



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

YOU'RE
INVITED

BIG IDEA

We can worship God through prayer.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Clears the Temple: John 2:12-22

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Party Decorating
- **ACTIVITY** | Party Horn Tag

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 21:12-13
- **ACTIVITY** | Simon Says
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Pray Mobile
- **MEMORY VERSE** | John 1:1

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Party Games
- **ACTIVITY** | Party Dress Up



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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We can worship God through prayer.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Clears the Temple: John 2:12-22

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Party Decorating

- **Welcome to church! We're starting a new series today, and it's all about partying! Who's ready to party?**
- First, we need to make this place look like a party, who's ready to decorate?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Let the kids help you decorate your space. Have fun, bright party decorations like streamers, balloons (already inflated). You can let your kids help decorate a banner with stickers, stamps, and handprints. Remember to have fun and let the kids come up with fun decorating ideas too.*

ACTIVITY | Party Horn Tag

- Parties are a fun time when we get together with special people and celebrate something together: it might be a birthday, a wedding, or a new baby. Let's play a game with party horns!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid a party horn (the kind that unravels) and tell them to play a game of tag, but everyone has to walk (instead of run), and they have to try to tag each other by blowing their party horns out.*
- **Are you ready for a party now? Remember, parties are all about celebrating something specific.**
- **We're going to learn about a time when Jesus went to a party but people weren't there for the right reasons.**

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can select any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Praise Party" by Yancy and, "Life with Jesus" by Hillsong Kids, Jr.

THE BIG IDEA | We can worship God through prayer.

- **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, read it to the kids.
- This week's Big Idea: **We can worship God through prayer.**

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 21:12-13

- Today, we're going to talk about a time when Jesus got angry.
- **Can you believe that Jesus would ever be angry?**
- **Do you think it would be wrong for Him to be angry?** Remember, Jesus never did anything wrong!
- Jesus was angry because people were hurting and cheating each other, and all in the name of God! Let's listen to the story.
- Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.
- **Can you all show me and angry face?** Now, show me a happy face. Which face makes you want to have a party? The happy face!
- Jesus went to the Temple to celebrate a special festival, but people were being mean to each other instead of taking care of each other.
- **Instead of worshiping and praying in the Temple, which was like a church, people were trying to make money off each other.**
- Imagine if you came to church today, and I stood at the door and said "You can only come in if you buy this shirt for \$10 and wear it!" How would you feel? That wouldn't be right! That's what the people were doing. And Jesus was not happy about it.
- Jesus was so mad that He kicked those people out of the temple.
- **What do you think they should have been doing instead of trying to make money?** They should have been praying, spending time with their friends, and celebrating God.
- God wants us to do those things too. We can celebrate God and pray to Him any time, at church or at home, no matter where we are!

ACTIVITY | Simon Says

- **In our Bible story, Jesus said it is important to pray to God. When you pray to God, it means you talk to Him and listen for His voice too. Let's play a game to practice listening.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a traditional game of Simon Says, using simple commands like touch your nose, rub your stomach, give a friend a high five, spin around, and stomp your feet. If the kids do the action when you didn't say "Simon Says," you can tell them to help you watch the other kids and locate those who do the motions at the wrong time.*
- **Was it hard to listen and make sure you did what I said? Did the people in the Bible story listen to God?** No.
- God wants us to pray and listen for His voice. That's how we can worship Him!

PRAYER

- Let's spend time with God in prayer. Today, we're going to thank God that we can come to Him in prayer. It's so amazing that we can talk to God and that He hears us and wants to talk to us!
- Dear God, thank you for listening to us and caring about us! We know that prayer is a big deal to you. We love you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!*
- **Why was Jesus angry with the people at the temple?** *(Because they were cheating each other.)*
- **What is the temple?** *(The house of God, like a church.)*
- **What should the people have been doing in the temple?** *(Worshipping God, praying, singing to Him, reading about Him, celebrating Passover.)*
- **When can we pray?** *(Anytime!)*
- **What do you like to do at our church?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each child a sticky note. Sit in the middle of the circle with a large piece of paper or poster board and marker. Let the kids draw on their sticky notes as they share. If they need help, you can write or draw on their sticky note for them.*
- We're going to make a prayer poster together. Let's think of some things we are thankful for. Draw something on your sticky note.
- Now take another sticky note and draw something you need help with. What are some things you need help with?
- *Once the poster has all the kids' sticky notes on it, hang the poster in a visible place for the kids to see. Take a few moments to pray the prayer requests.*

ACTIVITY | Pray Mobile

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print one Pray Mobile printable for each kid (in your week 1 folder) on cardstock and cut the banners and letters apart. Cut the four pieces of yarn per kid. Let the kids color the banner and the letters. Tape the pieces of string onto the banner, and the letters P-R-A-Y to the pieces of string. Let the kids decorate their banners using markers, stickers, paint, dot markers, or glitter.*
- **What does it mean to pray?** It's just talking to God! **Can we pray at any time?** Yes! The banner you made will remind you to pray and celebrate God!
- Take your banner home and hang it in a special place to remind you to pray and celebrate God.

MEMORY VERSE | John 1:1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .*

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD (*make a book with your hands in front of you*),
AND THE WORD (*spread your hands apart like an open book*)
WAS WITH GOD (*point both arms up*)
AND THE WORD (*bring hands back down like an open book*)
WAS GOD (*bring arms back up and point up again*).

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them that we can praise God and talk to Him through prayer.*

ACTIVITY | Party Games

- Let's have some fun together and celebrate a fun time at church learning **we can worship God through prayer**. Let's play a game of musical chairs.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather chairs for each child (minus one) and place them in a circle with the chair backs facing the center. Have the kids sit in a chair and explain the directions to the game. When the music begins, the kids will stand and walk in a circle around the chairs. Pause the music and have the kids find a seat. One child will not have a chair and is out of the game. Continue playing until there is one kid left! (You can use the songs recommended in Worship Time for this game.)*

ACTIVITY | Party Dress Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give your kids party accessories to dress up in and play. You can give them dress up costumes, party hats, party horns, streamers, gift bags or wrapped gifts, and let them have a pretend party!*

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