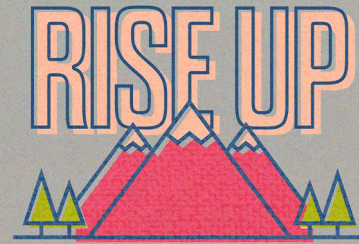




WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY OVERVIEW



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Alive! Mark 16:1-8;
(Acts 10:34-43)

STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

TEACHING – WEEK 1

- ▶ How to Prepare
 - ▶ [Shopping List](#)
 - ▶ [Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Week 1 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Weekly Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Monthly Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Plan](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder](#).



SHOP

We made a list of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this week happen. Get your editable shopping [right here](#).



PREP

We made a list of everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build, or make in order to make this week happen. Get the list [right here](#).



CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks** to this week's lesson. You can do that by editing the Word document in your series downloads, or the [Message Builder](#), or [the Grow App](#).



HACK

If you're using Grow for your toddlers, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Week 1 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Week 1 [here](#).



COMMUNICATE

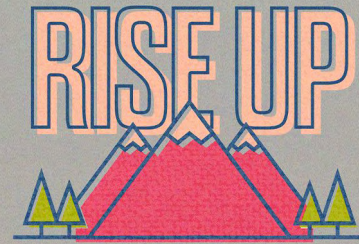
To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Week 1 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Weekly Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Monthly Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Plan](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Alive! Mark 16:1-8;
(Acts 10:34-43)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Summit Songs
- ACTIVITY** | Easter Egg Mountain
- ACTIVITY** | Valley, Hillside, Summit
- QUESTION** | What Did Jesus Promise?
- ACTIVITY** | Before Rising Up
- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 16:1-8
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus overcame death.
- VIDEO** | Rise Up, Episode 1
- POLL** | What Would You Feel?
- ACTIVITY** | Colorful Cross
- SCRIPTURE** | Acts 10:39-43
- RESPONSE** | Prayer Bucket
- REFLECTION** | "The Gospel" Song
- MEMORY VERSE** | Memory in Motion
- PRAYER**

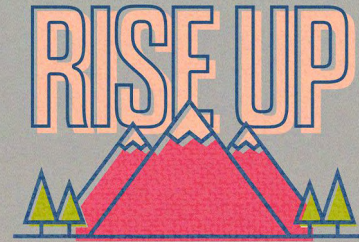
SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Who went to the tomb?
 - Why did they go to put spices on Jesus' body?
 - What did they see when they got to the tomb?
 - Read Acts 10:42. What two things does this verse tell us to do with the message of Jesus?
 - Where can you share the message of Jesus?
 - What ways can you share the message of Jesus?
 - Who do you want to share the message of Jesus with?
- ACTIVITY** | Open Tent
- MEMORY VERSE** | Romans 10:9 (NIV)



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY ANGIE DEWITT

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 | Easter Egg Mountain

There are a few ways you can modify this activity for preteens to make it more challenging:

- Give everyone a spoon and have them pass the egg from spoon to spoon.
- Have kids race one at a time from the starting line to the egg base, passing their spoon as a baton to their teammate.
- Use hardboiled eggs (or raw eggs if you're feeling brave).
- Have the team carry their completed mountain back to the starting line without dropping any of the eggs.

POLL | What Would You Feel?

Print out pictures of emojis that might represent each of the emotions listed and tape them on the wall. Have some sticky notes available for the kids. The kids write their name on the post it and stick it on the emoji. This will serve as their vote.

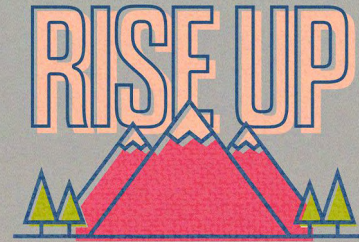
REFLECTION | "The Gospel" Song

Give kids a piece of paper and something to write with. As they watch and listen to the song, have them jot down three words that stood out to them. Spend some time talking about why they wrote those words down.



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY SUNNY BROWN

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 | Easter Egg Mountain

To make this game more accessible, you could remove the spoons and have kids pass the eggs with their hands and place them in another basket rather than building a mountain.

ACTIVITY | Valley, Hillside, Summit

You can modify this game by having kids do the correlating gesture for the word you call out: "Hillside" – Hands straight up in the air. "Valley" – Arms out in a "V" shape, "Summit" – Hands above head with fingertips touching in an inverted "V" shape.

ACTIVITY | Colorful Cross

For this activity, give kids papers with a glue outline of a cross on it already.

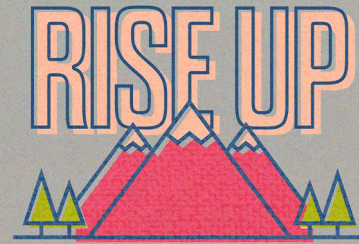
RESPONSE | Prayer Bucket

Give everyone a chance to share the people they would like to pray for while a leader writes down the names and puts them in a bucket for them.



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Alive! Mark 16:1-8;
(Acts 10:34-43)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Summit Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to sing and dance along to fun worship songs to celebrate Jesus, such as, "[Praise the King](#)."*

ACTIVITY | Easter Egg Mountain

- Hi, friends! This month we are talking about "rising up," about how we can rise up and face anything with God's help, just like how Jesus rose up again!
- I'm so excited about today's activity. We are going to play an awesome game called, "Easter Egg Mountain!" When a group of people climb a really tall mountain, they have to work together to make sure everyone stays safe. In this game, we'll also be working together as a team.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The objective of this game is for teams to [stack easter eggs into a pyramid](#) as quickly as they can. Create an egg mountain base for each team by cutting an [egg flat](#) into a 4x4 grid. Divide kids into two teams and have them spread out in a line across the room. Give each team an easter basket filled with 32 plastic eggs at one end and an egg flat base at the other. The first kid picks up an egg from the basket with the spoon, then passes the egg and spoon to the next kid. The last kid in line takes the egg and spoon, places it on the base, then races to the front of the line with the spoon to start the relay over again. Anyone who drops an egg must hold their spoon in the air and count to ten before picking up the egg and continuing play. First team to build their Easter egg mountain wins!*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *There are a few ways you can modify this activity for preteens to make it more challenging: 1) Give everyone a spoon and have them pass the egg from spoon to spoon, 2) Have kids race one at a time from the starting line to the egg base, passing their spoon as a baton to their teammate, 3) Use hardboiled eggs (or raw eggs if you're feeling brave), or 4) Have the team carry their completed mountain back to the starting line without dropping any of the eggs.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *To make this game more accessible, you could remove the spoons and have kids pass the eggs with their hands and place them in another basket rather than building a mountain.*

- This was a cool game because everyone got involved. And that's the great thing about Easter, too – Easter is for everyone!

ACTIVITY | Valley, Hillside, Summit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place two, long pieces of tape on the floor to divide the playing area into three sections. Designate the sections as "Valley," "Hillside," and "Summit." When you call out a section, the kids run to that section. If they go to the wrong section, they are out. Make it extra challenging by picking up the pace and calling out the same section several times in a row before switching. Make it even trickier by pointing to one section while calling out another. The last kid in the game wins!*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Ask a kid to be the caller after a couple of rounds of playing.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *You can modify this game by having kids do the correlating gesture for the word you call out: "Hillside" – Hands straight up in the air. "Valley" – Arms out in a "V" shape, "Summit" – Hands above head with fingertips touching in an inverted "V" shape.*

- It was so important in that game to listen carefully to where you were supposed to go!

QUESTION | What Did Jesus Promise?

- Before Jesus died, Jesus made a promise to the disciples that they quickly forgot when Jesus was arrested and put on the cross.
- **Do you know what that promise was?**
- That's right! Jesus promised to come back to life!

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

ACTIVITY | Before Rising Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before introducing today's Bible story, revisit the crucifixion story from Mark 15. You can use an image of a cross ([like this](#)) on a screen to set the tone. Give each kid a piece of black construction paper and white pastel or chalk marker, and have kids follow along with you as you draw on a chalkboard or dry erase board.*

- *[Draw a hill on the board and invite kids to do the same.]* **Have you ever climbed something really tall before? Or been on a really challenging hike?** Starting at the bottom of something can feel intimidating. We might look up and see so many things that we have to overcome. Before Jesus did the most amazing thing ever, he had to start at the bottom too.
- *[Draw a series of arrows from the bottom of the hill to the top.]* Jesus had to climb, literally, to the place of the most extreme pain. In his climb to Calvary, or Golgotha, Jesus would have to overcome every painful challenge and everything was taken from him, including his life.
 - Jesus was an innocent person but the religious leaders were angry at the way his life had upset their traditions and belief systems. This is why they wanted Jesus to be arrested. They wanted it so badly that they took matters into their own hands and delivered Jesus to the Pilate.
 - Pilate was the judge (or governor) that would decide what to do. He had the power to free one of the prisoners but gave the choice to the people that day.
 - Since they had accused him of so many things, the religious leaders didn't think twice about stirring up the crowd to vote to release another prisoner named Barabbas instead of Jesus.
 - And then Jesus experienced the lowest place of his life on earth. The whole crowd turned against him (and even one of his closest friends). He was hurt by the hands of the soldiers and experienced so much pain. He was forced to carry a cross to the place where he would suffer so much.
 - **Can you imagine being made fun of like that?** And his pain was very real. People could see his suffering and Jesus even called out to God while he was suffering. He wondered if God had deserted him during the climb to calvary.
- *[Draw three crosses at the top of the hill.]* Death was what Jesus experienced at the end of his climb that day.
- **Why did Jesus have to go through all of this? Why did he have to climb that mountain to die?** For me and you. Because what happened after Jesus died would make it possible for him to save us.
- But thankfully, the story doesn't end there. Let's find out what happened next in today's Bible story.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 16:1-8

- Let's imagine we're all climbing a mountain. On the way up, you probably don't see much . . . maybe some trees, grass, and a stream. But once you reach the top, the view is breathtaking! It was hard to imagine what this view would look like on the way up.
- Today we're talking about something else that is hard to imagine, but it's true and amazing!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Retell the Bible story from Mark 16:1-8. Cue the [sunset slide](#) and [empty tomb slide](#) to show later on. Gather spices, herbs, essential oils, and aloe on a table.*
- Today's Bible story talks about the day Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus is alive! **Can you say that with me?**
- Three women went to the place where Jesus was buried when the Sabbath was over.
 - **Does anyone know what the Sabbath is?** The Sabbath is a day of rest. The Sabbath ended at sunset (Show the sunset slide) on Saturday at around 6 p.m.
- I wonder what spices they brought . . . **Do you think they brought salt and pepper? Maybe some garlic powder or Italian seasoning?** (*Hold up the spices and herbs.*)

- No, I don't think the tasty spices we put on our food are what they're talking about in this story.
- The spices they brought were most likely a mixture of myrrh and aloes used to cleanse and preserve a body in a tomb (*Put some essential oil and aloe in a small jar to pass around so everyone can smell them.*)
- But when they arrived at the tomb, the stone that served as a door to the front of the tomb was not there!
- When the women went inside the tomb, they saw someone dressed in a white robe sitting inside. That was definitely not what they were expecting!
 - The man told them that Jesus had risen! Jesus was not there! (*Show the empty tomb slide.*)
 - The women were both scared and shocked! The man told them to go tell Jesus' disciples that Jesus was alive!
- We do a lot of fun stuff at Easter like egg hunts, where we get baskets with candy and play fun games, but we have to remember that Easter is about so much more! Easter is all about remembering what Jesus did for us. Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead so you and I can have a relationship with God!

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus overcame death.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a large, six-foot-tall mountain out of cardboard and bulletin board paper (it can be as simple as a large triangle with snow caps). Space out and attach four [carabiners](#) from the top to the bottom of the mountain using duct tape or hot glue. Run [climbing rope](#) through the carabiners. Print each week's Big Idea (You can find these in your Programming folder) on an 8.5x11-inch piece of card stock and punch a hole at the top. Ask a volunteer "mountain climber" to add a new Big Idea to the mountain each week, starting at the bottom.
- It's time to add today's Big Idea to our mountain! I need one brave mountain climber to add this week's Big Idea.
- This week's Big Idea is: **Jesus overcame death.**

VIDEO | Rise Up, Episode 1

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

POLL | What Would You Feel?

- **Can you imagine being at Jesus' tomb that morning with the women?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few examples of different emotions the women may have felt before, during, and after they were at the tomb (e.g., Sadness, Excitement, Fear, Amazement, Anxiety, Joy, etc.). Ask the kids to vote on which emotions they think they would have felt. The kids can vote for more than one emotion, if they would like.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Print out pictures of emojis that might represent each of the emotions listed and tape them on the wall. Have some sticky notes available for the kids. The kids write their name on the post it and stick it on the emoji. This will serve as their vote.
- What an amazing experience that must have been! **How do you feel to know that Jesus overcame death?**

ACTIVITY | Colorful Cross

- Let's create a reminder of what Jesus did for us to overcome death!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of black construction paper. Tell them to draw a large cross outline on their paper using white glue. They can add other designs to the cross or around it, but make sure the kids only do simple, think outlines as opposed to chunks of glue. Next, completely cover the glue design with salt, then shake off the excess salt. You can recycle the excess salt by pouring it back into a container that can be reused for someone else's paper. Have kids dip their paintbrush into watercolor paint and gently touch a part of their design with the brush to have the color spread. You do not have to wait for the glue to dry before painting. Encourage the kids to be gentle so as not to disturb the wet glue under the salt. Leave aside to dry.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Give kids papers with a glue outline of a cross on it already.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 10:39-43

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 10:39-43.
- Remember we talked about how amazing reaching a mountaintop would be? After seeing a view like that, I bet you wouldn't be able to wait to tell everyone what you saw.
- Jesus told everyone to do the same thing – to tell everyone about the great news of Jesus!
- And guess what? We can share the good news about Jesus to everyone, too!
- **Is there someone you want to tell about what Jesus did for you in your life?**
- **Where can you go to tell people about Jesus?**

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

RESPONSE | Prayer Bucket

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and something to write with. Encourage them to think of a friend or family member they want to tell about Jesus. Tell them to write their names on the paper and then place it in the bucket. During the week, pray with your team over the names the kids placed in the bucket.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Give everyone a chance to share the people they would like to pray for while a leader writes down the names and puts them in a bucket for them.
- Now that you have written that name down, **what can you do about it? How can you tell them about Jesus?**
- Let's all remember to pray for the names that we have written down!

REFLECTION | "The Gospel" Song

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this [video](#). Remind the kids to think about the words of the song as they listen.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give kids a piece of paper and something to write with. As they watch and listen to the song, have them jot down three words that stood out to them. Spend some time talking about why they wrote those words down.

- **What part of that song stood out to you the most?**
- The word “gospel” means “good news.” It’s the good news of Jesus that makes a difference in our lives and gives us a way to have a relationship with God!

MEMORY VERSE | Memory in Motion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into small groups. Write out the memory verse where everyone can see it, or give each group a print-out. Encourage each group to come up with motions to the memory verse. Then, ask each group to share their motions with everyone.*

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank you for what you did on the cross, for giving your life so that we can have a relationship with God! Thank you for overcoming death and giving all of us this good news that we can share with others. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Who went to the tomb?**
- **Why did they go to put spices on Jesus’ body?**
- **What did they see when they got to the tomb?**
- **Read Acts 10:42. What two things does this verse tell us to do with the message of Jesus?**
- **Where can you share the message of Jesus?**
- **What ways can you share the message of Jesus?**
- **Who do you want to share the message of Jesus with?**

ACTIVITY | Open Tent

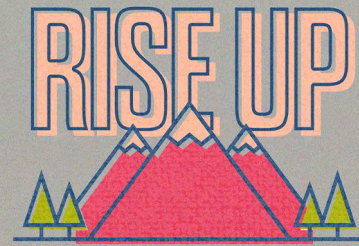
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Watch this [video](#) for instructions on how to make a paper tent. Tell the kids to write the name or draw a picture of the person who told them about Jesus. Next to them, write the name or draw a picture of someone they can share the story of Jesus with.*
- We usually share tents with our family members when we go camping. Pray for the people in your paper tent: thank God for allowing someone to share Jesus with you, and ask God to help you share Jesus with someone else. That way we can all be a part of God’s family!

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 10:9 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month’s memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we’ve provided.*

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus overcame death.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Alive! Mark 16:1-8;
(Acts 10:34-43)

QUESTIONS

- Who went to the tomb?
- Why did they go to put spices on Jesus' body?
- What did they see when they got to the tomb?
- Read Acts 10:42. What two things does this verse tell us to do with the message of Jesus?
- Where can you share the message of Jesus?
- What ways can you share the message of Jesus?
- Who do you want to share the message of Jesus with?

ACTIVITY

Watch this [video](#) for instructions on how to make a paper tent. Tell the kids to write the name or draw a picture of the person who told them about Jesus. Next to them, write the name or draw a picture of someone they can share the story of Jesus with.

We usually share tents with our family members when we go camping. Pray for the people in your paper tent: thank God for allowing someone to share Jesus with you, and ask God to help you share Jesus with someone else. That way we can all be a part of God's family!

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: Romans 10:9 (NIV)

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Looking for sign language? Go to growcurriculum.org/Romans10-9 and get memorizing!

THE BIG IDEA: Jesus overcame death.

THE BIBLE: Jesus is Alive!
Mark 16:1-8; (Acts 10:34-43)

