



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Snap Cards
- ACTIVITY** | Snap Jack!

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 1:4-11
- THE BIG IDEA** | We can know forgiveness through Jesus.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 2
- ACTIVITY** | Just Dance Party
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Jesus, Fill Me Up
- ACTIVITY** | Washed Away
ACTIVITY | Heart Hunt
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Washing Station
- ACTIVITY** | Trash It!



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

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BY TIFFANY THENOR

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 | Snap Jack!

Include one adult volunteer with each small group to help the younger kids play this game. When a kid sees a Jack placed on the stack, instruct the kids to stand and spin around instead of clap or snap to "win." Play the game until there are no more cards left in the deck.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:4-11

Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.

ACTIVITY | Washed Away

Instead of asking the kids to think of compliments to share with each other, ask them to give each other high fives or hugs. Some kids might not want to get paint on their hands. For these kids, allow them to paint or stamp a non-porous surface that they can wash clean.

ACTIVITY | Heart Hunt

Hide large erasers around the room. (To fit the theme, try these [smartphone-shaped erasers!](#)) Cut out a heart with colored poster paper, then write "sin" multiple times on it in pencil. Place the heart in the center of the room. Invite the kids to find the hidden erasers, and when they find one, have them come to the heart and erase one of the "sin" words from the heart. Tell kids: "God loves you and forgives you. God erases your sins!"



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For your worship time, play songs such as, "[Lord I Lift Your Name on High](#)," and invite the kids to sing and dance along.

ACTIVITY | Snap Cards

- Hi, friends! Have you heard about an app called, Snapchat? It's a social media app that allow friends to send pictures to each other.
- Let's take some fun snaps with each other now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to have fun posing together and take their photos using a smart phone, computer, or digital camera. Then, use a printer to print photos. Optional: Download the "YouCam Fun" app. Photos can be printed or just used for kids to look at.
- Snapchat and other photo apps are really cool and fun but sometimes the photos don't really look like the real us. Don't forget – Jesus loves the real you!

ACTIVITY | Snap Jack!

- Ok, how about a game that uses a different kind of snapping?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups of two to eight players. Distribute a deck of cards facedown as evenly as possible among the groups. Each kid quickly places the top card from their stack onto the middle of the table, face up. Players continue to play cards, and when a Jack is placed on the stack, the first player to snap or clap wins the pile. If the game is taking too long, you can set a time limit and count cards to determine a winner when the time expires. The person with the most cards wins.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Include one adult volunteer with each small group to help the younger kids play this game. When a kid sees a Jack placed on the stack, instruct the kids to stand and spin around instead of clap or snap to win. Play the game until there are no more cards left in the deck.*

- You had to think and act very fast for this game, didn't you?
- Did you know that God forgives you very fast, too? When you know what you're doing is not right, you can pray to God and ask God to forgive you, then . . . snap! God forgives you!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:4-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite two kids to come up and help you act out the story. One kid plays John the Baptist and the other plays Jesus. As you are telling the story, tell the kids to act out what you are saying. Use props for fun.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While the kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.*
- In our Bible story, John the Baptist finally meets Jesus!
- John the Baptist baptized people with water and taught about forgiveness. But the people kept making poor choices.
- **Have you ever tried your best to do something, but for some reason, you just could not make a good choice? Have you ever hurt someone even though you didn't mean to?**
- John the Baptist knew that no one was perfect. The people in the Bible story needed someone to save them and forgive them when they made poor choices, and so do we! And that person who saves and forgives is Jesus!
- **Show me on your face how you would feel if you met Jesus.**
- When John the Baptist met and baptized Jesus, the sky opened up and God spoke and said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- **Show me on your face how you would feel if you saw the sky open and heard God speak.**
- When that happened, the people knew that Jesus had come to save everyone. John was excited to tell people about Jesus.

THE BIG IDEA | We can know forgiveness through Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, select a kid to come and push a giant button that says, "Subscribe now" on the stage or wall. Announce the Big Idea after the kid pushes the button. When sharing the Big Idea, use these hand motions: **We** (Outstretch hands in a sweeping motion) **can know** (Point to head) **forgiveness** (Rub your hands together) **through Jesus** (Using both arms, form a cross).*
- Thanks for subscribing to this week's Big Idea!
- **We can know forgiveness through Jesus.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Just Dance Party

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Celebrate with kids that our sins are forgiven! Turn on the [Just Dance video!](#) Have some party streamers for the kids to play with while dancing.
- When we realize we need Jesus to forgive us for doing things we shouldn't do, we can ask God to help us. Let's dance and party because **we can know forgiveness through Jesus!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to forgive our sins. Help us to forgive other people just like you forgive us. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Jesus, Fill Me Up**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide mini bagels for snack time.
- Sometimes, even when we want to do the right thing, we end up doing things God doesn't want us to do. Our lives are like this bagel with the hole in the middle – sometimes, something is missing.
- But we don't have to worry – Jesus will fill our hearts and forgive our sins!

ACTIVITY | Washed Away

- We all make mistakes and sometimes, our mistakes can be hurtful to a friend.
- Today, we will practice saying good things to each other.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Partner the kids and give them paint, a piece of paper, a bucket of water, and a washcloth. Tell the kids to use the paint to stamp their hands on the paper. Then, encourage them to wash each other's hands and say one compliment about the other person.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of asking the kids to think of compliments to share with each other, ask them to give each other high fives or hugs. Some kids might not want to get paint on their hands. For these kids, allow them to paint or stamp a non-porous surface that they can wash clean.
- Take turns putting paint on your hand and stamp it onto the paper. Then, your partner will wash off the paint with the washcloth.
- As you wash your partner's hand, say one good thing about them.
- Just like the paint is being washed off, Jesus washes away our sins. **We can know forgiveness through Jesus.**

ACTIVITY | Heart Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide construction paper hearts throughout the room with words or drawings

on them that represent hurts and/or sins. Play a song and invite the kids to search for the hearts before the song ends. Once the song has ended, ask the kids to share what is on the hearts they found.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Hide large erasers around the room. (To fit the theme, try these [smartphone-shaped erasers!](#)) Cut out a heart with colored poster paper, then write “sin” multiple times on it in pencil. Place the heart in the center of the room. Invite the kids to find the hidden erasers, and when they find one, have them come to the heart and erase one of the “sin” words from the heart. Tell kids: “God loves you and forgives you. God erases your sins!”

- When God forgives us, God takes away our sins completely and they cannot be found again! **We can know forgiveness through Jesus.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

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

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 | Washing Station

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a washing station with a cleaning tub (soap, water, and sponges) and a dirty tub (dirty toys and objects). Invite the kids to practice cleaning toys and objects to symbolize how Jesus forgives our sins. When Jesus forgives us, our sins are washed clean.

ACTIVITY | Trash It!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write the word, “Sin”, on several sheets of paper. Invite the kids to crumple the paper and toss them into a trash can from a short distance away. As you do this activity, discuss with them some examples of sin, and how Jesus forgives us of every last one.

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