

DAY 1 HACKS FOR PRETEENS

i wonder...

BY MIKE SHELEY

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every day, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this day in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

MUSIC | Worship in Wonder

Add these songs to the pre-service mix or use them during worship:

- ["God of Wonders"](#) by Third Day
- ["Countless Wonders"](#) by Chris Tomlin
- ["Wonder"](#) by Hillsong UNITED

ACTIVITY | Straw-ry Rockets

In addition to or in place of this activity, have preteens create an acrostic. They can write their name down along the vertical edge of a piece of paper (if you have time, use both first and last names). Then, have each kid write one unique characteristic about themselves that starts with each letter of their name. It could be an experience they have had, a physical attribute, an interest, or something unique about their family.

ACTIVITY | STEM Self-Portraits

Using the same frame and cardboard, have preteens use pencils to lightly sketch a rough self-portrait guide. Then, have them use different colored ink pads to color their thumb and fingers before pressing down on their sketch and making their self-portrait with their unique fingerprints and thumbprints.

QUESTION | Have you ever wondered?

Ahead of time, draw a giant outline of a question mark on poster board or paper with a bold poster marker. When you get to this activity, give preteens three to five minutes to write out as many questions of wonder as they can. Have them use fine-tip markers and put one question per sticky note. When time is up, have them add their thoughts to the poster board or paper, overlapping but completely covering the question mark.

ACTIVITY | Moving Stories

Turn this into a type of Charades by having the audience guess what scenario you gave the volunteers. You can also have preteens suggest their own scenarios.

ACTIVITY | God's Handiwork

Instead of a rocket, have a printable for preteens that is a silhouette or outline of a body, and draw in body parts. Have lines like you use to identify objects in a diagram connecting to: eyes, lips, teeth, tongue, nose, mouth or a speech bubble, fingers, feet, and toes. Then, share the facts about our uniqueness from this page on [Answers in Genesis's site](#). Have preteens write the corresponding unique trait with each line on the picture.