

DAY 1 HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

i wonder...

BY IDA MUNDELL

HOW TO HACK THIS DAY FOR PRESCHOOLERS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week. Here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preschoolers more engaged.

BIBLE STORY | Created and Saved by God

Busy hands = focused minds! Preschoolers can build [a sticker robot](#) while you tell the Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Moving Stories

Simplify the scenarios for preschoolers, or use picture cards of emotions ([like these](#)) or images of animals as prompts for them to participate in this activity.

REFLECTION | What Makes My Story Unique

If you have access to a Polaroid camera, take a photo of each preschooler. Let preschoolers glue their photo on a plain white paper with the heading "I wonder what makes my story unique?" (This can either be pre-printed or handwritten by you.) Upon pick-up, or in your communication with families and caregivers, instruct families and caregivers to write things that make their child's story unique. If you don't have access to a Polaroid, no worries! The project remains the same, with the exception of the preschoolers drawing a photo of themselves and not using a printed photo. If your test tubes are large enough, preschoolers can roll their photos and put them in the test tubes on their own.

MEMORY VERSE | STEM-ory Stack

Create a robot-themed sensory bin (or bins) [like this](#). Write the memory verse word by word on a repeating item like a certain shape from [these foam shapes](#). Tell your preschoolers that the memory verse is hiding in the bin and that it is their mission to find all the pieces. (You can tell them

what shape the memory verse pieces are written on if you think they need the extra help.) When you say "GO!" preschoolers will search for and pull out the memory verse pieces. When they are done help them put the pieces in the correct order and read the verse with them. Have them repeat the verse with you, too! Repeat as many times as time allows.

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ACTIVITY | Build-a-Bot

Before your preschoolers build-a-bot, play a round of Robot Says. It's just like Simon Says, except you would give instructions in a robot voice and kids have to do everything like a robot!

VIDEO | "The Present "

Preschoolers may have a hard time articulating their God-given gifts. Provide an assortment of photos that illustrate what they might be good at. The images could be things like: playing, giving hugs, helping clean, baking, smiling, and dancing. You can find these photos in magazines or online. Ask preschoolers to look through the pictures you provide and pick some that show what they are good at. Then have them glue the pictures on a plain paper with the heading "I wonder what gifts God gave me?" Talk about how preschoolers are a gift to their families, their friends, to you and to the world at large!

RESPONSE | Gift Guide

Preschoolers love to learn through role playing! Give your preschoolers a chance to act out each of the different types of gifts that are listed in this module (Leading, Serving, Giving, and Encouraging). For leading, they can be the leader in a game of Follow the Leader. For serving, they can pretend to serve their friends food or drink. For giving, they can find their favorite toy in your environment and pass it to a friend. For encouraging, prompt your preschoolers to say something nice about the person sitting to their left or right. Let everyone have a chance to role play! If time allows, ask your preschoolers which part they liked to play best.

MEMORY VERSE | Memorable Gifts

Preschoolers love opening gifts! Print or write the memory verse on an index card and put it in a tiny box. Wrap that tiny box in a bigger box, wrap that box in a bigger box, and repeat several times. Make enough gift boxes for a group of four to five children to have their own. When you say "GO!" the preschool small groups will work together to unwrap all of the boxes, eventually finding the memory verse. Read the verse aloud and have kids recite it together after you and repeat as many times as time allows.

DAY 3 HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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ACTIVITY | Numbers Game

Numbers can be tricky for preschoolers, but they are great team players. Time for parachute play! Have preschoolers sit in a circle around a [parachute](#). Parachute play is a team sport! Everyone has to work together or the chute won't go up. Have a leader role a large die. Instruct preschoolers to lift the parachute as many times as appears on the die. After the final lift, they can run inside the parachute and try to sit down together. Repeat as many times as time allows.

ACTIVITY | Bubbling with Love

Have all ingredients pre-measured for preschoolers. You may also want to use larger test tubes for preschoolers. Another option for preschoolers is to make playdough volcanoes [like these](#).

SNACK | STEM Appétit!

Stacking with one hand may be challenging for some preschoolers. Instead, encourage them to work in groups of two to three kids to build tall towers with the giant marshmallows, using frosting as "glue."

REFLECTION | What I Can Learn from Others

Place preschoolers in smaller groups of five to seven and have them sit in a circle. Have a leader with each group. Leaders will ask their group a series of "My favorite" questions. (My favorite food, drink, animal, color, game, movie, TV show, etc.) Leaders will say "I wonder what I can learn from [kid's name]?" What is your favorite [fill in the blank]? One at a time, preschoolers will share their

answers. Once everyone has shared, leaders will ask group members if anyone can remember what they learned from their friends.

MEMORY VERSE | Coded Verse

Let preschoolers play the game “Telephone” to practice saying the verse to each other.

ACTIVITY | Animated Action

Have preschoolers draw a picture of how they can show God’s love. You can also invite them to draw a picture to give to someone who could use some love.

DAY 4 HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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ACTIVITY | Cloud Soap

Make [cloud dough](#) and invite preschoolers to play with it while you welcome them back for Day 4.

VIDEO | "How Do I Pray?"

Before or after the video, explain to preschoolers the "High Five" way to pray! If time allows, now or later, trace their hands and send them home with their own [prayer guide](#).

OBJECT LESSON | Let It Sink

For a fun spin on this object lesson, invite preschoolers to build a LEGO or block tower, but with the smallest block or brick on the bottom. Keep adding larger and larger blocks. (you want the tower to eventually fall over). Have preschoolers rebuild the tower with the largest block on the bottom. Tell them that the largest block represents spending time with God. When we give God the best and first parts of our day, our hearts will grow big and strong!