



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

Pentecost: Acts 2:1-12;
(John 14:25-26)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Piñata Partners
- **ACTIVITY** | Ask For Help
- **QUESTION** | Who will help us?
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives us the Holy Spirit.
- **VIDEO** | Go, Episode 2
- **SCRIPTURE** | Acts 2:1-12
- **VIDEO** | The Spirit Comes Down
- **STORY** | All by Myself
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 14:25-26
- **REFLECTION** | Ask the Holy Spirit for Help
- **MUSIC** | Dance Party
- **PRAYER**
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Verse Sequence

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - When did the Holy Spirit come?
 - How did the Holy Spirit appear?
 - What kinds of miraculous things happened when the Holy Spirit came?
 - Read John 14:25-26. Why do you think the Holy Spirit reminds us of all that Jesus has said?
 - Why do you think Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us?
 - How does the Holy Spirit help us?
 - How will you ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week?
- **ACTIVITY** | Pass the Answer Ball
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY HEATHER HENDERSON

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

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

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1-12

To relate to the part in today's Scripture about the people being able to suddenly speak in other languages, engage your preteens by asking them if they have ever tried to learn or study a new language, or if they have friends or family members who speak a language different than theirs. What language would they like to learn? Now, how cool would it be if we could just speak it all of a sudden?

STORY | All by Myself

Have pre-teens share their own stories of a time that they could have used help- at school, on a team, with their friends, etc.

REFLECTION | Ask the Holy Spirit for Help

As kids get older, many of them assert their independence by not asking for help. As kids reflect on how they can rely on the Holy Spirit for help, add an additional reflection element by asking your preteens about why we are sometimes reluctant to ask for help. Ask them what might be some consequences of not asking for help, and how we can overcome those barriers to seeking help.



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY ABBY BURG

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Piñata Partners

For kids with fine motor challenges, consider providing ink stamps as one of the decorative elements if you choose to have kids decorate their own blindfold.

For the actual activity, you, or a peer buddy, can also help some of our friends with special needs so that they can strike the piñata with adequate force and direction. You can either guide their hands or verbally give them directions.

MUSIC | Dance Party

For kids whose movement is impaired by a physical disability, consider providing props such as colorful scarves, ribbons, or hoops to facilitate creative movement. And if your space and number of students permits, making these props available to everyone promotes an inclusive environment and amps up the fun!

ACTIVITY | Pass the Answer Ball

For some kids with learning disabilities related to processing, coming up with a response on the fly can be anxiety-inducing and cause them to freeze when it's their turn. If you have a student who experiences these challenges, you can help by explaining the activity, then saying, "I'm going to start us off by sharing something I learned, then I'm going to pass the ball to [insert student's name] so he/she can share. [Insert student's name] will then pass the ball to someone else. Ready? Today I learned_____ Okay, [insert student's name], it's your turn!"



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

Pentecost: Acts 2:1-12;
(John 14:25-26)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Piñata Partners

- INSTRUCTIONS: Get a piñata (like [this one](#)) or follow [these instructions](#) to make your own! Fill the piñata with candies of your choice. You'll also need a plastic bat and blindfolds for this activity, or ask the kids to make their own ([like these piñata blindfolds](#)). Hang the piñata somewhere in the room, outdoors on a tree, or on a long stick a volunteer can hold for the kids. Count off the kids (1, 2, 1, 2, etc.). When all the 2s have had a chance, let the 1s put masks on, and have 2s be helpers. Continue until the kids burst the piñata!
✖ SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: For kids with fine motor challenges, consider providing ink stamps as one of the decorative elements for the blindfolds. You, or a peer buddy, can also help some of our friends with special needs strike the piñata.
- All of the 2s, come up to the front and put your blindfold on! Now, all you have to do is make your way to the piñata, and when you do, I will give each of you 3 chances to strike the piñata. Easy peasy! Ready, set, go! (Allow kids to start fumbling their way towards the piñata for a few seconds.) Wait, wait, wait! Everyone stop! This would probably be a lot easier if you had someone helping you, wouldn't it? 1s, come on up and partner up with a 2 and help them get to the piñata!

ACTIVITY | Ask For Help

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a basket filled with crayons, markers, and pencils at each table and distribute this week's printable to everyone. Encourage the kids to write or draw different things they might

need help with in their lives. Make some suggestions, like homework, paying for an item at the store, reaching the cereal bowls in the cupboard, getting to school in the morning, or anything else they just can't quite do without some help from someone else yet. Next to each item, tell them to write down the person (or people) they would ask for help: maybe a parent, teacher, pastor, sibling, or friend.

QUESTION | Who will help us?

- Let's stop and think about the activities we just did. We did a trust activity where we needed someone else's help to get where we needed to go. We also thought about different times we need help in our lives.
- It's so nice to have people who help us, isn't it? When we are having a problem, whether it's at school or at home, whether it's really big or really small, there are people in our lives we can ask for help.
- But what if we needed help to do the right thing when it's hard, make good decisions when we just don't know how to choose, or be brave even when things are really, really scary? **Who will help us with these things?**

THE BIG IDEA | God gives us the Holy Spirit.

- Well, guess what? I have great news! We do have someone who does that. We have access to our very own Helper and our Helper gives us an extra boost to face the hard stuff in our lives every single day! The name of our helper is Holy Spirit. Has anyone heard that name before? Yeah! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and that's who we're going to learn about today. I want you to repeat our Big Idea after me:
 - **God** (Point upward.)
 - **Gives us** (Point to self.)
 - **The Holy Spirit** (Point upward.)
- Our Helper, the Holy Spirit, gives us power, direction, and guidance.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Go, Episode 2

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

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 2:1-12 together.
- This story is about a day called "Pentecost." Pentecost is a day that is celebrated 50 days after Easter. And Pentecost celebrates the very first time the Holy Spirit showed up.
- So what happened here was, Jesus had just gone back to Heaven so He was no longer with the disciples on Earth. You might remember from last week that Jesus left them all with a mission before He left, though. But with all the hard work that awaited them, the disciples definitely needed a helper! And that's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with them!

- The Bible story today says that Holy Spirit showing up was like a “mighty, rushing wind,” and the people began to speak in other languages! **Can you imagine being able to just suddenly speak in other languages than the one you grew up learning?** Wild, right? So, when the Helper showed up on the scene, things changed! It was a big deal!

✖ PRETEEN HACK: Ask them if they have ever tried to learn or study a new language, or if they have friends or family members who speak a language different than theirs. What language would they like to learn? Now, how cool would it be if we could just speak it all of a sudden?

VIDEO | The Spirit Comes Down

- Let’s review the story of Pentecost by watching this video!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#), “Jesus’ Ascension” by Saddleback Kids.

STORY | All by Myself

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about a time you were left to do something very difficult on your own, without help. For instance, solving a math problem with no help, or picking out your own clothes as a child for the first time. Keep the story lighthearted and emphasize how much easier the task would have been had you had help.
- **✖ PRETEEN HACK:** Have pre-teens share their own stories of a time that they could have used help- at school, on a team, with their friends, etc.

SCRIPTURE | John 14:25-26

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read this passage. You may want to use a Bible translation, such as ESV, where the word “Helper” is used for the Holy Spirit.
- Just like I needed help with a difficult task, Jesus knew it would be difficult for those who believe in Him to live the way Jesus taught them... especially since Jesus couldn’t be seen on Earth anymore. They were going to need help, so Jesus sent the best kind of help!
- **What was our Big Idea again?** That’s right! God gives us the Holy Spirit. That means God does not leave US without help, either! The Holy Spirit, like we just read, helps us remember everything Jesus taught us, and gives us power to “GO” and carry out God’s mission!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Ask the Holy Spirit for Help

- Earlier, you wrote down (or drew) different things you need help with, and you also mentioned who you would ask for help. The thing is, we can ask the Holy Spirit for help any time we need it. That’s why we like to call the Holy Spirit the Helper!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take out the completed worksheets from the “Ask for Help” activity at the beginning of this lesson. In the area where they wrote down who will help them, have them add “Holy Spirit,” or just “HS.”
- **✖ PRETEEN HACK:** Add an additional reflection element by asking your preteens about

why we are sometimes reluctant to ask for help. Ask them what might be some consequences of not asking for help, and how we can overcome those barriers to seeking help.

- Jesus left us with the Helper so we would have help with any situation we might be facing. So let's remember to ask the Holy Spirit for help!

MUSIC | Dance Party

- Knowing God's Spirit leads us and helps us sure makes me happy! It makes me want to get up and dance!
 - **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a fun, upbeat song of your choosing and give kids a chance to move! Check out: "[Get Up and Dance](#)" by Hillsong Kids or "[Can You Feel the Joy](#)" by Christ Music Kids.
- ✖ SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide props such as colorful scarves, ribbons, or hoops to facilitate creative movement. Making these props available to everyone promotes an inclusive environment and amps up the fun!

PRAYER

- Thank You, God, for sending the Holy Spirit to be our helper. Please help us remember we can always ask our Helper to give us wise thoughts and good ideas, and that we can always, always, always ask the Holy Spirit for help.

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Sequence

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to repeat the verse after you, starting with one word, and adding on a new word with each repetition (i.e., Let (*let*), Let your (*let your*), let your light (*let your light*), etc.).

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- When did the Holy Spirit come?
- How did the Holy Spirit appear?
- What kinds of miraculous things happened when the Holy Spirit came?
- Read John 14:25-26. Why do you think the Holy Spirit reminds us of all that Jesus has said?
- Why do you think Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us?
- How will you ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week?

ACTIVITY | Pass the Answer Ball

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each small group will need one ball. Leaders will start with the ball and pass it to one kid after explaining the activity!
- ✖ SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids with challenges related to processing, explain and model the activity by saying, "I'm going to start us off by sharing something I learned,

then I'm going to pass the ball to [insert student's name] so he/she can share. [Insert student's name] will then pass the ball to someone else. Ready? Today I learned _____. Okay, [insert student's name], it's your turn!"

- **Okay, we're going to pass the answer ball! This is the answer ball. When it gets thrown to you, you're going to share one thing you learned from this lesson with the group. If you can't think of anything you learned, instead, you can ask a question about what we talked about. Here goes... catch!**

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.