draw using crayons or washable markers to make a

picture of what they want to be when they are older.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use blank paper with “[Name of child] is extraordinary!” written across the bottom. Trace each child’s hand onto the paper.

- God had a plan and job for Gideon to do. And guess what? God has a plan and job for you, too! Take a person and draw a picture of what you might want to do for God when you grow up. Maybe you want to be a doctor, a musician, a missionary, a firefighter, a parent, an astronaut, a ballet dancer, a veterinarian... maybe you want to be a lot of different things!

PRAYER

- Dear God, help us to be brave, just like you did for Gideon. Help us to hear You correctly and feel Your peace.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Chew On This!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a “Chewy” bar to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they’re busy sitting and snacking!
- **Why was God not happy with the Israelites at the time when Gideon lived?**
- **What did God tell Gideon?**
- **What did Gideon think about this? What did he do?**
- **How did God send peace to Gideon?**

ACTIVITY | Gideon’s Torch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out tissue paper squares, paper towel tubes, and stickers. Tell the kids to stuff a red, yellow, and orange sheet of tissue paper inside one end of the cardboard tube, securing with glue or tape as needed. Encourage the kids to decorate the tube with stickers.
- **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using cardboard tubes, use 9-ounce clear plastic cups.
- Gideon and his army beat the Midianites’ army. They used torches instead of swords. We’re going to make our own torches to help us remember God will always be with us to make us feel calm and give us peace.
- **Who was the man in our Bible story today?** Gideon
- **What special job did God have for Gideon?** To free the Israelites
- **How did God give extraordinary peace to Gideon?** God was always with Gideon

ACTIVITY | Lead the Way

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to use the torches they created earlier to lead a march around the room.
- **Is it easy for you to listen and obey?**
- **How did Gideon listen to God in today’s story?**
- **Who can you talk to and trust when you might be afraid?**

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Fleece

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut pieces of felt into small strips. Write one word of the memory verse per strip of felt with a permanent marker. Encourage the kids to work together to lay out their felt. Once their verse is in order, spray their felt with a water-filled spray bottle to make it wet, like the fleece in the story.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a coloring page along with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Remind them of today's story, memory verse, and Big Idea as they color!

ACTIVITY | Human Fleece

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a simple game to remind the kids of the signs Gideon asked for in today's story. When you say, "Fleece... wet!" the kids will roll around on the floor however they want. When you say, "Fleece... dry!" they have to lie completely still.

ACTIVITY | Fleece Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a large fleece blanket on the floor. Play a regular game of tag, except when someone is tagged, they need to sit under the blanket. Keep playing until everyone is under the blanket (For smaller spaces where running space is limited, encourage the kids to walk or crawl).

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.



