



# WEEK 4

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

# LEVEL UP

### BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

### THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Walk the Line
- **ACTIVITY** | Animal Charades

## TEACHING TIME

- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is always with me.
- **VIDEO** | Level Up, Episode 4
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 24:13-35
- **ACTIVITY** | Walking Sticks
- **PRAYER**

## DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Traveling Snack
- **ACTIVITY** | Talking with Friends
- **ACTIVITY** | Craft Stick Questions
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Hebrews 12:2

## PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Jigsaw Puzzles
- **ACTIVITY** | Eye Spy Bottles



# WEEK 4

## HACKS FOR TODDLERS

## LEVEL UP

**BY KAREN ERNE**

### *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 | Animal Charades**

Instead of asking for volunteers in your group of toddlers, pull out a clue card and act out the animal yourself. Once someone has guessed what the animal is, invite all the children to pretend to be that animal.

#### **ACTIVITY | Walking Sticks**

Kids are decorating walking sticks to remind them of the men on their road to Emmaus. Use shorter sticks (2 to 3 ft. long) and let the toddlers decorate them with stickers.

#### **ACTIVITY | Jigsaw Puzzles**

Use toddler puzzles for this activity, which should have 10 or fewer individual pieces, preferably with knobs to make it easier for them to put the pieces in the correct place.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# KAREN ERNE



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Karen is a volunteer in the preschool area of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She has about nineteen years of experience as a Preschool Minister in local churches.

Karen's passion is connecting little ones to the truths of the Bible. Kids learn when they are playing, so Karen writes fun lessons that will help teachers show kids how much Jesus loves them.

Karen is a wife and a mom. She and her husband, Ed, have four kids aged ten through seventeen. Their family loves hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting together.

When Karen is not doing a Bible study with her church friends or helping out at her kids' school, she is often sewing. Karen makes stuffed animals, blankets, toys, and even clothes with her sewing machine.

If you'd like to chat about how your church can more strategically connect parents with ways to teach babies, ones, and twos about the Bible, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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**TODDLER HACKS:** Karen Erne.

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**LAYOUT DESIGN:** Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

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# WEEK 4

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

# LEVEL UP

### BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

### THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

## WELCOME TIME

#### ACTIVITY | Walk the Line

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before group time, use masking tape to mark a path around the room. Be sure to include curvy areas as well as straight lines. Make some dotted lines for kids to jump or hop on. If your group is large, make two paths side by side. Encourage the kids to follow the marked path while you play music.

#### ACTIVITY | Animal Charades

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, prepare cards with a different animal on each card (see week four printable). Ask for volunteers to draw a card and then act like that animal while the rest of the kids try to guess which animal they are portraying. If no one volunteers, act out the animals yourself.
- In today's story, two disciples were walking along and someone joined them, but just like we had a hard time knowing what each animal was, they had a hard time knowing who had joined them.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pull out a card and act out the animal. Once someone has guessed what the animal is, invite all the children to pretend to be that animal.

## TEACHING TIME

#### THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is always with me.

- Our story today happens when two people were walking along the road talking about Jesus.



Let's all walk around the room with a buddy and tell each other the Big Idea: **Jesus is always with me!**

#### VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 4

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

#### BIBLE STORY | Luke 24:13-35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Enlist someone with the gift of storytelling to tell the story. The storyteller can be dressed in a Biblical costume, or just use a walking stick as a prop.*
- Hi there, kids. My name is Cleopas and I want to tell you about the most exciting thing that happened to my friend and me. You see, we were walking along the road, heading to the town named Emmaus. We were sad because we missed Jesus.
- Suddenly, a stranger started walking next to us. "What are you talking about?" the stranger asked us. My friend and I were so surprised. Everyone was talking about Jesus these days! How could this stranger not know?
- So, my friend and I told the stranger all about Jesus. We told the stranger about all the wonderful things Jesus had done and all the things Jesus had taught us. But sadly, some people didn't like what Jesus was teaching so they punished Jesus –even though Jesus didn't do anything wrong! They put Jesus on a cross and then, Jesus died. A few days later, some of our friends went to visit where Jesus' body was. . . but Jesus wasn't there! But an angel was there, and told my friends that Jesus is alive. More of our friends went back to the tomb and found the same thing – Jesus was gone!
- We had just finished telling the story when we arrived at our final stop: Emmaus. It was getting dark so we invited the stranger, our new friend, to stay with us. When we arrived at the place we were staying and sat down to eat, the stranger took the bread, broke it in half, and blessed it. Suddenly, we knew who the stranger was! This stranger, who had been walking and talking with us, was none other than our old friend, Jesus! And then Jesus disappeared. My friend and I were so amazed! It was really Jesus! And guess what? Jesus is never truly gone – **Jesus is always with us!**

#### ACTIVITY | Walking Sticks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, find enough sticks for each child to have one, or buy dowels. Provide materials for decorating the sticks: Washi tape, electrical tape, paint, etc.*
- Cleopas probably had a walking stick while he was walking to Emmaus. I can imagine that whenever he used that stick again, he would remember Jesus walking and talking with them.
- Let's make our own walking sticks. Whenever you use your walking stick, you can remember, **"Jesus is always with me."**
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use shorter sticks (2 to 3 ft. long) and let the toddlers decorate them with stickers.*

#### PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to hold their new walking sticks in their hands while they pray.*

Afterward, ask them to walk around the room with their walking sticks and say the Big Idea together: "Jesus is always with me!"

- **Dear God, thank You for coming to walk among us. As we use these sticks, help us to remember You are always with us.**

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Traveling Snack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pack individual snacks in small, paper bags. Trail mix is a good option as today's story happens while the disciples are walking along the road (be mindful of allergies). Instruct each kid to walk to the front to get their snack and carry it back to their place without peeking to see what's inside the bag.
- Now, you can all look inside the bag to see your snack! It was there all along, but you didn't know what it was, just like when the two friends didn't know they were walking and talking with Jesus.

### ACTIVITY | Talking with Friends

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
- Pretend you are the friends remembering what happened on the road to Emmaus. Remember the story by telling each other about meeting the stranger and what happened next. Think about these questions as you tell the story:
- **What were you talking about?**
- **What did the stranger ask you?**
- **How did you feel while you were talking to the stranger?**
- **What did you do when you got to Emmaus?**
- **What was the big surprise?**
- **How did that make you feel?**

### ACTIVITY | Craft Stick Questions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write the following questions on craft sticks and place them inside a can. Ask the kids to take turns pulling out a stick and handing it to you. Ask the question to the entire group.
- **Have you ever been sad?**
- **What do you do when you are sad?**
- **What kinds of things make you feel better when you are sad?**
- **How can Jesus make you feel better?**
- The two friends learned Jesus was still by their side, even when they thought he was gone. What can we remember from this story?
- **Jesus is always with me!**

### MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print multiple copies of the footprint printable from this week. Place them on

the floor in a path. Ask the kids to walk along the path of footprints, saying the words of the verse as they do.

## PLAY TIME

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

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** While the kids color, use this time to remind the kids of today's Bible story, the Big Idea, and the memory verse.

### ACTIVITY | Jigsaw Puzzles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find some simple puzzles (eight to twenty pieces), preferably puzzles about Jesus. Place a different puzzle on each table, but set the box aside so the kids can't see it. After they have been working on the puzzle for a while, you can bring the box out to help them solve it.
- The two friends did not see the stranger walking and talking with them was Jesus. Sometimes, it is hard to see something when you are only looking at pieces. Work together to solve these puzzles. **Can you tell what the puzzles are without looking at the box?**
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use toddler puzzles, which should have 10 or fewer individual pieces, preferably with knobs to make it easier for them to put the pieces in the correct place.

### ACTIVITY | Eye Spy Bottles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the same Eye Spy Bottles from last week. You might replace some of the items or just add one or two new ones.
- Even though some of these items are hidden from our view, they have been in the bottle the whole time! Even though I can't see Jesus, **Jesus is always with me!** Jesus is always with you!

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