



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Everyone needs a Savior.

THE BIBLE

John Prepares for Jesus:

Mark 1:1-8

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Save Me
- ACTIVITY** | Candyland Relay

TEACHING TIME

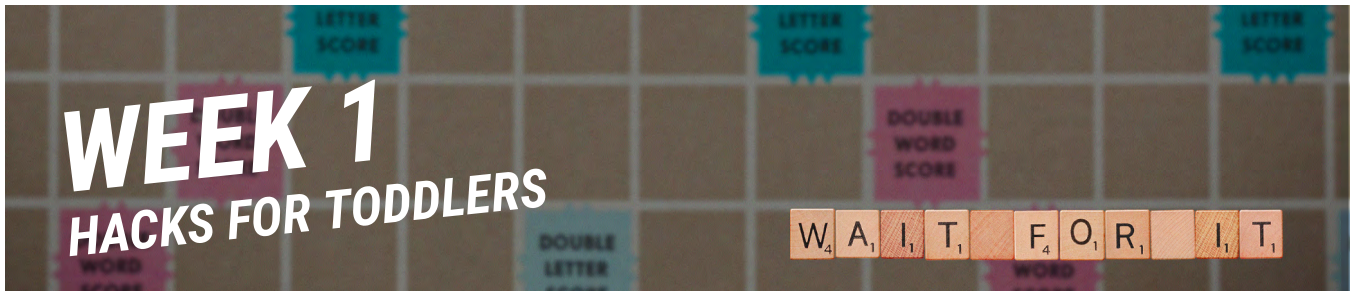
- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 1:1-8
- THE BIG IDEA** | Everyone needs a Savior.
- VIDEO** | Wait For It, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | Saving Tower
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Life Preservers
- ACTIVITY** | Locusts and Honey
- ACTIVITY** | Words with Friends
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | The Waiting Game
- ACTIVITY** | Ready to Rescue



BY DARBY GEORGE

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 | Candyland Relay

Use pool noodles and inflatable life preservers instead of chopsticks and LifeSavers candy, allowing the kids to have more success with this game. You can even cut the pool noodles in half for the really little ones.

ACTIVITY | Saving Tower

Instead of talking about the jobs they pull out, encourage the kids to act out something a modern day hero does.

ACTIVITY | Words with Friends

Ask toddlers to name the people in their lives. You can write their names or draw pictures for them that they can color. Then ask, "Who needs a Savior?" Then guide kids to circle every name/picture to show that everyone needs a Savior!

MEMORY VERSE | Memory!

Keep one set of cards in your hand and spread out the others face up. Hold up each card in order of the memory verse and read it aloud. Have toddlers find the exact same card in the pile and repeat after you.



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Everyone needs a Savior.

THE BIBLE

John Prepares for Jesus:

Mark 1:1-8

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare to lead the kids into a fun time of worship with songs like, "[One Way](#)."

ACTIVITY | Save Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, place small, plastic toys in a deep bin. Cover the toys in tinsel so they are no longer visible. Make sure to count the amount of toys in the bin beforehand so you know when all of them are retrieved.
- Hi, friends! Today, we're talking about our need for a savior. **Does anyone know what a savior does?** That's right — a savior is someone who rescues us when we need them the most!
- Now, let's all look at our toys. It looks like they need a savior, too! Our toys are trapped underneath all this tinsel! We have to help!
- So, when I say, "Go," I want you to reach into the bin and rescue as many toys as you can. Are you ready?
- Remember, just like our toys needed saving, we need saving, too!

ACTIVITY | Candyland Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a chopstick and tell them to stand in a line. Tell the kids to hold their chopstick in their hand. At one end of the line, put a LifeSavers candy on the end of a kid's chopstick. The goal is to pass the LifeSavers candy from chopstick to chopstick, down the line, without dropping it.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use pre-cut pool noodles and inflatable life preservers instead of chopsticks and LifeSavers candy, allowing the kids to have more success with this game. You can even cut the pool noodles in half for the really little ones.

- **Does anyone know why the candy is called a LifeSavers candy?**
- The shape of the candy looks a lot like a life preserver, which is something found on boats that are used to help people float on top of the water in case they fall in and need help.
- Just like you kept that LifeSavers candy nice and safe, there are things in our lives that also keep us safe!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:1-8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before beginning the story, place a [toy bug](#) and a stuffed [camel](#) nearby for use while you tell the story.
- I'm so excited about our story today! We'll be hearing about how everyone needs extra special help in the form of a Savior . . . Jesus!
- So, a long, long time ago, there was a man named Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet, which is a fancy word for "messenger," for God. And Isaiah had a message: That it was time for Jesus to come to Earth for a visit, and that there would be someone who would get everything ready for Jesus' visit.
 - Who was this special person who prepared the way for Jesus' visit? It was a man named John the Baptist! John the Baptist was a very special man. He loved God very much and God chose him to make sure everything was ready for Jesus' visit on Earth.
- Now, John did some things that might seem silly to us, but were very important to show others that he listened to and followed God. John wore clothes made out of camel's hair (*Pick up the stuffed camel*) and he ate only locusts – which are like big grasshoppers – and wild honey (*Pick up the toy bug*).
 - Locusts and wild honey? That sounds pretty gross, doesn't it? Yuck! Even though we don't understand why John the Baptist would eat such a thing, he did those things on purpose – so people would know that he was dedicated to listening and teaching only about God and not caring about anything else.
- John the Baptist traveled and taught many people about God and about the Savior who was coming. . . Jesus! John the Baptist baptized people and helped them get ready for Jesus' arrival.
- John the Baptist helped Jesus by preparing the people around him to know that they needed Jesus to rescue them. And just like they needed Jesus as their Savior, we do, too!

THE BIG IDEA | Everyone needs a Savior.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** [Purchase](#) or [create](#) two giant dice and encourage the kids to take turns passing and rolling the dice. When they roll two of the same number, they get to uncover the Big Idea! Then, ask all of the kids to say the Big Idea together.
- Now, everyone give me a drumroll!
- Today's Big Idea is . . . **Everyone needs a Savior!**

VIDEO | Wait For It, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Saving Tower

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out different pictures of modern day heroes, such as a doctor, firefighter, grocery store clerk, teacher, etc. Tape the pictures to Jenga blocks. Put all the blocks in a pile and let kids take turns to pull out one block each. Each time they pull a block with a picture on it, encourage them to talk about each hero and the different jobs that come with each role. Then have them stack their block to build a tower.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of talking about the jobs they pull out, encourage the kids to act out something that the modern day hero does.
- **Who does this hero protect? What does this hero do?**
- Some jobs require us to learn things to save people in a specific type of danger. However, we'll hear stories about how Jesus is a unique type of hero because Jesus saves everyone. Everyone needs a Savior!

PRAYER

- Dear God, we thank you for giving us a Savior and for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. We love you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Life Preservers**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [mini powdered donut](#) and a popsicle stick. Have them "paint" some red icing on their donuts to create little life preservers.
- **Have you ever used a blow-up tube that's shaped like these donuts?**
- **How do these life preservers help us?**

ACTIVITY | Locusts and Honey

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a strip of tape at one end of the room and another strip of tape at the opposite end to create a course. Pick one kid to be John the Baptist and split the rest of the group into two teams. One team will be honey and the other will be locusts. The honey team will try to prepare the way for John the Baptist to get to the other side by tagging the locusts. When a locust player is tagged, they must sit down. John the Baptist tries to cross the room from the first tape line to the other and the locusts are trying to veer him off of his course.
- When I say, "Go," the honey team will try and tag the locust team and the locusts will try to stop John the Baptist from crossing the room. John the Baptist must stop if there is locust in their way. Ready? Set? Go!
- **How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?**
- **Who needs a Savior?**

ACTIVITY | Words with Friends

- We talked about how **everyone needs a Savior** — that includes your friends, your family, your teachers, and yourselves!
- **Who is someone you can talk about Jesus with?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to cut out the paper Scrabble tiles from this week's printable and glue them on a piece of paper to spell out that person's name (e.g., mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, friend's name, etc.).
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Ask toddlers to name the people in their lives. You can write their names or draw pictures for them that they can color. Then ask, "Who needs a Savior?" Then guide kids to circle every name/picture to show that everyone needs a Savior!
- **Who did you pick?**
- **How can you be kind to this person this week?**
- **What can you tell them about Jesus?**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print two copies of the printable and cut out all the cards. Put all the cards facedown. Have kids take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If it's a match, have them keep one, and give the other one to you. Keep playing until all the pairs are found, making sure every kid has a chance to find a pair. Take your stack of cards and put them in order of the memory verse on the floor. Have the kids line up their cards below yours.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Keep one set of cards in your hand and spread out the others face up. Hold up each card in order of the memory verse and read it aloud. Have toddlers find the exact same card in the pile and repeat after you.

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | The Waiting Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Every week in Wait For It, try out a board game with your kids to reinforce the idea of having to wait before getting a win. You can play any game you have available, but you might want to check out "[Chickapiglets](#)," which is a fun twist on your traditional memory and matching game.

ACTIVITY | Ready to Rescue

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide life preservers or [inflatable tubes](#) for the kids to use and imagine they are saving someone.

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