

WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BLAST OFF

THE BIG IDEA

We can share God's story.

THE BIBLE

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

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)*
 - "All I Want to Do" (Shout! Praises Kids)
 - "Chasing You" (Bright Ones/Bethel Music Kids)
 - "My Life His Story" (Kids on the Move)
 - "Get to Give" (Elevation Church Kids)
 - "Love Everybody" (North Point Kids)

ACTIVITY | Rocket Ship Search

- We're heading back to outer space today! That's because **we're talking about how to "launch" our faith in Jesus to new heights.**
- But do you want to know something you can't do in space? Talk! Well, you can talk if you have special equipment, like radios, helmets, and oxygen tanks. But because there's no air in outer space, there's no way to speak or hear without special equipment. In space, everything is silent.
- Let's play a quick game to see how well you'd be able to communicate without using words — just in case you ever visit outer space.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need the Rocket Ship Search printable in your Week 1 folder and enough crayons or markers for everyone. Split everyone into teams (5-8 kids per team), give each team a rocket ship printable and crayons or markers, and let them each color their rocket ship with a team theme. When every team is done, have each team take turns hiding their rocket ship somewhere in the room while the other teams close their eyes. When all the ships have been hidden, assign each team a sound (like clapping, stomping, patting their laps, or snapping their fingers). Then allow each team to search for the other teams' rocket ships, one at a time. While each team searches, the other teams must make their assigned sound whenever someone gets close to discovering their rocket ship, getting louder and faster the closer they get. Have each team take a turn searching for rocket ships until every ship is found.

ACTIVITY | Crowd Charades (Part 1)

- It's not always easy to communicate without using words, is it? Let's try one more game to see how well you do.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of charades, but reversed! For this activity, you'll need a handful of images (either displayed on screen or printed on poster board) depicting commands for kids to act out. When you're ready to play, choose a few kids to be the guessers and bring them to the front. Make sure they can't see the images kids will be acting out or, if you're playing with a smaller group, have the guessers leave the room while you quietly tell the remaining kids the commands they're going to act out. To play, have the crowd act out crazy commands while the guessers guess – bonus points if the commands are space-themed! Like . . .
 - Moon
 - Shooting star
 - Rocket launch
 - No gravity
 - Space suit

QUESTIONS | Let's Talk About Talking

- You've done a pretty good job of communicating without words so far today, but **who's ready to finally say something out loud?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the following questions. You can have every kid shout their answer, but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers – and have fun with this!
 - **Would you rather be really quiet or really loud?**
 - **What's one subject you love to talk about?**
 - **Who's someone you love to talk to?**
- Imagine what it would be like if you weren't about to talk to the people you love for a day, or week, or even longer! When you finally saw them again, I'm guessing **you'd have a lot to say and a lot of stories to tell.**

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

BIBLE STORY | Peter and John Share the Gospel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or act out the Bible story from Acts 4:1-20 together.*
- Peter and John were just two regular, ordinary people, but when they met Jesus, their lives changed forever. They couldn't stop telling others about who Jesus was and what Jesus had done for them.
 - **Have you ever heard news that was so great that you couldn't wait to tell someone about it?**
 - **Have you ever seen something so amazing that you just had to tell someone about what you'd seen?**
- That's how Peter and John felt! **They had seen the amazing things Jesus had done, and wanted everyone to know about it.** So Peter and John traveled from city to city, telling people about Jesus and performing miracles with God's power.
- Even when powerful people tried to make Peter and John stop talking about Jesus, they wouldn't. Instead, they said, "We can't help it! We have to talk about what we've seen God do!"

BIG IDEA | We can share God's story.

- This story can teach us something really important about how we can launch our faith in God to new heights. But I need your help to find out what it is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a [large cardboard rocket ship](#), extra cardboard, a [rocket launch sound effect](#), and paint (black, white, and gray). Before your program, paint the back of the rocket ship cutout black. When it's dry, add the Big Idea for this week in white paint. Cut the extra cardboard into large cloud shapes and paint them shades of gray. When you're ready to reveal the Big Idea, have your students shout, "3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . blast off!" When they say "blast off," cue the rocket ship sound effect. While the sound effect plays, have at least one volunteers run to the front of the room holding the cloud cutouts. Use the clouds to obscure the rocket ship, while another volunteer turns the rocket ship so the Big Idea is facing out. Have your volunteers return to their seats and lower the volume of the sound effect.*
- **We can share God's story!** Repeat that with me. **We can share God's story.**

VIDEO | Blast Off, Episode 3

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

STORY | Share your story of faith.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer to share a story) about how you met and started following Jesus. Be sure to share your faith story on an age-appropriate level, and include at least one way that Jesus changed your life for the better.*
- Just like Peter and John, now that I've met Jesus and seen God change me, **I can't help but tell other people my story of faith.**

- No matter how old you are, or how much you know about God, **you have a story to share too.** Your story is the story of your faith, how you first heard about Jesus, and what God has done for you.

ACTIVITY | Paper Cup Telephones

- But sometimes that’s hard for us to imagine! We might think, “I’m too young to have a story worth telling,” or, “I don’t know enough about Jesus to tell others about Him.” But that’s not true!
 - To help us all see that we have an important story to share, let’s practice telling each other stories through some homemade telephones.
 - **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you’ll need paper cups, string, and a large needle. Before your program, create plenty of paper cup telephones (one for every two kids). For each telephone, poke a hole in the bottom of two paper cups, thread a length of string (about 3’ long) in between them, and knot the ends. During your teaching time, split everyone into pairs and give each pair a telephone. Have them talk into their paper cups to tell each other a series of short stories. Give each kid one minute to share their story before switching to their partner. Have them tell each other the following stories . . .*
 - *Talk about something fun you did this week.*
 - *Talk about something you’ve learned about Jesus.*
 - *Talk about something good God has done for you.*
 - *Talk about one thing you’re thankful for.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Because some kids with special needs are nonverbal, give them time to share their story with a buddy or adult by drawing pictures, listening to music, making things with Play-Doh, using motions to act out a Bible story or memory verse that is meaningful to them, or other developmentally appropriate methods.*
- See? Just like Peter and John, you have a story to tell too!

QUESTION | What is God’s story?

- No matter how young, small, quiet, or new we are to knowing about Jesus, we are all allowed to talk about Him with others. When we talk with others about Jesus, we don’t need to know everything there is to know about God – we just need to share God’s story. **So what is God’s story?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. When several kids have answered, list a few big ideas from God’s story, like . . .*
 - *God loves us.*
 - *God came to earth as a man named Jesus.*
 - *Jesus died to save us.*
 - *Because of Jesus, we can be close to God forever.*

BIBLE | I John 3:18

- We’ve talked a lot about our words today, but our words aren’t the only way we can share God’s story with others. Our words are important, but so are our actions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage together.*
- People wanted to hear what Peter and John had to say because their actions backed up their words. They were brave! They performed miracles! They cared for people! They showed the love of Jesus not just with their words, but with their actions too.

OBJECT LESSON | The Power of God’s Spirit

- But why were Peter and John so brave? Why did they continue telling people God’s story, even after they got in trouble and were told to be quiet? They were brave because God had given them a special gift.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this object lesson, you’ll need an un-inflated balloon. Hold it up and ask, “What do you think will happen to this balloon if I let it go?” Of course the balloon will fall to the ground – demonstrate that, but then pick it up again. This time, inflate the balloon but don’t tie it. Just hold it tight. Ask, “What do you think will happen if I let it go now?” Let the balloon go and watch it fly across the room.*
 - **What was the difference between the first and second times I let the balloon go?**
 - The only difference was the air inside the balloon! The first balloon dropped because it had no air inside it, but the second balloon flew because it was filled with something powerful.
- When Peter and John traveled from city to city, sharing the good news of Jesus, and performing miraculous healings, they weren’t doing those things by their own strength or power alone. They were like the second balloon, filled up with air – but the air was God’s Spirit, giving them power, strength, joy, and hope.
- How did they get God’s Spirit inside of them? Easy! They had a relationship with God through Jesus, so God’s Spirit filled them up, just like it can fill up you and me. **God’s Spirit gives us the courage to share God’s story!**

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

ACTIVITY | 2-Minute Testimonies

- One of the best ways to share God’s story with others is to share our story. We all have a story! Our stories are about . . .
 - Where we were born.
 - Who our families and friends are.
 - What we like to do for fun.
 - The difficult things we’ve been through.
- But most importantly, **our faith stories are about what God has done in our lives.**
- Sharing your faith story doesn’t have to be complicated. It doesn’t even matter how often you come to church, or read your Bible, or pray. No matter how young you are, or how recently you first heard about Jesus, you still have a story you can share with others.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, have kids choose their own partner so they can practice telling their stories of faith. Remember, many kids will not have a specific “salvation story” yet, and that’s*

okay! The point is to get them talking about their stories so far. When every kid has been paired off, put two minutes on the clock and challenge the first partner in each pair to share a story, using one of these prompts . . .

- The first time I heard about Jesus was when . . .
- My favorite thing God has created is . . .
- My favorite Bible verse or story is . . .
- I'm thankful to God for . . .
- Jesus is my friend because . . .
- I'm glad God forgives me because . . .
- One prayer God has answered is . . .

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** 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. You might ask . . .

- **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?**

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Before your teaching time, ask one of your families of children with special needs if they would like to participate in this activity by sharing some of their family story with the entire group. If you have a kid or family who is comfortable, ask them to share about how their faith and their disability work together. Keep in mind the point is not to make them feel different, but to highlight what we all have in common – a story to share.

- See? You do have a story to tell!

ACTIVITY | Crowd Charades (Part 2)

- But remember, our words aren't the only way we can share God's story. We can also share God's story through our actions. Let's play Crowd Charades one more time, but this time, see if you can guess some of the ways we can show God's love to others through our actions.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play another round of Crowd Charades, but this time, make all of the commands specific actions that could demonstrate the good news of Jesus, like . . .
 - Comforting someone who is sad.
 - Sharing your snack with a friend.
 - Praying for someone.
 - Inviting someone to church.
 - Sticking up for someone who's being bullied.
 - Giving to someone who is in need.
- All of the actions you just practiced are ways we can tell God's story to others by the way we treat people! **When we treat others with love, it helps us tell the story of God's love.**

RESPONSE | My Life Movie Posters

- Think about this: if you were making a movie about your faith story, what would the movie be like?
 - Would Jesus be a superhero, or knight in shining armor, or brave warrior who protects you from a scary monster? And would you then tell everyone about the amazing person who saved your life?
 - Or maybe you love sci-fi movies, so you'd be a space explorer trapped in an alien prison, until Jesus sets you free, and then you travel the universe together setting other people free!
 - Or maybe you would want a happy, feel-good movie, so your movie poster would be filled with all of the people and good things God has given you.
- Whatever you want to draw is up to you, but make sure your movie tells God's story as well as your story. For the next few minutes, let's use our creativity to draw a movie poster of our stories of faith so far!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid an 11" x 17" sheet of paper and some markers or crayons, and let them draw their movie posters. As you wrap up, ask a few kids to share their creations and how their movie posters share God's story.
- Isn't it amazing how different all of our stories are? That's exactly how God intended it! God's story never changes, but the way God's story changes our lives is always special and unique.
- When we share our stories with others, it helps our faith grow and it helps others learn more about our God who changes lives!
- This week, I hope you remember how exciting it is that **we can share God's story!** When we tell others about who Jesus is, we get to see God "launch" our faith (and other people's faith too) to even greater heights!

MEMORY VERSE | Missing Path

- One of the ways we spend time with God is by hearing and remembering God's words!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take the memory verse index cards from previous weeks and split them into two piles. Create two separate paths in your space, putting the words from each pile in order, but leaving empty spaces where there are words missing (because they are in the other path). Split kids into two teams and have them walk their assigned path, and see if they can fill in the missing words.
- Let's all say the memory verse together: **"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you so much for giving us the most wonderful story of love to share with others. Help us to be brave by telling others about you! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What message did Peter and John want to share with others?
- What did Peter and John do when people told them to stop talking about Jesus?
- Why do you think Peter and John kept talking about Jesus, even when they were told to be quiet?
- Let's read I John 3:18. This week, what's one way you could show God's love to someone without using words?
- Is there anyone you'd like to share God's story with? Who, and why?
- What's one way you could use your words to share God's story with that person this week?

ACTIVITY | Share Your Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Grab a stopwatch! (Or a phone – anything with a timer.) Challenge each kid to talk about God for 60 seconds by finishing one of these sentences.
 - The first time I heard about Jesus was when . . .
 - My favorite thing God has created is . . .
 - My favorite Bible verse or story is . . .
 - I'm thankful to God for . . .
 - Jesus is my friend because . . .
 - I'm glad God forgives me because . . .
 - One prayer God has answered is . . .
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Add a challenge or two for your preteens to discuss and commit to during small group time. Challenge them 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. Or challenge your preteens to take a week to think about their stories and then share them next week in their small groups.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Psalm119-105.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."**