



SESSION 3

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.

MUSIC | Waves of Worship

An alternative playlist for preteens:

- ["Only Wanna Sing"](#)
- ["Real Love"](#)
- ["We Are Royals"](#)

SNACK | Sandy Shores

Many of the hacks we offer are great for preteens in with the students or up front, but you have preteens who don't want to be up front or with children, but who would love to serve behind the scenes. Recruit a few of these preteens to help make these supplies before this session of vbs. Offer them the opportunity or recruit different preteens to help the children with assembling these during the session.




MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

Type out this verse three times on one sheet of paper equally spaced apart. In the second one, delete every other word. In the third one, delete everything except the first letter of every word. When you hand these out to preteens, have them fold it into a tri-fold. They can practice using each of these as a different way to memorize this verse.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MIKE SHELEY



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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.

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