

WEEK 4 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BIG AND SMALL

THE BIG IDEA

No problem is too small for God.

THE BIBLE

Job's Blessings: Job 42:1-6, 10-17;
Mark 10:46-52

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 Tic-Tac-Toss

- **Who can tell me how to play Tic-tac-toe?** Right! We try to beat our opponent by getting three of our letters in a row before they do. We have to problem-solve to try and beat them!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using painter's tape, create a giant Tic-tac-toe board on the floor. Use pillows to serve as the "X" and "O" pieces by "writing" an "X" or "O" on the pillows using tape. Have the kids play Tic-tac-toe by tossing the pillows to add an extra element or "problem" to solve as a part of the game.
 - ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Encourage the older preteens to create the tic-tac-toe game board for the younger students. Modify the playing rules for preteens by having them toss the bean bag under their leg or over their shoulder.

- Winning Tic-tac-toe isn't always easy by itself, but when we add more problems to solve – like having to throw pillows – it becomes even more tricky to win!

ACTIVITY | Mini Cornhole

- Let's play a game of cornhole, but on a much smaller scale! **Who can tell us how to play?**
- We'll divide into teams and try to score a point by tossing our beanbags into the opening of the box. Ready to try?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make [mini cornhole](#) platforms out of cardboard boxes. Use beanbags or any other small object to toss. The first team to make three successful throws wins.
- **Was it easier or more difficult to play using smaller boxes?**
- Smaller boxes can definitely add to the challenge, but that doesn't make the problem impossible to solve!

POLL | Big and Small Trivia

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Instruct the kids to guess whether the statements below are true or false. If they think it's true, tell them to raise their hands. If they think it's false, tell them to make an "X" with their arms.
- **The biggest pizza ever made weighed about 26,000 pounds** [[True.](#)]
- **The tallest dog ever recorded was five feet tall.** [[False. The tallest dog was more than seven feet tall.](#)]
- **The largest ukulele ever made is more than thirteen feet long.** [[True.](#)]
- There are some really big things out there in the world! There are some really small things, too.
- **How small do you think the world's smallest paper airplane was?** The world record for the [smallest paper airplane](#) is just a little bigger than one millimeter long! That's tiny!
- These are just fun examples to talk about, but when it comes to us and the things in our lives, big or small, it all matters to God.

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

BIBLE STORY | Job's Blessings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to join you in reading today's passage in Job 42:1-6; 10-17. See your Shop & Prep List to see how to set up the props you will use as you tell the Bible story.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Form two groups of preteens: readers who will read the Bible passage and revealers who will open each box. Print out the passages to go with each of the boxes. Instruct the students to take turns reading and revealing. As a review at the conclusion of the story, scramble the boxes and challenge preteens to put them in order with the appropriate passage.
- During the last few weeks, we have seen Job face some really tough stuff! Last week, we saw Job remember how powerful God is and that God sees the big picture.
- **What do you think will happen to Job in our story today?** Let's find out!
- [[Read Job 42:1-6.](#)]

- Job realized that God can do anything. The things Job was questioning God about were far too complicated for Job to understand. But he now saw with his own eyes how amazing God is.
- Let's keep reading to find out how the story ends!
- [Read Job 42:10.]
 - **How much did God give Job?**
 - Yes, twice as much as he had before.
 - As we continue reading the story, let's open these surprise boxes to see all the things God gave to Job.
- [Open box one and read Job 42:11.]
 - **What do we have in this box?** It looks like we have money and a gold ring!
- [Open box two and read Job 42:12.]
 - **What does this box reveal?** Now, we have some sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys!
- [Open box three and read Job 42:13-15.]
 - **What do we have here?** It's a brother and sister. Job had more children!
- [Open box four and read Job 42:16-17.]
 - **What's this?** A happy older man! Job lived a long and happy life because God blessed him after all the bad stuff that happened.
- All of these things seem really nice, right? **But was Job's faith in God based simply on what God would give him?**
- No! Job had a new understanding of God. When Job was hurting and sad, God took care of him and made his faith stronger. When Job's friends and family abandoned him, God was always with him, so Job was never alone.
- Even though Job lost a lot of stuff, God was there to take care of Job's needs.
- It's great to receive nice gifts from God, but **what are some other ways that God takes care of us?**

BIG IDEA | No problem is too small for God.

- **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.
- By now, we know that this really small writing is going to reveal a really big truth!
- **Who can come up here and read what this says?**
- Let's say this week's Big Idea together: **No problem is too small for God!**
- We can trust in God for everything because nothing is too small for God!

VIDEO | Big and Small, Episode 4

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

STORY | My Blessing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story about a time in your life when you lost something that was very special or important to you. Explain how it affected your relationship with God. Did it make you angry? Did it bring you closer to God?

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *You could choose to take this deeper by sharing a story of how you lost someone instead of something. Many preteens have experienced loss whether it's a pet or a loved one or through divorce. Create a safe space for kids who are willing to share their experience and how they have coped. How has or how can God help them navigate what they're going through?*

- **Have any of you ever lost something that was important or special to you?** Me, too!
- But even though sometimes we lose things that are really important to us, God can help us through those times.
- We may not fully understand what and why bad things happen, but we can trust that God cares about every piece of our lives.
- We can trust that **no problem is too small for God.**

OBJECT LESSON | Problem Bricks

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to write their big problems on tiny LEGO bricks with a fine tip permanent marker. Once everyone's problems have been written on the LEGOs, put the LEGO pieces together into one big piece. Use it to show the kids that God can see all of them and their problems at the same time and hold them, too!*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Make available a few peers or leaders who can write the responses out on their behalf or use larger blocks such as LEGO Duplo.*

- What do we have here? A bunch of LEGO pieces! We can make a lot of things with LEGOs, can't we? **What are some things we can make with LEGOs?**
- Today, we're going to make one big problem out of a lot of little tiny problems. Everybody grab a marker and let's write out one of our own problems on the LEGO pieces. They can be problems you are having at home, at school, even here at church . . . anything you are struggling with.
- Now, let's put them all together.
- You see here that all of our "small" problems create one big piece. **Can we solve all of these problems alone?** No!
- Our God is so big, even this big LEGO tower is actually quite small!
- **No problem is too small – or too big – for God!**

BIBLE | Mark 10:46-52

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to follow along with you in their Bibles as you read the passage from Mark 10.*
- In this passage, we read about Jesus healing a blind man named Bartimaeus.
- Bartimaeus knew Jesus was able to help him see. **Did he wait quietly for Jesus to walk by him?** No, he shouted Jesus' name! He called to Jesus for help.
- **Why did Jesus help him?** Because Bartimaeus had faith!
- **Can someone tell us what faith is?** Yes! It's believing that God will take care of us.
- Even when we may not be able to see clearly what God is doing, our faith helps us continue to be sure that God is working to do some amazing things in our lives.
- Even if we are not blind like Bartimaeus was, but there are still times in our lives when we need God to help us see things more clearly. **Who can we call out to when we need help?** Jesus!

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

REFLECTION | Big Problems, Small Problems

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a big card and a small card and tell them to think of a big problem and a small problem. A big problem could be something like world hunger, whereas a small problem could be fighting with a friend. Once the kids have finished their cards, have them put the cards in the middle of the table and then take turns reading the problems.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide pictures to represent both big and small problems and have kids sort out the pictures on a board.
- Now, we're going to write some of our own problems that we can trust God to help us with!
- On the big cards, we're going to write some big problems we can think of (e.g., kids with no food to eat, war, not having a place to live, etc.).
- On the small cards, we're going to write smaller, but still important, problems (e.g., loss of a pet, fight with a friend, trouble at home, etc.).
- Now that we are done writing, let's put all of the problems in the middle of the table. We're going to listen to each other read aloud the different problems.
- **How do we treat each other when we hear about our problems?** We listen respectfully. We don't laugh or joke. We show kindness and love to one another.
- **How often does God listen to our problems?** God always listens!
- **No problem is too small for God!**

RESPONSE | Problem Solvers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids pick a big problem from the previous Big Problems, Small Problems activity and tell them that they are going to work together to try and solve this problem. Tell them to say the problem out loud, develop at least five potential solutions, identify the pros and cons of each solution, and discuss creative ways to test the solution. Encourage brainstorming and listening.
- Let's pick a big problem from our Big Problems, Small Problems activity.
- We're going to work together as a group to try to solve this problem!
- **What is the problem? Seems pretty big, huh?**
- **Can we come up with five ways to solve this problem?** Let's think out loud and write down our ideas.
- **Now that we have some ideas to solve the problem, what are some pros and cons of each idea?**
- **Even if we don't have the resources with us, what are some possible ways we could test out these ideas?**
- We may not be able to have an answer right now or test it completely, but no problem is too big for God. . . even this one.
- We can trust God to take care of the big problems and the small ones, too!

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., "Silently act out," "Telephone game," etc). Save whichever box 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 taking care of us. We know that we can count on you because no problem is too big or too small for you. Help us to learn to trust you more and to talk to you about everything. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **How did God bless Job after everything that happened?**
- **Why do you think God did that?**
- **In the story from Mark 10:46-52, why was the blind man healed?**
- **Read Job 42:2. How does it feel knowing that God can do anything?**
- **How would you feel if you were in Job's shoes?**
- **What does it mean to you to have faith in something?**
- **Name one blessing in your own life.**

ACTIVITY | Solution Store

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a box filled with various items (e.g., game pieces, construction paper, glue, markers, toys, candy, etc.). Choose a scenario listed below and have the kids try and solve it by using the materials in the box. Encourage the kids to be creative!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give preteens three minutes to solve all three options using all of the materials provided. When they have created their answer, snap a picture, and move onto the next challenge. After three minutes, encourage preteens to share their photos and their solutions.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide individual kits for kids so they can interact with the supplies on their own and at their own pace.
- Option 1: All the toy stores have closed and we need to make toys.
- Option 2: A superhero forgot his or her special suit and we have to make one.
- Option 3: We forgot about our friend's birthday and now we have to make them a gift.
- **Do you think we did a good job creating a way to solve the problem?**
- We did okay solving the problem with what we have, but do you know what else we have? God! We can turn to God with any of our problems, big or small, because **no problem is too small for God!**

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."**