

WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BIG AND SMALL

THE BIG IDEA

God sees the big picture.

THE BIBLE

God Answers Job: Job 38:1-7, 34-41;
Isaiah 53:4-12

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 | The Small Picture

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print several large pictures (see your Shop & Prep List for suggestions). Cover up a large chunk of each image using sticky notes, only allowing a small part to be visible. Have the kids shout out what they think the image is on the picture and then reveal it slowly.*
- I have some pictures here and I want you to guess what they are.
- But so much of the picture is covered! It's zoomed in too close and we can't see the whole image. **Can you guess what it might be even though we cannot see the whole thing?**
- Let's slowly start to "zoom out" and reveal more of the picture. *[Remove one sticky note at a time.]* **Now, what do you think it is?**
- It's hard to guess what is going on when we can't see the whole picture!

ACTIVITY | Mini Pic Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups and give them a copy of the printable containing ten tiny images. Have the kids try to guess what the pictures are. It may even be fun for the kids to use a magnifying glass.
- In our last activity, we saw how it was really hard to tell what a picture is when we only see part of it.
- Now, we are going to have a different type of challenge!
- **What will happen when the picture is tiny?**
- **Can we see these super tiny images? What would help us?**
- Sometimes, we need help with seeing the whole picture.

ACTIVITY | Zoom In, Zoom Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams. Ask one volunteer to come up to the front to represent each team. One person closes their eyes while the other goes around the room and takes a picture with a phone or digital camera of something in the room. Zoom in on that image and have the opponent try to guess what it's a picture of. A team earns a point for guessing the picture correctly or confusing the other team. Keep playing until every team member has either taken a photo or guessed.
- **When are times when we would want to see something zoomed in?**
- **When are times when it is better to see something zoomed out?**
- Today, we are going to see what God had to say about everything that was happening to Job and how Job was feeling. And we'll also see how Job realized God knew and saw more than he thought!

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

BIBLE STORY | God Answers Job

- At this point in the story, our friend, Job, has been through a lot! **Can you remember some of the things he's been through?**
- I bet he's wondering why all of this has happened to him. **Have you ever wondered why something was happening to you? Me, too!**
- Job asked God this question, and we're about to see how God answered Job.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to join you in reading the Bible passage, Job 38:1-7; 34-41, with their Bibles, if they have them.
- It seems like God is asking Job to answer a bunch of questions . . . Let's try answering some of these questions. **Are you ready?**
 - **Who determined the dimensions of the Earth?** God! That's right!
 - **Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain?** No . . . I can't either. But God can!
- Do you know what I noticed? God doesn't actually answer Job's question! **Why do you think that is?**

- I think by asking Job these questions, God is allowing Job to realize that he may not have the same view as God. Job only sees a small part of the picture. God is big and powerful and makes all the pieces of our lives come together, just like a puzzle.
- **Are we allowed to ask God questions?** Yes! God listens to us no matter how small the question. But sometimes when God answers our questions, it may be to show us that we are not seeing things the same way God sees them. And that's what God did with Job.
- The most important thing? God has been and will continue to be with Job in every part of Job's story, the hard parts and the easy parts. And God will do the same for you.

BIG IDEA | God sees the big picture.

- **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 repeat the Big Idea after you.
- Last week, we had a similar piece of paper and it told us something big about God. What will it say today?
- **Let's say the Big Idea together: God sees the big picture!**

VIDEO | Big and Small, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | DIY Binoculars

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids make their own cardboard binoculars using [these instructions](#) (or a similar one).
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Preteens might want to make binoculars that actually work. You can look up some cool DIY binocular instructions or get a ready-made kit [like this one](#).
- Today, we're going to create some binoculars together. **What do binoculars do?**
- They help us see things that are far away. Binoculars can help us see a more complete picture. They can also help us see things more clearly.
- We can use these binoculars to remind us that **God sees the big picture**, and God's vision of that picture is perfect!

ACTIVITY | Which Would You Choose?

- We're about to go on an adventure together! Some of you will get to know the final destination, but not receive any directions on how to get there. Others of you will receive instructions on how to get to the final destination, but won't know what the destination is until you arrive. Are you ready?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Decide on a place in your church where you want the kids to go (e.g., fellowship hall, choir room, youth group room, etc.). Divide the kids into two groups. For one group, tell them the name of their final destination, but let them decide the route they want to take to get there. For the other group, give them walking directions (e.g., "go down the stairs", "turn right") but don't tell them the name of the place they're heading to. Give the kids time to explore and arrive at the designated spot. Once their time is up, invite the kids to share their experiences.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Pick a popular nearby location that kids would be familiar with (e.g., McDonalds, coffee shop, library, mall, school, etc.). To one group of preteens, give a set of walking directions (you could print this out from Google Maps) without telling them the name of the destination, and see if they could tell you where they would end up. To the other group, tell them the final destination and ask them to write out their own directions on how to get there.

- **How were your adventures?**
- **Which do you prefer, knowing the destination ahead of time or following directions along the way?**
- Sometimes, we think we would like to know the big picture like God.
- But when we don't have the whole picture, we can trust God to give us directions and help us understand because **God sees the big picture.**

BIBLE | Isaiah 53:4-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Isaiah 53:4-12. We recommend reading the passage in the New Living Translation. After reading, ask the kids to remember some of the things that happened to Job (e.g., poverty, sickness, bad friends, etc.). Lead them through questions comparing Job with the figure in Isaiah 53.
- **Can you remember some things that happened to Job?**
- **How did Job respond to God while all the bad stuff was happening?** Yes! Job asked God why it was all happening. Job couldn't see the big picture.
- **Now, what are some of the bad things that happened to the person in Isaiah 53?**
 - **Who do you think Isaiah 53 is talking about?** It's talking about Jesus!
 - If Jesus just saw the hard parts of the picture, Jesus would not have wanted to make the big sacrifice. But Jesus knew God had big plans in store for all people! In other words, Jesus saw the big picture!
- [Read Isaiah 53:11.] Jesus made the big sacrifice for you and me. We can be thankful that **God** – always – **sees the big picture!**

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

ACTIVITY | Color Your Square

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups and give each group [a color by number picture](#) that has been cut into four or five sections. Instruct each group to color their section of the page and then tape the picture together to see what it forms.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prep for this activity by labeling the crayon with the number they will need to color in with that color. Make sure you choose images that are not too small or have lines that are too close together.
- We've been talking a lot about seeing the big picture. Let's work on these coloring sections individually, and then let's all come together to see the big picture!
- Sometimes, we need help from other people to see things clearly.
- We can always trust that **God sees the big picture!**

REFLECTION | Because I Said So

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to think of a time when they were told, “Because I said so. . .” when they asked, “Why?” Ask prompting questions to help them feel comfortable sharing about how they felt in that moment, what they did as a result, or what they learned because of it.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Demonstrate the concept of being told “Because I said so” in a short dialogue and involve kids in the sketch.
- **How many of you have ever asked your parents the question, “Why?” and heard them say, “Because I said so . . .”?**
- **Did you like that response?**
- **How did it make you feel?**
- Sometimes, our parents, teachers, and caregivers can see a bigger picture than we can. **Can we trust them even though we may not understand the reason why?**
- It might seem strange when grownups don’t supply a good enough reason – in our opinion, anyway – but the people who care about us give us instructions meant to help us and protect us.
- God doesn’t tell us, “Because I said so,” but sometimes the things that God wants us to do are pretty mysterious. But even when we don’t fully understand, we can trust and obey because **God sees the big picture**, when we only see a tiny part!

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 memory verse. Keep the unused mystery box from last week, and create a second option for box two (e.g., “Whisper,” “Silently act out,” etc). Save whichever box isn’t chosen for next week and replace the chosen box with a new way to memorize the verse.
- We’ve learned an important truth today. **Can you say the Big Idea with me?**
- **God sees the big picture!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, please help us to stay encouraged and continue to believe in you when trouble comes. Thank you for having a plan even when we can’t see the big picture like you can. Help us learn to trust you more. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What were some of the questions God asked Job?**
- **What do those questions reveal to us about God?**
- **In Isaiah 53:6, what does it mean by we [people] are like sheep?**
- **Read Isaiah 53:10. What was the result of everything that happened to Jesus?**
- **Why do you think God only shows us a small part of the big picture?**
- **How is Jesus a part of God’s big picture?**
- **How are you a part of God’s big picture?**

ACTIVITY | God's Big Picture Frame

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids decorate a picture frame. Explain to them that although we don't know what picture will go in the frame, we can prepare for it now.*
- Today, we're decorating some picture frames. We may not have pictures to go in them just yet, but we can still have the frame ready!
- **How is this similar to getting ready for God's big picture?**
- We may not know what the big picture will be, but we can trust that God will keep us safe and that God's plan for us is the best.
- **How can we be ready to be a part of what God is doing?**

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."**