

WEEK 1 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BIG AND SMALL

THE BIG IDEA

We are small but
God is big.

THE BIBLE

Job's Sufferings: Job 1:1, 2:1-10;
Psalm 8

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Super Big," (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "Lord, I Need You," (Kids Version)
 - "Never Lost" (Allstars Kids Club)
 - "Yes I Will" (Kids Version)
 - "It's Been a Lovely Day" (Vineyard Kids)

ACTIVITY | Giant Ring Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, cut a few pool noodles in half and tape them to the floor to be the poles for the ring toss. Tape a few noodles into circles to be used as the rings for the ring toss. Alternatively, you can use traffic cones and hula hoops instead.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Get silly with your preteens for this activity! Consider having some kids be the poles and have kids toss inflatable pool rings around them.
- Hi, everyone! This month is all about big and small things because we are going to talk about our great, big God!

- Today, we're going to play a classic game of ring toss, but make it bigger!
- **Do you think playing a big version of this small game is going to be easier or harder?** Let's find out!

ACTIVITY | Miniature Bowling

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather at least twenty tiny soda or water bottles to use as bowling pins, and a small ball – such as a tennis ball – to be the bowling ball. Have the kids play miniature bowling at their leisure or make it into a competition.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Find even smaller bottles to use as bowling pins (e.g., eye drops, nail polish, correction fluid, travel-size bottles, etc.) and a golf ball as the mini bowling ball.
- **How many of you have ever gone bowling?**
- Bowling can sometimes be challenging, but so much fun!
- Today, we're going to play a mini version of bowling. Let's see which one we like more!

QUESTION | Small as an ant or big as a giraffe?

- **Would you rather be as small as an ant for a day or as big as a giraffe for a day?**
- **Why did you choose the way you did?**
- What's interesting is how big or small something is really depends on who's looking at it. You might have a tall uncle who is more than six feet tall, but compared to a professional basketball player, he might seem small. A tangerine might feel small in your hands, but it's big from the point of view of a bee.
- Today, we are going to get a glimpse of the way our great, big God looks at things, regardless of how big or small they are.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask a few more "Would You Rather" type of questions to help kids think deeper about contrasting ideas! Some of those questions might be: Would you rather be known by a lot of people or a few? Would you rather eat one giant meal per day or ten tiny meals per day? Would you rather have a puppy the size of a house or a horse the size of a hamster?
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a visual of a big giraffe and a small ant to help kids picture the difference.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | Job's Sufferings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Job 1:1; 2:1-10 and have them follow along with each verse.
- For the next several weeks, we are going to hear stories about a man named Job.
- **Who can tell me what it means to be blameless and to have integrity?**
 - To be blameless means that a person hasn't done anything wrong.
 - To have integrity means to consistently do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

- The Bible uses these two words to describe Job.
- [Read Job 2:1-3.]
 - **What do you think was the reason for this heavenly meeting?**
 - The Bible doesn't really say, but in this meeting, God can't stop talking about Job!
 - God was so happy Job didn't give up on God even when things got challenging for him. And let me tell you. . . things got very challenging.
- [Read Job 2:4-6.]
 - **What do you think? Do you think Job was only a good guy because God had given him everything he needed?**
 - It didn't matter what anyone else thought because God just knew Job's heart. Job really loved God and not just the things God blessed Job with.
- [Read Job 2:7-8.]
 - **Do you think Job stopped loving God when he got sick?**
- [Job 2:9-10.]
 - Remember that word we talked about? Blameless? Well, Job stayed blameless and kept his integrity, no matter what anyone said. He didn't say anything bad about God, even while he was suffering.
 - Job knew that he was just one, small person who was created by a great, big God. Job knew that if there was a solution, only God would know and be able to make things right.

BIG IDEA | We are small, but God is big.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in a really small font on a huge piece of paper. Choose a kid to come up to the front and choose a really big magnifying glass or a small one to read the Big Idea with. Have the rest of the kids to repeat after you.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For the Big Idea reveal every week this month, try providing a paper with the tiny font and a magnifying glass for each kid so they can each try it for themselves.
- **Who can come up here and read what this says?**
- **We are small, but God is big!** Let's say it together this time!
- No matter what comes our way, God is always bigger than any problem we may face!

VIDEO | Big and Small, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of Grow TV.

STORY | My "Job" Experience

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story about a time in your life when you experienced a tough time similar to Job. Share with the kids how you got through it and why you still trust God.
- **Can you share a time when you had a difficult time?** Maybe it was a trip to the dentist or starting a new school. We all go through tough times.
- Even when times are hard, we can feel comforted because God is with us. **We are small, but God is big!**

OBJECT LESSON | How Big?!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this picture](#) demonstrating the size of the moon compared to the Earth. Next, show a scaled picture ([like this](#)) of all the planets next to the sun. Lastly, show a picture ([like this](#)) of the solar system in the Milky Way Galaxy.
- Let's look at some pictures together to see how small we really are.
- **Who made our galaxy? Who made our solar system? Who made our planet? Who made you and me?** That's right! God made them all!
- **We are small, but God is big!** And God cares about us so much!

BIBLE | Psalm 8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into four groups and assign each group two verses from Psalm 8:1-8. You may want to print this passage out and cut out two verse chunks to distribute to each group. Encourage each group to create their own motions with their verses. Once everyone has come up with their motions, play background music ([like this](#)) and read Psalm 8. When their part comes up, have them present their motions. For verse nine, repeat whatever motions the group for verse one created.
- **What does verse one and verse nine say?** It says that God's name is majestic in the whole Earth.
- **How amazing is it that God, who created all things, made us, too?**
- What's more amazing is that God not only created us, God also wants to have a relationship with us! God wants to be our friend! We might be small, but that doesn't make us any less important to God.
- That's the whole reason why God sent Jesus, so we can have a relationship with God. Jesus, God's own son, came to earth to show exactly how much God loved everyone.
- There are so many things going on in the world every day, but our big God cares about it all and God cares for you and me.
- **We are small, but God is big,** and God is able to do more than we can ever imagine!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | This is Small, but God is Big

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite the kids to think of their own scenarios that might make them nervous or anxious (e.g., being the new kid at school, being sick, doing something new for the first time, etc.) Help them reflect on the Big Idea.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give each preteen an index card and have them write about a time when something felt overwhelmingly big to them and they felt helpless. Encourage them to write as tiny as possible. Once they are done, encourage them to flip the card over and write "GOD" in large letters.
- **Are there things in your life that make you feel worried or scared?**
- Let's think through this together. Help me complete this sentence: "[. . .] is small, but God is big!" (e.g., "Going to a new school is small, but God is big," etc.)

- **How does knowing that we are small but God is big help us face tough times?**
- We can trust God with every part of our lives. God isn't too big to face any hard thing we may face.

RESPONSE | Big and Small

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to write or draw pictures of things that make them feel big and things that make them feel small.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Make this activity like a poll instead, where you can show kids pictures of different things and they would have to respond whether it makes them feel big or makes them feel small. Designate one side of the room for "big" and the other side for "small" and have them move to the side of the room in response to each image.*
- Let's draw some pictures together that show different things that make us feel big, and some things that make us feel small.
- **What makes you feel big?** (e.g., Riding a rollercoaster, babysitting a younger sibling, playing sports, etc.)
- **What makes you feel small?** (e.g., Going to a new school, needing help, not knowing anyone, etc.)

MEMORY VERSE | Mystery Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have one small box and one big box. In each box, put a different way the kids can recite the verse. For example, box one can say, "Hand motions," in which a volunteer will show the kids hand motions for the verse, and box two can say, "Sing," in which the volunteer will sing the verse in a catchy way and have the kids repeat. Save whichever box that isn't chosen for next week and replace the chosen box with a new way to memorize the verse.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for all the good things you do for us and for never leaving us alone, even during the tough times. Even though we are small, we know that you are big! Help us to keep our trust and faith in you no matter what comes our way. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What two words does God use to describe Job?**
- **What are some ways Job suffered?**
- **Does Job do anything wrong while suffering?**
- **Read Psalm 8:3-4. How does it make you feel to look up at the stars and know that they were made by God's own hands?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God is so big?**
- **How do we know God is with us even when things are hard?**
- **What can we do when we go through tough times?**

ACTIVITY | Small People, Big Sky

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using a big piece of bulletin board paper or butcher paper, encourage the kids to finger paint a night sky and leave their handprints at the very bottom.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids who might not like getting paint on their hands, provide paint dabbers.
- **Let's read Psalm 8:3 again together.** God's own fingers put the moon and stars in the sky. God is so big!
- So, today we are going to create a night sky with our fingers! Every time you see your work of art, remember that the Earth and everything in it is God's artwork.
- **We are small, but God is big!** And God cares about us in big, unimaginable ways.

MEMORY VERSE | Job 37:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Job37-5.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding."**