

## WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

God unbreaks what's been broken.

### BIBLE

**The Fall:**

Genesis 3:1-15; Matthew 9:9-13

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to *Make it or Break it!* Today, we're going to see how quickly humans mess up the perfect world that God created. We'll get to see that God never stops loving us and is able to repair all the broken things.

### WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions 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!](#)*
  - "The World Needs You" (Westwood Kids Worship feat. Yancy)
  - "Build My Life on You" (Lifeway Worship)
  - "This Could Change Everything" (Worship Together Kids)
  - "All Creatures" (Kings Kaleidoscope)

#### ACTIVITY | Make It or Break It?

- Last week's game of *Make It or Break It* was such a hit that we thought we'd bring it back . . . and not just for today, but for the rest of the series!
- If you're new to the game, let me tell you . . . it's the game that shows us the "yesssss!" of success and the "nooooo!" of failure. We'll watch people doing some crazy stunts, and you all get to predict whether the people will complete their stunt successfully or if they will fail at their attempt.
- So, who's ready to guess if these people are going to *Make It or Break It*?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a few of [these videos](#), specifically choosing ones where they "break it," or film new ones with your volunteer team where all stunts are fails. You can have the kids vote whether they think the person will make it or break it by raising their hands, running to opposite sides of the room, or any fun way you can think of.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *At the pause of the video, challenge the preteens not only to guess if the video is a fail but have them predict the exact outcome, such as what part of their body they might land on, or how they think the person will react.*

- Those stunts really keep us on the edge of our seats! I can imagine some of those “break it” fails causing some actual breaking of . . . bicycles and helmets.
- When things get broken, it can be heartbreaking because they were not meant to be broken.
- Today’s Bible story will show us how the first humans ended up “breaking it” pretty bad, but thankfully, nothing is permanently broken when God has anything to say about it!

### ACTIVITY | Creeper Knockout

- In the game *Minecraft*, there are creatures called Creepers. They creep up behind you without making any noise, then they explode! **What do you think happens when they explode?** Whatever you are working on gets blown up and destroyed.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, make a Creeper piñata beforehand following [this video](#) or [these instructions](#), or you can check to see if they are sold at a local party store. Tie the piñata string to the end of a sturdy pole that a strong adult will hold up. Have kids take turns hitting the piñata with a pole until it breaks open and reveals the treats. Prefer a piñata that kids don’t have to hit? We’ve got you covered! You can make a pull string piñata by following [this video](#).*
- Sometimes we make choices that lead to something getting broken, like throwing a ball through the living room window or even breaking someone’s trust.
- When that kind of situation creeps up on us and makes a big mess of things, we can remember that there is always someone we can turn to who helps us get through it. We’ll find out more in today’s Bible story!

### Poll | Break Me Off a Piece

- I wish things could last forever, don’t you? The fact is . . . things break all the time!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a set of “Have you ever broken a . . . ?” questions. Give each kid a piece of construction paper so that whoever answers “yes” to a question can tear a piece of the paper off. Here are sample questions that might spark ideas for additional or alternative questions:*
  - *Have you ever broken a dish?*
  - *Have you ever broken a crayon?*
  - *Have you ever broken a pair of glasses (like the ones people wear)?*
  - *Have you ever broken a picture frame?*
  - *Have you ever broken a bone in your body?*
  - *Have you ever broken a toy?*
  - *Have you ever broken a pot (like the ones you put plants in)?*
  - *Have you ever broken a window?*
- Look at all these pieces of paper we’re left with. No matter what kind of tape or glue I use, I can’t get the paper back to what it looked like before it was torn.
- **Have you ever felt like something was so thoroughly broken that you couldn’t fix it at all?**
- We’ll find out today that nothing is beyond repair when it comes to God . . . let’s find out more!

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 3 (The Fall)

- Last week, we learned about all the really good things God made.

- **Can you name some of the things God made?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As you read Genesis 3, play instrumental music in the background, such as [this option](#). Divide the kids into four smaller groups, and give each group a container of building bricks. Assign each group a category, such as trees, fruits, flowers, and animals, to build out of the building bricks as you tell the story.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Make a simple LEGO or Minecraft-style [tree](#) out of green and brown blocks, using no more than ten pieces. After you read each group of verses, have a preteen come up and break off one or two of the pieces. At the end of the story, they'll have a visual to connect with how God's perfect plan had been broken.*
- *[Read Genesis 3:1-5.]*
  - God told Adam and Eve to take care of everything in this perfect world God had made for them. But they were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God was giving them the choice to obey God. The serpent wanted them to disobey God and break their special bond. So the serpent twisted God's words and made Eve doubt everything she knew.
- *[Read Genesis 3:6-7.]*
  - Adam and Eve both ate the fruit from the tree God told them not to eat from. They quickly realized they made a terrible mistake, but it was too late. They had invited sin into the world by going against God, and that changed their world from being the perfect place God had made to something less wonderful.
- *[Read Genesis 3:8-13.]*
  - Adam and Eve tried to make excuses for why they disobeyed God, but the fact was, they had deliberately gone against what God had said.
  - **What do you think might have been a better thing for Adam and Eve to say?**
- *[Read Genesis 3:14-19, and after each verse or two, pause and allow kids to pull off one piece of their creations.]*
  - What a mess sin has made! Life was going to be so much harder for everyone now. But not all was lost.
- *[Read Genesis 3:20-24 as kids return the building bricks to their original containers.]*
  - Adam and Eve were living in the most perfect place there could ever be with everything they would ever need, but they still managed to make a huge mistake . . . they stopped trusting God. This caused a giant break in their relationship with God, but God never stopped loving them. And although it would take a very long time, God had a plan for fixing that brokenness . . . Jesus!

### **BIG IDEA | God unbreaks what's been broken.**

- Can you help me unbreak this week's Big Idea?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To prepare, stack up a few boxes of different sizes – you can make this as large and high as you want. Lightly secure the boxes by taping them with painter's tape in the back. Then use a thick marker to write the Big Idea in large letters across all the boxes so that the words bleed into neighboring boxes. Feel free to swap out the word "unbreak" with "mend," "fix," or "restore," if you would prefer a less informal word. Then remove the painter's tape and scramble the boxes in a pile. Invite kids to come and stack the "blocks" in the correct order.*
- The Big Idea is . . . **God unbreaks what's been broken.**
- Thank you, Big Idea builders!

### **VIDEO | Make It or Break It, Episode 2**

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

### ACTIVITY | Build and Recreate

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need paper towel tubes or toilet paper tubes. Before your program, make twenty or more slotted tubes beforehand by following [these instructions](#). You may want to make the slots more inconspicuous by cutting slits [like this](#) instead. To play, choose two teams of two kids each. Give teams a set of ten or more slotted tubes and ten seconds to stack their tubes as high as they can.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** This might prove challenging for kids with limited fine motor skills so show the contrast by first having them build using cardboard bricks or wooden blocks then build a second time with traditionally interlocking items like Lincoln Logs or LEGOs.
- **Are these towers sturdy or will they break?** [Have them knock their towers down so they break apart.]
  - The world God built was absolutely perfect. You might think, why would anyone ever want to mess it up? Well, I hate to break it to you, but humans are not perfect like God is.
  - Sin entered the world because humans tried to do things their own way instead of God's way. Things were now broken.
  - Sometimes . . . maybe a lot of times . . . we also try to do things our own way instead of God's way. Sin breaks our relationship with God, too.
- [Show the kids how to use the slits to create fun interlocking structures.]
  - Thankfully, God always has a plan, and Jesus is part of that plan! We can trust that **God unbreaks what's been broken.**

### OBJECT LESSON | Building a Puzzle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a puzzle together. Show the kids the completed puzzle.
- God made a world that was completely perfect, just like this completed puzzle. The world, and this puzzle, had everything it needed!
- [Start removing pieces from the puzzle.]
  - When the first humans made the choice to go against God, they messed it up. It wasn't a perfect world anymore. Their relationship with God was broken, and they probably started to feel aches and holes in their hearts, like loneliness and sadness.
- [Try to fit pieces into mostly the wrong places.]
  - We can do our best to try to fix things ourselves. Sometimes it seems like we are able to make things better on our own . . . but we just might end up more "puzzled" than before.
- [Place the pieces back into the right places.]
  - But only **God unbreaks what's been broken** because only God sees the big picture and knows where everything is supposed to go!

### SCRIPTURE | Matthew 9:9-13

- Our main Bible story showed us how sin caused a giant break in our relationship with God but that God had a plan for fixing that brokenness. Jesus was the long-term solution to this problem, and here's a glimpse into how Jesus fixes this brokenness . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Matthew 9:9-13 with the kids.
- Jesus had quite the invitation for Matthew! **What did Jesus invite Matthew to do?** Jesus said, "Follow me," and that's what Matthew chose to do. Jesus was basically inviting Matthew to have a relationship with God.
- Matthew was a tax collector, who had tax collector friends . . . and tax collectors were known to steal money from people. Some people – the ones who worked really hard to follow God's rules – wondered why Jesus would want to eat dinner with Matthew and his friends. Well, it turns out that Jesus doesn't just care about those who want to follow God's rules, but Jesus cares about all people!

- Jesus connects *everyone* back to God, not just the people who think they are doing right by God. Jesus knew that nobody was without sin, so Jesus made sure everyone could get to know God, receive forgiveness, and live the way God wants us to.

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | Made to Break?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [this video](#) (0:00-1:25 if you are short on time) from “Wreck-It Ralph” which explores the feelings of Ralph, who is programmed to wreck things. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Sometimes, like Ralph, we can feel like we’re programmed to break things. Since sin entered the picture, it might seem like all humans do is mess things up.
- Thankfully, whenever we break something, we can trust that **God unbreaks what’s been broken** — in every one of us and in the world around us, too.
- Think silently in your head for a moment: What is the last thing you might have broken? Maybe it’s an actual thing like a toy that was thrown because you got upset. Or maybe you broke someone’s trust or their heart with something hurtful you said or did.
- Then say a prayer. God is a great listener and invites us to share our feelings through prayer. You can tell God you’re sorry and ask how you can make things right again.

### RESPONSE | Build Not Break

- In the Old Testament, the Israelites would pile up rocks as a way to remember what God has done . . . God has a history of unbreaking broken things that the people wanted to remember!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to write on as many craft sticks as they want all the things they feel are broken – in their lives or in this world – that they want to pray for and ask God to repair. Let them stack the sticks and glue them together so that their responses can remain confidential.
- This might just seem like a pile of sticks, just like how people might have thought that the stones the Israelites stacked up back in the day were just a pile of rocks. But we know they’re more than that — they are reminders of how much God cares about us and is there to help us fix the broken things in our lives. They are reminders that **God unbreaks what’s been broken.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

- **“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.”**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Form two teams, and provide each team with a bucket of large building bricks, some of them bearing the memory verse words, like [this](#). If you have a large group, feel free to play the game multiple times with different teams. Have teams work together to locate all the word blocks and stack them in the correct order.
- **(Don’t forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4](http://growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4).)**

### PRAYER

- Dear God, we know you made things good and sometimes we mess that up. Thank you for caring about us and helping us fix the broken things in our lives. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- From what tree were the man and woman tempted to eat?
- What did the serpent say to the woman?
- Why did the man and woman hide from God?
- Read Matthew 9:12-13. What do you think Jesus means by saying that it's the sick who need a doctor and not the healthy people?
- Can you name some things that are broken in our world today?
- How do you know God planned all along to unbreak, or fix, what the first humans did in today's story?
- What might you do to help someone feel better when they feel broken — for example, when someone feels sad or sick?

### ACTIVITY | Crumpled Creations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids rip up and crumple colorful tissue paper. Help kids make something beautiful, such as [these pictures](#), out of the scraps.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids try their hand at [Kintsugi](#), which is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery. You can either have them try [doing this](#) using ceramic bowls or plates, or do a faux Kintsugi by decorating paper plates, cutting them into a few pieces, puzzling them back together on a piece of cardstock and gluing the pieces down, and tracing the "cracks" using metallic markers or paint.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide line drawing images that kids can fill up with the crumpled pieces of tissue paper instead of having them make something from scratch.
- At the end of today's story, we saw that, even in the utterly broken state of things, God still provided for Adam and Eve.
- Even when something might seem too broken to be fixed, in the right hands, it can be made into something beautiful. That's what God does in the world and with us, too. There is no amount of brokenness that is beyond the reach of our God.
- We can trust that **God unbreaks what is broken!**