

2.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



Tippy's Mouse House

Birds and Bread from Heaven

BIG IDEA: God gives me everything I need.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 16

KEY VERSE: "My God will meet all your needs." Philippians 4:19 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

One day while getting off of the bus in the 5th grade, my brother and I could tell that something was up. Our parents were already home and waiting for us halfway down the street. This wasn't normal. Why weren't they at work? When we asked what was up, they simply told us they had taken off work that day and had a "date day." We weren't buying it; something still seemed weird. As we approached the house and headed for the front door my mom corrected our course. "Hey, why don't you head this way," she said, directing us toward the backyard. "Your dad and I have something to show you." To my memory, I think my brother and I let out a "no way!" at the very same time. Our parents had given us a trampoline! This might seem like a small thing to a lot of people, but not to a 5th grade boy! We dropped our backpacks in the middle of the yard and tore off toward the new toy. We jumped on that thing for years and had some of the most wonderful times. In fact, I even led a friend to Jesus on that trampoline. We had some amazing times because of an amazing gift. And for that, I will always be thankful.

When I remember how my parents gave us such an amazing gift, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, "If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts..." (Matthew 7:11). Whether it's something that simply brings us joy (like the trampoline did for me) or something that meets one of our many needs, our God is a God that gives generously.

John Garrison
GO! Contributor



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Understanding a Kid's World

One of the best ways to connect with kids is to understand the world they live in. Unfortunately, relying on our memories of being a kid won't cut it. Newsflash: Kids don't know who "Captain Caveman" is, and your "Speak and Spell" is a technological dinosaur to them. Even if you were a kid just a short while ago, the culture has already shifted considerably. Communicating with kids effectively, whether as a small group leader or a large group teacher, requires you to engage them at *their* level and in *their* world. Don't let the task sound daunting, though — you're surrounded by experts who would be happy to teach you!

Ask the experts: Who's the best person to ask about today's kid culture? (*Warning: Obvious answer approaching.*) Kids! Ask the kids in your ministry what their favorites are — movies, TV shows, music, board games, video games, apps, toys, etc. Be ready, though. Just like experts in any area, when you get them talking, they might not be able to stop!

Do some research: Who said research has to be boring? Once you know what your kids are watching, playing, and hearing, you should watch it, play it, and listen to it yourself! You'll be surprised how much you learn about kids when you visit their world.

Report your findings immediately: The next time you see the kids, tell them what you listened to, watched, or played. Their faces will most likely light up. You'll be able to reference things that are relevant and interesting to them. Best of all, you'll have an instant connection with them and they'll see you in a whole new light.

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UNIT DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Tippy's Mouse House! Just as mice are prone to do, Tippy has tiptoed into the preschool room and scurried off with the Bible story pictures. Together, the preschoolers get to peek into Tippy's Mouse House and search for the pictures amongst all the other doodads Tippy has collected. It's a super sweet search that culminates in the discovery of God's provision and perfect love.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Print the picture of "Tippy the Mouse" on 8½" x 11" cardstock and place it in the storytelling area.
- Print one copy of "Tippy's Mouse House_Seed and Find" for each child on 8½" x 11" paper. (See Resource Folder.) Place them in the storytelling area.
- Place some crayons (one for each child) in the storytelling area.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Storytime Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½" x 11" cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

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★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, my preschool friends! I'm so happy to see you here today! I really, *really* need your help finding something. You see, our Bible story pictures are missing and I think I know where they went. We've got to find the pictures so we can tell today's Bible story.

Say: During today's true Bible story, we're going to learn that **God gives me everything I need**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Can you say that with me? *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God gives me everything I need**. It's true: **God gives me everything I need**. In fact, that's what our memory verse tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*"My God (point up with both hands)
will meet (clasp hands)
all (make a big circle with hands)
your needs (extend open palms like you're receiving something).
Because you belong (point forward)
To Jesus Christ. (point up)"
Philippians 4:19 (put palms together like you're holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children two or three times.)*

Music: Play Worship Song – 2s & 3s SKIP

STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story-time rules.

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

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TIPPY'S MOUSE HOUSE INTRO

Say: Have you ever been hungry before? I mean *really* hungry? (*Children respond.*) What sound does your tummy make when you're really hungry? (*Some children will make sound.*) That's right — it makes a growling sound. Let's make the growling sound of a hungry tummy together. (*Make "grr" sound with children.*)

Say: In today's true Bible story, there were a LOT of growling tummies. But God heard the people's tummies *and* their prayers, and then He did something incredible. If you're ready to hear that Bible story, let's tiptoe to Tippy's house and look for our missing Bible story pictures. Tiptoe with me to Tippy's Mouse house while we say the Tippy Tippy Tiptoe rhyme. Repeat this after me. (*Tiptoe in place with the children while quietly saying the following rhyme. Say one line at a time, then have the children repeat.*)

Video: (Optional) Play the "Tippy Rhyme" video

Say: Great job! We're at Tippy's house now! Let's sit down as quiet as a mouse. (*Sit down with children.*) There's just one more thing we need to do before we look inside Tippy's mouse house and hear our Bible story. We need to get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (*Move to the Bible Box.*) I need your help getting it out, though. Let's say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

(*Repeat the words with the children, then turn on the Bible Box light so that the Bible is*

Slide: Show the "Birds and Bread from Heaven" slide



BIG BIBLE STORY — BIRDS AND BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Note: Before the story begins, give each child a copy of “Tippy’s Mouse House” along with a crayon. Encourage the children to keep their paper face down when they’re not searching for a picture. Whenever you say, “Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house,” have the children flip the paper over, begin their search, and circle the picture once it’s found. Have a copy for yourself and circle each object along with the children so you can show them where it is hidden if needed.

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Exodus, there was a man named Moses who loved God very much. Moses helped the Israelites escape from a mean man named Pharaoh. There was one big problem, though.

Say: Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find a **cactus**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* When the Israelites escaped from the mean Pharaoh, they had to pass through a very dry, very hot desert. There wasn’t much food to eat in the desert, and the people started getting really, *really* hungry. They said to Moses *(speak in whiny voice)*, “Why did you bring us into the desert? We’re going to die of hunger!”

Say: Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find an **ear**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* God said to Moses, “I have heard how unhappy my people are. Tell them, ‘At night time, you will have meat to eat. And in the morning, I will give you bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

Say: Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find a **bird**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* That night, when the sun went down, the Israelites heard the sound of birds flapping on the ground. When they looked outside of their tents, they saw birds called quails. Not just one quail or two quails. There were so many quails that they covered the ground — enough to feed ALL of the Israelites.

Say: Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find a loaf of **bread**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* The next morning, when the Israelites woke up, the ground was covered with thin flakes of bread called “manna.” Moses told the people, “Take as much manna as you need for the day, but don’t save any for tomorrow. If you do, it will get rotten and stink.”

Say: Let’s peek inside Tippy’s house and see if we can find a **happy face**. *(Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.)* The Israelites were so happy now. Every day, God gave them the food they needed for that day. The people ate manna in the morning and quail at night, and they were never hungry again.

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MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Lead the children in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, ask the children to sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In today's true Bible story, the Israelite people were hungry and their tummies said, "Grrr!" But then God gave the people birds and bread to eat. Who remembers what the birds were called? *(Take answer.)* That's right — the birds were called quails. And who remembers what the bread was called? *(Take answer.)* You got it — the bread was called manna. God gave the Israelites what they needed, and He gives us what we need too!

Say: Let's think of some things we need for us to live. If you can think of something we need, raise your hand and squeak like a mouse. *(Call on children one at a time.)* Great answer! Does God give us [insert child's answer]? Yes! Yes, He does! *(Continue taking answers and asking children if God gives us that thing.)*

Say: God gives us food to eat and water to drink. He gives us mommies and daddies to take care of us. He gives us a church where we can learn about Jesus. **God gives us everything we need.** Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. *(Appear to be thinking.)* Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

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TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

(Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.)

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God gives me everything I need**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" *(Count to three and yell with kids.)*

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God gives me everything I need.** *(Repeat the Big Idea several times.)*

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. *(Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.)*

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for giving us people to help and care for us. *(Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)*

**Dear God,
You give me everything I need.
Thank you for giving me my food.
Thank you for giving me my family.
And thank you for giving me Jesus.
Amen.**