



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

LEVEL UP

BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35;
(Psalm 139: 7-10)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Mystery Cube
- ACTIVITY** | Hidden Object
- QUESTION** | What's Everywhere?
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is always with me.
- VIDEO** | Level Up, Episode 4
- BIBLE STORY** | Luke 24:13-34
- OBJECT LESSON** | Deluxe Coins
- QUESTION** | Things That Exist, Even Though You Can't See Them
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 139:7-10
- ACTIVITY** | Recognize
- ACTIVITY** | Hot or Cold
- PRAYER**
- MEMORY VERSE** | Hebrews 12:2

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- In today's Bible story, who came up to the two men as they were walking? Did they recognize this person?
- What did they talk about as they walked to Emmaus?
- When did they realize they were with Jesus?
- Read Luke 24:31. How do you think they felt when they suddenly realized they were with Jesus the whole time?
- Describe a time when you felt lonely even though there were other people around you.
- How do you feel knowing Jesus is always with you?
- Why do you think Jesus is always with us?

ACTIVITY | Draw it Out

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

LEVEL UP

BY MIKE SHELEY

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.

ACTIVITY | Hidden Object




Recruit a few preteens to help with this activity. Show them the images at the links provided in the main lesson and challenge them to create their own real-life versions. Have them create a pile of seemingly random objects or a scene that looks completely ordinary with objects hidden in plain sight. Have them take a picture of this scene and share it as a printed image or a slide on a screen when you teach. Have the rest of the group find the hidden images by providing a list of things to find in each photo. (Bonus: If this works well, you could have them create more as a game even if it doesn't connect directly to the lesson like it does this week.)

BIBLE STORY | Luke 24:13-34

Using Luke 24:13-34 as the script, have a mini theater production with preteens as the key players. One person can be the narrator and read most of the text. Then pick one preteen to be Jesus and two to be the disciples. Have each person act out what the narrator describes, speaking their parts by the reading the text when it applies. Then, when you come to some more drama in "Act It Out," either enlist these same students to revise their roles or give others a chance to participate with all new students.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MIKE SHELEY

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Mike Sheley is the Middle School Pastor overseeing ministries for preteen (5th-6th grade) and young adolescent (7th-8th grade) students at Mount Pleasant Christian Church in central Indiana. He has been in student ministry for over twenty years, with more than twelve of those years in his current position. In his current ministry, preteens participate alongside middle schoolers for weekly programming, but have their own lessons and special events. However, part of the health of the ministry is due to the close friendship and working relationship Mike has with the children's ministry team.

Mike is married and has three kids - one in college,

one in high school and one in middle school. Mike has had the joy and challenge of ministering to all of his kids as their youth pastor during their preteen and middle school years.

Mike's odd jobs over the years have included working at the his local Apple Store, Target, and at a couple fast-food restaurants. He has a weird fascination with presentations and fonts.

If you'd like to chat with Mike about spiritual disciplines with preteens, parent ministry or developing better presentations, reach out! He would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Lauren Wierzba.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Jared Callahan.

PRETEEN HACKS: Mike Sheley.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS: Eugenia Lee.

MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE: Sunny Brown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Josh Gosney, Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Stephen Switzer, Ali Anne, Eddie Irvin, Ari Raines, Kellee Gentry, Tim Synan, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis.



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

LEVEL UP

BY EUGENIA LEE

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.

OBJECT LESSON | Deluxe Coins

Some kids with special needs might already be familiar with a behavior management system called the Token System (or this might be a good opportunity to introduce it). The system reinforces positive behaviors so they can collect more tokens and when they reach the goal amount, they're rewarded with what they are promised. It might be fun and productive to combine Token System and Super Mario Coins! Say, "Every time I see a student sitting well, listening quietly, participating in discussion, or being kind, I am going to collect a coin and put it in this box/jar. Once this jar is filled, I am going to prepare a reward for everyone in the class." Each time you deposit a coin, let students know the specific reason why. You could even keep using this system during future group times, when you feel extra behavior management system is needed.

PRAYER

This prayer is a wonderful example of simple and meaningful prayers. Lead students into prayer and help student say the prayer together. If your students with disabilities need a more simplified version, help them make up their own prayers with words they can say. Guide them with opening phrases like, "Jesus, thank you for. . ." and/or "Help me with. . ." and encourage students to use their communication device (Augmentative and Alternative Communication, or AAC) to say the prayer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Eugenia Lee currently serves as a volunteer leader at Newsong Church in Santa Ana, CA. Having children of her own with special needs, she started leading a support group of parents with special needs children and collaborating with children's ministry. In time, she learned that she loved working with children with special needs and realized it was her calling. She has worked on accommodating and modifying curriculum for students with different needs as well as training 1:1 buddies for many years. Helping children with special needs gave her so much joy that she decided to pursue a teaching career in special education. In a few short weeks, she will be ready to have her own classroom at a public school!

She is also working on a volunteer training manual specifically geared toward layperson volunteers working with children with disabilities in any setting.

Eugenia and her husband live in Orange county, CA with their four amazing children. Home is her favorite place on earth: spending time with her family, cooking up some BBQ, and sharing good conversation with close friends.

If you have any questions about curriculum accommodations and modifications, engaging with parents of special needs children, training volunteers, and so on, feel free to get in contact with her via email, Instagram, or Facebook!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Lauren Wierzba.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Jared Callahan.

PRETEEN HACKS: Mike Sheley.

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WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

LEVEL UP

BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35;
(Psalm 139: 7-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a song about our ever-present God and encourage the kids to sing and dance along! Here are some you can choose from:*
 - [“Always Be There”](#) by Yancy
 - [“God is Always with Us”](#) by Group
 - [“Always with Me”](#) by Allstar Kids

ACTIVITY | Mystery Cube

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put a bunch of random items you have lying around into a shoebox (To enhance the “Level Up!” theme, you could use these Super Mario themed [boxes](#)). Ask one kid volunteer to come up and look into the box for five seconds. Then, remove one item from the box, and see if they can figure out what’s missing. Repeat this as many times as you want with different kid volunteers. In the last round, show the box to the whole group, then pretend to take out something (but don’t), and have the kids try to guess what’s “missing.”*
- **How were you able to figure out what was missing?**
- **Why was the last round so hard?** *It’s hard to find something that’s not missing at all!*

ACTIVITY | Hidden Object

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Depending on the size of your group, do this activity all together or break into*

smaller groups. Print or project a hidden pictures image such as [this one](#) or [this one](#). Find the hidden objects in the pictures.

- Sometimes, something is right in front of us and we don't see it! That's kind of like Jesus, right? We don't see Jesus, but we know Jesus is around!

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show preteens the images above and challenge them to create their own real-life versions. Have them create a pile of seemingly random objects or a scene that looks completely ordinary with objects hidden in plain sight. Have them take a picture of this scene and share it as a printed image or a slide and have the rest of the group find the hidden images by providing a list of things to find in each photo.

QUESTION | What's Everywhere?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids these questions and let them answer out loud.
- **Can anyone name something that is everywhere?** (Allow for variety of answers: e.g., glitter, water, dust, air, bugs, germs, etc.)
- Even things we think are everywhere are not actually everywhere! Even oxygen – there's no oxygen in outer space! Only God is everywhere and is with us right now!

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is always with me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print each word out on a piece of card stock paper. Ask five kids to come up front and give each one a word (in the wrong order.) Then, have the audience (or choose just one kid) to put them in the correct order. When it's in the correct order, everyone can shout out the Big Idea together: "Jesus is always with me!"

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

VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 4

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

BIBLE STORY | Luke 24:13-34

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 24:13-34.
- So, Jesus' two friends were talking about what had happened in the past week, just like we have been learning this month. Jesus, who was no doubt the coolest person ever, had taught them so much about God, and showed that Jesus was, in fact, the son of God! But they were sad because they thought Jesus was gone for good.
- But then, Jesus walks right up to the two friends and talks with them as they walk. Jesus is with them along the entire walk and they didn't even recognize Jesus! It was only when they stopped for the evening and ate together did they realize it had been Jesus the entire time!
- This is also true today. Even though we can't see Jesus, Jesus is always with us. Jesus talks to us through our church teachers. Jesus shows love to us whenever we get a hug or when we do something kind for someone else. When we are sad, like Jesus' friends were on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is right there next to us and gives us comfort. No matter what the situation is,

Jesus is always with me (and you)!

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Using Luke 24:13-34 as the script, have a mini theater production with preteens as the key players. One person can be the narrator and read most of the text. Then pick one preteen to be Jesus and two to be the disciples. Have each person act out what the narrator describes, speaking their parts by them reading the text when it applies.*

OBJECT LESSON | Deluxe Coins

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show students a coin (or to tie in to the theme, a [Super Mario coin](#)).*
- In some video games, we collect coins. They can make you go faster, and sometimes, they can even unlock new items. However, you don't usually see the coins you collect building up in the character's pocket as they go. Usually, you trust they are there, and know what button to press when you need them.
- Just like this, we can trust Jesus is with us, and we can count on Jesus even when we can't see him.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Some kids with special needs might already be familiar with the Token System (or this might be a good opportunity to introduce it). You can use the coin concept to reinforce positive behaviors. Say, "Every time I see a student sitting well, listening quietly, participating in discussion, or being kind, I am going to collect a coin and put it in this box/jar. Once this jar is filled, I am going to prepare a reward for everyone in the class." Each time you deposit a coin, let students know the specific reason why.*

QUESTION | Things That Exist, Even Though You Can't See Them

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask kids to contemplate and respond to this question: What are some things you haven't seen or can't see, but you know exist? (e.g., another country, other planets in space, animals who live deep in the ocean, etc.)*
- The list is endless. **Even though you can't see these things, how do you know they exist?** You can read about them, or listen to others who have seen them.
- The same is true of Jesus! Jesus never leaves us. You can talk to Jesus anytime, anywhere. Jesus is always with you.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:7-10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 139:7-10.*
- **Where can we go where Jesus can't find us?** That's right — nowhere! This Bible verse tells us that no matter where we go, Jesus is always with us.
- **What does verse 10 mean?** Did you know the phrase, "right hand" appears more than a hundred times in the Bible? Because most people are right-handed, the right hand usually is stronger and more skilled. So, the verse tells us God's strength and power are with us always, and that we are important to God!

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

ACTIVITY | Recognize

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two groups and place them on opposite sides of a large sheet or blanket (Ask another leader or older kid volunteer to help hold the sheet up). Each team selects one person to stand directly in front of the blanket. Count to three, then drop the sheet. The first person to yell out the other person's name wins! Repeat this as many times as you want.
- **Even though you could see the other person right in front of you, it took a moment to call out their name, right?** Let's not hesitate even a millisecond to call on Jesus because Jesus is always there!

ACTIVITY | Hot or Cold

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask one kid to stand with his/her back to the group with eyes closed. Ask another kid to hide/move an object already in the room somewhere else. Ask the kid to open their eyes when ready and begin to look for the hidden item. As they move throughout the room, tell them if they are getting colder (moving away from the object) or warmer (getting closer to the object). Repeat this activity as time allows.
- When you spend a lot of time with someone, you get to know them very well. Well, it makes sense, then, that Jesus knows everything about us because Jesus is always with us! And even though we can't see Jesus, we don't have to worry He's too far away.

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank You so much for reminding us each and every day that You are always with us and will never leave us.
✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If your students with disabilities need a more simplified version, help them make up their own prayers with words they can say. Guide them with opening phrases like, "Jesus, thank you for. . ." and/or "Help me with. . ." and encourage students to use their communication device (Augmentative and Alternative Communication, or AAC) to say the prayer.

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This activity can be done with a whiteboard or even a large piece of paper. Ask a volunteer to write the first word of the memory verse on the board. Then, they can pass the chalk to another person, and so on, until the group finishes the entire verse!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- In today's Bible story, who came up to the two men as they were walking? Did they recognize

this person?

- What did they talk about as they walked to Emmaus?
- When did they realize they were with Jesus?
- Read Luke 24:31. How do you think they felt when they suddenly realized they were with Jesus the whole time?
- Describe a time when you felt lonely even though there were other people around you.
- How do you feel knowing Jesus is always with you?
- Why do you think Jesus is always with us?

ACTIVITY | Draw it Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a large poster board with about eight to ten kids around it. If your group is larger, you can tape several boards up on the walls or have kids get in groups and give one poster board to each group and several colored pencils or markers.
- **Draw or write about times when you really need to know Jesus is with you.** Maybe it's at a particular place, or when you're feeling a certain emotion. As you draw/write these things, remind yourself Jesus is indeed there with you at those times!

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to crouch down low and then say the verse as they stand up and reach their arms to the sky as if they are a plant growing up.