

# WEEK 1

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

We can see God through  
Jesus.

### THE BIBLE

**John the Baptist:**  
John 1:1-18

### WELCOME TIME

#### MUSIC | Praise Gallery

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Every Move I Make" (CJ and Friends)
  - "Guess What" (Kidspring)
  - "God Loves Me Specially" (Orange Music)
  - "You Change Me" (People of the Earth)
  - "Dive In" (Kidspring)
- ✖ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a song about the five senses ([like this one](#)) to introduce kids to how we're going to be using all our senses to learn about God!

#### ACTIVITY | Field Trip

- Welcome to a day at the museum! I'm so excited to take you on a field trip today!
- **Who knows what a museum is?**
- **What kinds of things can you find at a museum?**
- Museums are fascinating places to see many different things like history, art, science, and animals!
- When you go to a museum, there are so many things to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell, that help you take in the whole experience.
- Did you know that we can also use all of our senses to experience God? We're going to explore what this means all month!
- **Can you name your five senses?** Great job!

- Now let's go to the museum!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In a room nearby or in a corner of the room, create a museum for preschoolers to visit. Fill the space with stuffed animals and other objects. Children will have a blast visiting your DIY museum! Check out [this](#) link for some inspiration. Optional: Give kids [pretend tickets](#) before the activity!*

### ACTIVITY | Sneaky Statues

- Let's head on over to our first exhibit to kick off our day at the museum! We are going to play a fun game that uses our eyes — meaning, our sense of sight. We have to be very quiet when we play this game!
- This is my favorite room of the museum! You see, it's my job to make sure this room is locked up at night. I just love looking at the statues before I go home. The strangest thing happens though. I think my favorite statues might be moving! No . . . it can't be!?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this modified version of "Red Light, Green Light," pretend you are the museum night guard, getting ready to close up for the night. Ask another leader to sit or stand with the kids and play the part of lead statue, making motions/poses that preschoolers are to follow. Every time you turn you turn your back to the group, they get to move but as soon as you turn to face them, they have to freeze.*
- That was fun! You all did an incredible job of following the lead statue. Today's Bible story is going to tell us about someone else God wants us to follow!

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | John the Baptist

- Hello, everyone! I hope you are all enjoying this day at the museum so far!
- The Bible story we are looking at today is about a guy that is known to be a little bit out of the ordinary. Some may have even called him silly!
- **Would you like to meet this person?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For today's story from John 1:1-18, write "Jesus" on one side of a poster paper and "God" on the other side, in large letters. Dress up in John the Baptist attire, or ask another leader to help. You can place a robe and a beard on a coat rack and put them on as you transition into the role. You could choose to have fake locusts, honey jars, and camel hair on display and motion to them while mentioning them in the story. Let preschoolers use their sense of touch and pass the items around while you tell them the Bible story. Optional: Read the corresponding parts of "Heaven Breaks Through" from the [Jesus Storybook Bible](#)*
- Hi, my name is John. Some people call me John the Baptist. Welcome to the Bible story exhibit!
- I know some people might think I'm odd because I used to eat honey and insects called locusts that look a lot like grasshoppers. I lived out in the desert and usually wore camel's hair and a leather belt.
- But that didn't mean that God couldn't use me! Even before I was born, God knew exactly what my job was going to be, and it's a really cool job. I was going to prepare the way for God's own son, Jesus!

- It was very important that people knew Jesus. Jesus was with God in the very beginning, you know when God made everything.
- But people weren't ready to meet Jesus. Jesus would come to tell people all about God, but first, people needed to prepare their hearts for everything Jesus would teach them.
- That's where I came in.
  - I showed people how to ask God to forgive them for whenever they disobeyed God. They had to make the decision to live for God, and when they did, I baptized them in the water.
  - That's where I get my name – John the Baptist! People could go under the water to show that they were letting go of their old ways, and when they came out of the water, they were ready to start new!
- But you have to remember one thing – I wasn't the answer. All I did was point people to the real answer . . . Jesus! [Show "Jesus" side of poster.]
- As Jesus started his work, people got to see Jesus do some amazing things. And all those things showed people more about who God was.
- Whenever Jesus healed someone who was sick, or showed kindness to someone who was left out, it showed everyone God's love. Through Jesus, people got to know more about God! [Show "God" side of poster.]

#### **BIG IDEA | We can see God through Jesus.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea (or just "God") with white crayon on butcher paper and place in an [art tube](#). Invite a volunteer to open the art tube and pull out the Big Idea butcher paper. Unroll and lay the paper on the floor. Let kids come up and paint the entire paper with watercolor paint to reveal the Big Idea.
- Let's say the Big Idea together: **We can see God through Jesus.**

#### **VIDEO | A Day at the Museum, Episode 1**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

#### **ACTIVITY | A Clear Path**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a plastic bin or kiddie pool with play sand. Place the bin on top of a tarp or drop cloth for extra mess prevention. Set up a starting and ending point and have kids "excavate" a path in the sand using their fingers or paintbrushes.
- ❖ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using sand, invite toddlers to drive toy cars on a path. Create a simple path or road using a permanent marker on large piece of paper.
- Sometimes at a museum, a guide shows you what to do, tells you where to go, and helps you learn more about what you are seeing . . . kind of like how John the Baptist was a guide so people could be ready for Jesus.
- John the Baptist helped make a clear path to Jesus. He helped people make things right with God. He showed people how to ask God to forgive them.
- Once people got to know Jesus, they would know that Jesus is the clear path to God.
- **We can see God through Jesus.**

## PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us our sense of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch, so we can have many ways of learning about you. Thank you for giving us the best way to know you – Jesus! Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Eat with Your Eyes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids place banana slices on crackers, then put chocolate chips on banana slices to make "eyes." [Here](#) is variation of this snack. To save time, place all needed ingredients on paper plates for each preschooler. Confirm any allergies before using peanut butter or other highly allergic ingredients. Since this snack is smaller in size, let preschoolers make two or more pairs of eyes to enjoy.
- These yummy snacks have eyes to remind us that **we can see God through Jesus.**
- Did you know we can help other people see God, too?
- **What are some ways we can help others see God?**
- Sharing your toys, using kind words, having gentle hands, being nice to your brother and sister are all ways that you can help others see God!

### ACTIVITY | God's Little Mirrors

- **When we want to see ourselves, what do we do?** We look in the mirror! Let's pretend being mirrors of each other.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pair preschoolers together, facing each other at an arm's distance apart. Assign one preschooler as the "leader" and ask them to perform simple movements in place. Tell their partner (the second preschooler) to copy the leader as a mirror reflection. Allow each preschooler to be the leader.

❖ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of pairing kids together, invite toddlers to mirror you.

- You all did a great job mirroring each other!
- You had to pay careful attention to each other so you could copy what your friend was doing, right?
- When others see us, we want to make sure the things we say and do are things that show who God is . . . kind of like God's little mirrors!
- **We can see God through Jesus**, so let's let others see God through us, too!

### ACTIVITY | Magnifying Glasses

- Today we talked about using our sense of sight, or our eyes, to see all of the great things at a museum.
- Sometimes our eyes need extra help and that's when a magnifying glass comes in handy! Magnifying glasses help us see things better, because they make small things look bigger. They help us notice things that are hard to see.
- We are going to make magnifying glasses of our own today! Ask a family member to put it up somewhere you can see it easily so you can remember what we talked about today: **We can see God through Jesus!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Guide preschoolers in making their own magnifying glasses to take home. Check out detailed instructions [here](#).
- **What was your favorite part of our story today?**

### MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Jeremiah 29:13 aloud for the kids. Hide prints of the memory verse in more obvious places around the room. Give each child a magnifying glass to look for and then "read" the memory verse once they find it.
- Using your magnifying glass, look around the room for our memory verse. It is printed out just like this. [Show preschoolers an example.]
- Afterwards, let's keep using our magnifying glasses to say the memory verse together.

## PLAY TIME

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

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page, along with crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as kids color!

### ACTIVITY | Hot Potato Head

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "Hot Potato" by having kids pass the potato head until the music stops. Whoever is holding the Potato Head gets to pull out an accessory and you can discuss how we can do what God wants us to do. For example, lips – say kind words, hands – be gentle when playing, eyes – look for ways to help (or today's Big Idea), etc.  
**✖ TODDLER HACK:** Just let toddlers play with a Potato Head toy. Point out each of the different parts and how we can use them to know about God.

### ACTIVITY | Make Your Own Eyeglasses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a variety of craft supplies and invite preschoolers to create different eyes and glasses (See your Shop & Prep List for ideas). Review the Big Idea as kids create!

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