



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OVERVIEW

BLAST



BIG IDEA

We can share God's story.

THE BIBLE

Peter and John Share the Gospel: Acts 4:1-20
(1 John 3:18; Colossians 4:4-6)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Hot and Cold Clapping
- **DISCUSSION** | Talk It Out
- **VIDEO** | Clip from *Gravity*
- **DISCUSSION** | Birthday Memories
- **STORY** | Share your faith story.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Acts 4:1-20
- **OBJECT LESSON** | The Power of Jesus
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Paper Cup Telephones
- **ACTIVITY** | Two-Minute Testimonies
- **QUESTION** | Who can you tell about God?
- **ACTIVITY** | Crowd Charades
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 John 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | My Life Movie Poster
- **ACTIVITY** | Insta-Story
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 4:13

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What did Peter and John say when they were commanded to stop teaching about Jesus?
 - Why did Peter and John keep talking about Jesus?
 - Who first shared God with you?
 - What are some things that make it difficult for you to share your story about God with others?
 - Who can you share God with this week?
 - What does it mean to love with our actions? How can you show God's love with your actions this week?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Colossians 4:4-6
 - What does it mean to let your conversation be gracious and attractive?
 - Do you think your conversations with others could be described that way?
 - How can you make the most of your opportunities to share God's story with others this week?
- **ACTIVITY** | Share Your Story
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 4:13

HOW TO HACK THIS WEEK

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Give your kids with special needs more **developmentally-appropriate methods** for sharing their story of faith. Remind them that there are lots of ways to share what God is doing in their lives. They can do nonverbal things, like draw pictures of how they feel about God, show God's love by being kind to others, use motions to act out a Bible story or memory verse that is meaningful to them, or (if they are comfortable sharing aloud) talk about what they're thankful for. Keep in mind that talking to others can be intimidating for kids with special needs, so give them opportunities to practice sharing their story in safe and encouraging environments.
- **ACTIVITY | Talk It Out**
For kids who are uncomfortable talking in front of others, give them art supplies to draw pictures or make things with Play-Doh during this activity. You could ask them to create things they're thankful for, draw the person who first shared God with them, or simply have them make space-themed artwork.
- Consider asking certain kids with special needs or disabilities to **share some of their story** with your group. If you have a kid or family who is comfortable, ask them to share about their disability, experiences, struggles, and triumphs. Keep in mind the point is not to make the child feel different, but to give the child and parents an opportunity to share, connect, and remind kids about what we have in common, so you may also want to ask the child to share something specific they like to do, like singing for the group, playing an instrument, or showing pictures of themselves playing a sport.

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

- **DISCUSSION | Talk It Out (Tag!)**
Split your preteens into pairs or groups of just a few, then assign each group one silly topic to talk about for 30 seconds. Try topics like . . .
 - Are cats or dogs better?
 - What's the best fast food restaurant?
 - If you could hang out with a famous person, who would you pick and what would you do together?
 - Would it be a good or a bad thing if there were no rules in any game?
- When 30 seconds are up, have the talker tag the next person in line, who will pick up where the last person left off. See which group can talk the longest, then discuss.
- Was it hard or easy to talk for 30 seconds?
 - What if you were the topic? Would it be harder or easier to talk for 30 seconds?
 - What if God was the topic? Would it be harder or easier to talk for 30 seconds?
 - How do you feel about talking about God?

● **ACTIVITY | Two-Minute Testimony**

Have your preteens use a phone (or an adult's phone) to record a two-minute version of their story. Remember, your preteens are growing up in a world of social media and are using YouTube daily. So give your preteens a chance to tell their stories in a medium they understand – video. Play their videos back to the group and discuss.

- Imagine this was YouTube. What kind of comments might other believers leave? What would they add? What questions might they ask?
- What kind of comments might people who don't follow Jesus leave? What questions might they ask?

● **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY | Choose a Friend Challenge**

Challenge your preteens to share their story with one friend in the coming week. At this age, your preteens will benefit from a specific challenge that you follow up on the following week. Have them write down their person's name as a reminder to follow through.

● **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY | Share Your Story Challenge**

Challenge your preteens to take a week to think about their stories and then share them next week in their small groups. Here are some prompts to choose from . . .

- How has God blessed you?
- What's a Bible verse that has impacted you?
- How has a Bible story changed you?
- How has God forgiven you?
- What's a prayer God has answered for you?
- What's one hard time that your faith in God has helped you get through?

You might even end this series with a retreat or a one-day event for your preteens.

HOW TO PREP FOR THIS WEEK

WHAT TO GET

ACTIVITY | Hot and Cold Clapping

- [Hot and Cold](#) printable (one for every 5-8 kids)

VIDEO | Video Clip from Gravity

- [This video clip](#) from *Gravity*

OBJECT LESSON | The Power of Jesus

- Two [balloons](#) (not inflated)

OBJECT LESSON | Paper Telephones

- [String](#) (see the image to the right)
- [Paper cups](#) (one per kid)
- Sharp pencils or pens

ACTIVITY | Your Life Movie Poster

- Markers and [crayons](#)
- Scissors
- [11x17" paper](#)
- Glue

ACTIVITY | Insta-Story

- [White board and markers](#)



WHAT TO DO IN ADVANCE

ACTIVITY | Hot and Cold Clapping

- Print the *Hot and Cold* printable (one for every 5-8 kids).

VIDEO | Video Clip from *Gravity*

- Prepare this video clip from *Gravity*.

OBJECT LESSON | Paper Telephones

- If you're making the paper cup telephones ahead of time, then you will need to make one paper cup telephone for every 2 kids.



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BLAST



BIG IDEA

We can share God's story.

THE BIBLE

Peter and John Share the Gospel: Acts 4:1-20
(I John 3:18; Colossians 4:4-6)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Hot and Cold Clapping

- Good morning! We're going to split into teams and play a game. First step: each time is going to decorate a rocket ship and hide it somewhere in the room.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give one *Hot and Cold* printable to each team (five to eight kids per team) along with markers or crayons. When every team is done, let the teams hide their rocket ship pictures somewhere in the room while the other teams close their eyes. When all the rocket ships are hidden, assign each team a sound (like clapping, stomping, patting their lap, or snapping their fingers) and tell them to make their sound whenever another team is getting closer to their rocket ship. They'll need to be louder and faster as the teams get closer to their rocket ships. Let each team take a turn hunting for rocket ships until all the rocket ships are found.
- Our series this month is called *Blast Off*. It's all about launching your faith to greater heights.
- We've already talked about how we can grow in our faith by spending time with God and spending time with other people who love God. But today we're going to talk about a third thing that helps us get closer to God: **sharing our stories of faith with others people.**
- In our game, we had to communicate a specific message to the other people playing the game.
- No matter where you are in your faith journey, you have a story that you can share with others.
- We're going to talk today about how we can talk to others about our story with God.

DISCUSSION | Talk It Out

- Since we're talking about talking today, let's go ahead and start talking!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose two kids who will talk about a specific subject at the same time for 30 seconds. Have each of them talk to one side of the room about a specific topic (like the stars, the sun, astronauts, outer space, or aliens). The first person to take a break or run out of things to say is out. Tell the kids in the audience to let you know if someone stops talking by waving their arms. Continue playing for as long as you'd like. Then discuss.
 - **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** See *the Hacks for Kids with Special Needs in the Lesson Overview for this week.*
 - **FOR PRETEENS:** Get all of your preteens involved by playing *Talk It Out Tag!*
- **Was it hard or easy to talk for 30 seconds?**
- **What if you were the topic? Would it be harder or easier to talk for 30 seconds?**
- **What if God was the topic? Would it be harder or easier to talk for 30 seconds?**
- **How do you feel about talking about God?**
- Today, we're going to learn how **sharing your story of faith** will launch your faith.

VIDEO | Clip from Gravity

- We've been talking a lot about astronauts this month because we can learn a lot from them about how we can "launch" our faith.
- When you're an astronaut in space, there are a lot of dangerous things that can happen and go wrong. The same is true in our lives here on earth too. Let's see what we can learn from this clip.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video clip](#).
- In this scene, we saw the astronauts working on their spaceship, when a piece of debris hits their ship and causes a lot of problems.
- In order to save themselves, the astronauts need to communicate with each other through radios in order to figure out what to do. You saw one person giving instructions while the other was trying to get out of the way of the debris.
- I don't know about you, but this clip reminds me of something really important. It reminds me that when the people in our lives are in trouble, it's our job to help get them back to safety.
- The safest place anyone can ever be is in a relationship with Jesus. And you know what? We get to help people find safety in Jesus through the words we speak.

SO WHAT?

DISCUSSION | Share your favorite birthday memories.

- Today we're going to hear the story of two men named Peter and John, who used their words and actions to tell people the story of Jesus.
- I know it might be hard for some of us to tell other people about the story of Jesus, but sharing God's story doesn't have to be difficult or scary.
- Let's practice telling stories by telling each other stories about our favorite birthday memories.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Start everyone off by sharing your favorite memory from one of your birthdays. Then have kids turn to their neighbors and share their favorite birthday memories with each other.
- **Why do you think it was so easy to talk about your favorite birthday memory?**
- **How is talking about your favorite birthday like talking about Jesus? How is it different?**

STORY | Share your faith story.

- You already heard my birthday story, but now let me tell you my God story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell your story (or ask another adult to tell their story) about how you met Jesus and how God has changed your life.
- We all have a story to share! Your story is the story of you, how you met Jesus, and what God has done for you.
- Once you know your story, you can share it with others to help them find Jesus!

THE BIG IDEA | We can share God's story.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **we can share God's story.**

BIBLE STORY | Acts 4:1-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- In our Bible story, we learned about two people – Peter and John – who traveled around telling people about Jesus' resurrection and performing miracles.
- Peter and John were just two regular, ordinary people who knew Jesus and were filled with His Spirit and His power.
- **Have you ever had some great news that you couldn't wait to tell people about?** Maybe when you got a good grade at school? Or had something exciting planned to do with your friends or family? Or maybe something bigger, like you found out you were going to have a baby brother or sister?
- When we have exciting news, we want to tell everyone all about it!
- **What's one piece of exciting news you've told someone recently?**
- Peter and John had to tell everyone about how amazing Jesus was, because they were so excited.
- Acts 4:20 says, "... we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
- Just like Peter and John, you can share God's story with others too.
- What is God's story? God's story is simple:
 - God loves us.
 - God came to earth as Jesus.
 - Jesus died for our sins so he could save us and be our best friend.
- That's pretty exciting, isn't it?

OBJECT LESSON | The Power of Jesus

- But even though the story of God is exciting, it isn't always easy to find the courage or the right words to tell other people about who Jesus is to us or what He's done in our lives.
- Here's what's amazing though. God has given us a special gift to help us go share His story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hold up an un-inflated balloon. Ask, "What do you think will happen if I let go of this balloon?" Let go and watch it drop to the ground. Then blow the balloon until it's completely inflated, but don't tie it. Now ask, "What do you think will happen if I let go of the balloon now?" Let go and watch the balloon fly across the room.*
- **What was the difference between the first balloon and the second balloon?**
- The difference is what was inside the balloon!
- When Peter and John were traveling around, performing miracles (like healing a man who couldn't walk), and sharing with courage about Jesus and His resurrection, they weren't doing it by their own power. They had the Spirit and power of God inside of them!
- The town rulers asked Peter and John by what name, or what power, they were teaching and healing. Peter and John said it was by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.
- Peter and John were just regular people like you and me, but they had a special power.
- They had a relationship with Jesus. They were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. And they were so excited about what God had done for them that they couldn't wait to tell everyone about how amazing He is.

OBJECT LESSON | Paper Cup Telephones

- Sharing stories with each other is an important way that we can communicate with each other.
- When they are in outer space, astronauts can only communicate with their commanders through special radios. They have devices in their helmets or spaceship that transfer sound waves when they talk and turn the sound waves into radio waves, then transmit them to earth.
- We don't usually need special radios to communicate with each other here on earth because we have telephones — which, now that I think about it, are also special radios.
- To remind us that we have so many ways to share our story with others, let's make a pretend telephone out of paper cups and string and talk to each other with them.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use a sharpened pencil or pen to poke holes in the bottom of each cup. Then thread a long length of string through the hole, tie the string in a knot (or add a small washer or paper clip) so it stays put, and give each pair of kids a paper cup telephone. Once every pair has a telephone, spread each pair far apart and tell them to talk into their cups.*
 - Use your telephone to tell each other a quick story about something fun you did this weekend.
 - Now use your telephone to tell each other about one good thing God has done for you.
 - Now use your telephone to tell each other about something you've learned about God.
 - Now use your telephone to tell each other about one thing you're thankful to God for.
- Peter and John were bold and courageous when they shared their stories and the story of Jesus. And you are too! Even if you don't always feel bold and courageous, you still have a story to share with others, like you've already done today.
- In our Bible story today, Peter and John shared God's story with people wherever they went.
- We can share God's story wherever we go too — to our friends and family at home, at school, in our neighborhoods, on our sports teams, and to anyone God puts in our paths.

ACTIVITY | Two-Minute Testimonies

- We all have a story. Our stories includes things like where we were born, who our family is, who our friends are, what we like to do for fun, and even the difficult things we have been through. They're all part of our story. But the most important story you can tell about yourself is the story of what God has done in your life.
- Sharing your story about God doesn't have to be complicated. It doesn't even matter where you are in your journey with God. No matter how often you go to church, read your Bible, or pray, you still have a story you can share with others.
- Here are some ways you can share your story about God. You can . . .
 - Share about the time you first heard about Jesus.
 - Talk about how God forgives us.
 - Say that God created the world and share your favorite thing He created.
 - Talk about a Bible story or Bible verse that is meaningful or encouraging to you.
 - Share something you're thankful to God for.
 - Share that Jesus is your friend.
 - Tell someone about a prayer God answered.
 - Forgive someone when they do something wrong, because you know God has forgiven you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Let kids choose a partner and put two minutes on the clock. Give them two minutes to share their story using a few of the prompts above. Remember not all kids will have a "salvation story" yet, and that's okay. They can still learn to tell others their story.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Have them share their stories by filming two-minute videos and then discussing them using the questions provided in your Lesson Overview for this week.*

QUESTION | Who can you tell about God?

- **Which of those prompts were the easiest for you to talk about?**
- **Which of those prompts were the most difficult for you to talk about?**
- **Which of those prompts could you use to share your story with someone this week?**

NOW WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Crowd Charades

- We've been talking a lot about our words so far today. It's important to use words to share our story, but our actions are important too.
- One way we can share Jesus with others is when we show kindness to others. Kindness is one of the ways we can communicate through our actions.
- People often see God's love through our actions before we ever tell them about His love.
- To help us remember how important our actions are (not just our words), we're going to play a game where we communicate without words.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Crowd charades is like regular charades, but reversed. The crowd will act out the scene and one person in the front will try to guess what they are acting out. To play, send one*

person out of the room, then tell the crowd something to act out – the crazier, the better, like riding a roller coaster, riding a roller coaster while eating an ice cream cone, astronauts without gravity, riding in a hot air balloon, or a race car winning a race.

SCRIPTURE | I John 3:18

- I hope that game is a reminder to you that sometimes our actions are even more powerful than our words!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **How can you use your actions to help people know about God’s love?**
- **What is one kind thing you can do this week to show love to someone?**
- **How could kind and loving actions help you share your story about Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | My Life Movie Poster

- We've talked about sharing our stories through our words and our actions, but another way we can communicate is through our creativity.
- Think about this: if your life story became a movie, what would the movie be about? What would the poster for your movie look like?
- For the next few minutes, let's spend some time making movie posters of our life stories.
- As you make your poster, remember to connect your story to God's big story. You could even use some of the ideas we talked about earlier for how to share your story – what you're thankful for, who first told you about Jesus, or one prayer God has answered, for example.
- You might draw yourself being rescued by a knight in shining armor named Jesus, or being blasted out of an alien prison by an intergalactic hero (also named Jesus). You could draw yourself praising God by singing and worshiping Him, or you could draw all the blessings God has given you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid an 11x17" sheet of paper and markers or crayons.

ACTIVITY | Insta-Story

- So we've talked about sharing our stories through our words, our actions, and our creativity. But there's another way that a lot of people today communicate with the world: technology.
- Back in the Bible days, people didn't have cell phones, or the internet, or social media. They could only talk to people face to face or with handwritten letters.
- With all the technology we have at our fingertips these days, we have even more opportunities to share God's story with others. Let's make a list of all the ways you could communicate with someone else.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a white board, make a list of all the ways you can communicate with others (letters, FaceTime, texts, walkie talkies, etc.). You could also draw a large picture of a cell phone and let kids take turns drawing their faces on it, challenge them to tell their stories in 15 seconds or less (the length of an Instagram story), or tell their story only in emojis.

MEMORY VERSES | Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Peter and John say when they were commanded to stop teaching about Jesus?**
(They said they couldn't stop sharing about Jesus.)
- **Why do you think Peter and John kept talking about Jesus, even when they were told not to?**
- **Who first shared God with you?**
- **What are some things that make it difficult for you to share your story about God with others?**
- **Who can you share God with this week?**
- **What does it mean to love with our actions? How can you show God's love with your actions this week?**

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 4:4-6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What does it mean to let your conversation be gracious and attractive?**
- **Do you think your conversations with others could be described that way?**
- **How can you make the most of your opportunities to share God's story with others this week?**

ACTIVITY | Share Your Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the following list out loud. Then challenge kids to share their stories with the group by answering at least one of these questions.*
 - When did you first hear about Jesus?
 - What's something God has forgiven you for?
 - What's your favorite thing God has created and why?
 - What's one Bible story or Bible verse that is meaningful or encouraging to you and why?
 - What's something you're thankful to God for?
 - In what ways is Jesus your friend?
 - What's one prayer God has answered for you?
 - Who is someone you have forgiven because you knew God had forgiven you?

MEMORY VERSES | Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*