



SESSION 2

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

BY MIKE SHELEY

HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRETEENS

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

THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

Preteens might enjoy actually having a puzzle to assemble. You can purchase [blank puzzles](#) in whatever complexity you want. The sample link shows one with 63 pieces. You can use a marker to write out the big idea on the puzzle. For bonus creativity, involve a preteen ahead of time to creatively write and artistically decorate the puzzle before you take the pieces apart. Then bury the pieces in the sand and follow the original instructions.

ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft

Print the printable on [shrink paper](#). Have kids color it in with permanent marker, cut them out, then punch a hole in each image. Heat the items using a toaster oven. Once cooled, add the newly-created charms on to a [leather string](#) to make a bracelet, necklace, or keychain.




REFLECTION | Finger Print Fish

This is going to be a fun and messy activity. Although you can't prevent a mess, you can minimize it. Have preteens who are in charge of each ink pad who can also help the young children with getting the ink on their fingers. Have a different set of preteens who have the baby wipes and are ready to jump in and help wipe off fingers as soon as they are done making their mark!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MIKE SHELEY



 facebook.com/michaelsheley
 instagram.com/michaelsheley
 twitter.com/michaelsheley

Mike Sheley is the Middle School Pastor overseeing ministries for preteen (5th-6th grade) and young adolescent (7th-8th grade) students at Mount Pleasant Christian Church in central Indiana. He has been in student ministry for over twenty years, with more than twelve of those years in his current position. In his current ministry, preteens participate alongside middle schoolers for weekly programming, but have their own lessons and special events. However, part of the health of the ministry is due to the close friendship and working relationship Mike has with the children's ministry team.

Mike is married and has three kids - one in college,

one in high school and one in middle school. Mike has had the joy and challenge of ministering to all of his kids as their youth pastor during their preteen and middle school years.

Mike's odd jobs over the years have included working at the his local Apple Store, Target, and at a couple fast-food restaurants. He has a weird fascination with presentations and fonts.

If you'd like to chat with Mike about spiritual disciplines with preteens, parent ministry or developing better presentations, reach out! He would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Sunday Cool, After School Program.

TEACHING SKITS: Natasha McGill.

PRETEEN HACKS: Mikey Sheley.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS: Kimberly Dorpenyo.

PRESCHOOL HACKS: Tiffany Thenor.

MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE: Sunny Brown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Josh Gosney, Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

ILLUSTRATION: James Huang.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Stephen Switzer, Ali Anne, Eddie Irvin, Ari Raines, Kellee Gentry, Tim Synan, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis, Megan Romer, Kathie Phillips, Sunny Brown, Dena Kitchens.