

October 3 & 6
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

QUESTION Grade 1 – 3 | 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.

ACTIVITY for GRADES 4/5

Game – Balloon Tower **Grades 4/5 ONLY!**

Supplies Needed: **BALLOONS**. You will need A LOT of these. They can be any size! **TAPE**. Each team will need a roll of blue tape.

HOW TO PLAY:

SPLIT INTO TEAMS. Split your group into teams of five to six players. Give them each an equal number of balloons and a roll of masking tape.

BUILD IT! On "Go," teams will have a predetermined amount of time to build the tallest balloon tower they can. Each team is only allowed to use their balloons and tape to build with. The balloon tower must be free-standing and not taped to the ground in any way. It must stand on its own for 10 seconds after the clock has stopped. The tallest tower at the end of time wins!

ELEMENTARY HACK: Blow up the balloons ahead of time and give each team a certain number to use.

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. Supplies needed: piece of paper, magnifying glass.

- **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.*
- **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 teaching video*

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?

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

STORY | My "Job" Experience – Does anyone have a JOB experience to share? If not, then move on to the next item.

- **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!**

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

REFLECTION | This is Small, but God is Big, Supplies needed: index card, something to write with.

- **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.*
 - **Grades 4/5:** *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.

OBJECT LESSON | How Big?! Supplies needed: Images of galaxy (they will be in your supplies)

- **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 planet?
- Who made our solar system? • 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!

ACTIVITY | Giant Ring Toss, Supplies needed: pool noodle rings, traffic cones, hula hoops

- **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.
 - **Grades 1 – 3:** You will have traffic cones and hula hoops.
 - **Grades 4/5:** 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?

RESPONSE | Big and Small, Supplies needed: paper, pens, markers.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Instruct the kids to write or draw pictures of things that make them feel big and things that make them 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.)

PRAYER AND BLESSING

- 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.
- Blessing – Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead as they are picked up (have parents join in) and say, "God is BIG and will take care of you."

Bonus Material:

QUESTION Grades 4/5: 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?*
- *Would you rather climb a BIG mountain or a SMALL mountain?*