



SESSION 4

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.

DISCUSSION

Give each preteen one sheet of plain printer paper. Have them fold it in half. Then have them fold it in half the other direction. Now they should unfold the paper and have a sheet with four different rectangles. Looking at the paper in landscape or horizontal position, instruction them to create four quick sketch notes or comics that summarize their answers to these four prompts:

- Draw a quick sketch of someone God may be asking them to share their story with.
- Draw a quick sketch of someone whom they may not think will listen but who needs to hear their story.
- Draw a quick sketch of someone who shared their story about God with you.
- Write a word or phrase that describes how sharing your story can deepen your faith.

RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story

Help preteens practice telling their story with some simple tools. There is the free "[CIY Tell It](#)" app available on the Apple App Store or for \$1 you can pick up a [set of cards](#) that walk them through the same thing. Either way, this simple method will help preteens practice sharing their story!




MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

Allow preteens to use one of their own devices or to borrow one from a leader to record themselves doing this video ahead of time. Then play it back to teach it to the children. When they have seen it a couple of times, hit pause after certain lines to help children keep going and "fill in the blank." Do this a few times until the children can do the whole song, (and verse), from memory.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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!

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