

WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

PAGE-TURNER

THE BIG IDEA

God is more powerful than evil.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Chases Away Demons: Luke 9:37-43a;
Psalm 27

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!](#)*
 - "When the Fight Calls" (Hillsong Young and Free)
 - "One in a Million" (Elevation Kidz)
 - "You Awaken Me" (Central Live)
 - "I Belong" (Shout Praises Kids)

ACTIVITY | Powerful Perspective

- Welcome back to Page-Turner. We are continuing to travel together to different worlds in our imagination. It will be like jumping into the pages of our favorite books!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this activity, you'll use two pictures of the same thing from different perspectives to show how perspective matters. Use the ones provided or find your own! As you show the first pictures, give the kids some time to guess what they're looking at and give a few different kids opportunities to make a guess.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have a variety of Hidden Picture books, like [these](#), for kids to look at. Work together to try and locate all of the hidden items.*

- So, let's imagine that we're traveling back and forth between our world and a planet called Littleisbigeon (*Pronounced "little-is-big-eeon"*) where small things are really big.
- **Can anyone tell me what these are?** *[Show all the close-up, zoomed-in images.]*
- Now, we're traveling back to our planet, and here's what they really were. *[Show the zoomed-out versions.]*
- The point of this is all about perspective. Our perspective is the way we see things.
- When we face bad things in our lives or even when we hear the word "evil," do we think that's an easy thing to beat? Probably not, right? We think big, scary, and almost impossible to beat!
- **But do you think God sees it the same way?**

ACTIVITY | Heavy Lifting

- Heroes in books usually train intensively for whatever task or adventure they're about to face.
- So, everybody, we're going to train, too, by doing a 200-pound relay race! Yep, you heard me! You're going to carry a two hundred pound dumbbell to that line on the far side of the room and back, and every single person on your team has to do it.
- You better start warming up now while I get out these massive dumbbells . . . and here they are now! The team whose last player brings the dumbbell across the starting line first wins!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into equal teams and line them up at a starting line. Designate a second line at the opposite end of the room where the kids will run (carrying an object), touch the line with their toe, turn around, and come back to the starting line to pass off the object to the next player. Have the "dumbbells" you made according to the Shop & Prep list hidden for a funny reveal.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Create 6-8 stations around the room that require a moderate amount of movement. Have an adult leader lead the kids in some sort of physical challenge (e.g., lifting a dumbbell, carrying a bucket, working with a partner to carry a large box, etc.). Kids may go in any order but must hit all of the stations.*
- **How did you feel about the race before and after you found out what kind of 200-pound dumbbells you would actually be carrying?**

QUESTION | What are you so scared of?

- **Have you ever been really scared to try something because it looked scary, but then you did it and it was actually fun or at least not as bad as you thought it would be?**
- Maybe it was a scary ride at the fair, or petting a really big animal, or even trying a big scary change in your hairstyle. Tell us about it!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play a game with preteens that subverts their expectations. For example, play a round of "Truth or Dare" but make the dares not really daunting (e.g., tie your shoelace). Play a tasting game where kids might expect to be given some horrific flavors but they are all yummy.*

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

BIBLE STORY | Jesus Chases Away Demons

- Today's story begins with our hero, Jesus, and some of Jesus' closest disciples coming down a mountain. Why is that important? Because of what had happened on the mountain.
- You might remember the story of the time when Jesus and his friends on a mountain and then Jesus' face and clothes began to glow and Jesus himself became as bright as lightning in the sky. **Does anyone remember that?**
- Jesus' disciples had been sleeping, but they weren't anymore! They were wide awake! Then, a cloud came down and surrounded Jesus and God's voice boomed from the cloud!
- So, when they came down that mountain they were faced with what seemed like a huge problem. And it was! Let's hear what the actual words of the Bible have to say and then we'll talk about it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Luke 9:37-43a aloud.*
- Okay, we know that sometimes the Bible is written in words that we need to help each other understand a little bit, right? So, let's talk about what happened in this story.
- A father came to Jesus begging Jesus to heal his son who was controlled by something that was causing the boy to harm himself and others around him. This something evil wanted to destroy him! This desperate father went to Jesus' disciples, but they either were — or more likely felt — powerless against such a big problem.
- Jesus wasn't fazed at all. In fact, Jesus basically said, "Come on, guys! Why don't you believe? We need to adjust your perspectives!"
- The father brought his son to Jesus and they all saw for themselves what this spirit could do. The boy was thrown to the ground and was out of control!
- But Jesus simply said, "Bad spirit! Get out of there!" like someone yelling at a dog drinking from the toilet! And the spirit that was tossing the boy around ran off. The boy was healed and returned to his father.
- I'm sure everyone's jaws dropped when they saw what our hero had done. But it's not surprising to us, is it? Because we know God is more powerful than anything!

BIG IDEA | God is more powerful than evil.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the giant book with each week's Big Idea printed or written on its own page. Present the book on a large easel or have a volunteer hold it. When revealing this week's Big Idea, flip to the page where it is written.*
- **Can you think of anything that's more powerful than God?** No, you can't!
- God is greater than everything! **But what about evil?** Yep! God is greater than any evil thing, too!
- Let's go over to our big storybook and turn the page to reveal our Big Idea for the day. Read it with me: **God is more powerful than evil!**

VIDEO | Page-Turner, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

STORY | The Land of What Will Be

- Okay, let's close our eyes and head back to the storyland of our imaginations.
- Milo was reading his favorite book when suddenly he fell down a deep, dark hole in his bedroom floor and slid into another world called the Land of What Will Be.
- When Milo first arrived, it seemed that this land was completely filled with darkness and evil. However, as he ventured toward the center of the Land of What Will Be, he found that at its core was a radiant light of goodness.
- But the light was bound by an enchanted box. Milo opened the lid, then the light shot out in all directions and penetrated the darkness! It was clear to Milo that the darkness hated the light and tried to fight against it, but was helpless. The light just kept moving outward.
- It was also clear to Milo that once this kept going, someday there would only be light and goodness, and darkness would be gone forever.
- Milo awoke with a start, his face planted in between the pages of his book. The Land of What Will Be had only been a dream. But was it though? It felt so real!
- **How does Milo's story remind you of today's Big Idea, God is more powerful than evil?**

OBJECT LESSON | A Fish in the Water

- Some fantastic stories happen at sea or underwater. There are many extraordinary and powerful creatures that live in the ocean and they are usually obstacles to a hero's journey.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Project or print out the image from the printable (or use something similar).*
- Take a look at this picture of a shark in the ocean. **What do you think is the most powerful thing in this image?**
- It's easy to think that the most powerful thing in this picture is the shark, but it's the ocean!
 - The ocean could form a wave that chucked that old shark onto the shore where it wouldn't be able to live.
 - Or it could change its currents and make it impossible for the shark to find food or swim to where it needed to go.
 - It could also get too cold or too hot for the shark to live!
- The power that was controlling the boy in our story today seemed too strong, but Jesus showed them the power of God was much greater!
- **God is more powerful than evil!**

BIBLE | Psalm 27:1-6

- There comes a time in every hero's story where they feel defeated. They might think they can't overcome the challenges and they already lost. But instead of giving up and going back home, a hero who trusts God might say something like this.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the Bible passage aloud.*
- The first few lines of this psalm ask some questions that I think we all know the answer to. "Whom shall I fear?" and "Of whom shall I be afraid?"
- **What's the answer?** That's right! We don't have to be afraid of anyone or anything.
- Think of something you're afraid of. **What if you believed that God was more powerful than that thing? How would that change your perspective?**

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

ACTIVITY | Most Powerful

- In many of the adventure books I've read, animals show up in the story to protect the heroes. Or sometimes, the animals are the things they have to defeat.
- So I'm going to divide you into groups and I'm going to give each group an animal. It's your job to convince everyone else why your animal is the strongest, most powerful friend and foe — tell us why your animal would be both a great protector and a worthy adversary for your enemies.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into four teams. Give each team an animal (i.e., lion, honey badger, jaguar, snake, elephant, etc.) and five minutes to brainstorm together why their animal is the strongest in the animal kingdom. After the time is up, tell each group to choose a volunteer to come up front and argue why their animal is the strongest. The group with the best argument wins!*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Create a simple bracket board [like this](#) and ask kids to fill in. Ask for eight animals to fill in the first slots. Then pair up two at a time, asking kids "this" or "that." Continue until your group decides on one winner!*
- You see how your perspective changes about each animal right? For example, you might be scared if a large jaguar was in your path, but you would feel safe if you knew a hundred percent that the jaguar was on your side and was going to protect you.
- But do you know what's cool? No matter how powerful these animals are, they have nothing on God's power. What's even more, God loves us and is always on our side. Isn't that so comforting to know, since **God is more powerful than evil?**

RESPONSE | Invisible Powers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a white piece of paper, a cotton swab, and a little bit of milk. Have them dip their cotton swabs into the milk and write "God." Discuss with kids as you wait for the paper to dry (you can move on to the next module while you wait, also). Once dry, rub the graphite (black part) of a sharpened pencil on some sandpaper over the message so that you get pencil power on the paper. Have kids rub the pencil shavings with another cotton swab to reveal the hidden message.*
- A lot of stories have evil villains or scary monsters to fight, but in our lives, the evil we face is much more sinister and worse . . . invisible.
- **What are some examples of evil that are in our world today?**
- There are a ton but just to name a few, there are evils like hunger, poverty, hatred, war, and disease.
- But great news! We know of something (or someone, rather) that's also invisible but way more powerful than all these things.
- Let's unveil our hidden message together to remember that **God is more powerful than evil.**

MEMORY VERSE | Break the Code

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into pairs. Pass out paper and something to write with. Project the memory verse, II Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV), on the screen or write it out for kids during the code-making phase.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Write the memory verse on an index card and hand to a preteen. Have the preteen quote the verse incorrectly to the rest of the group, omitting or changing a key word. Ask the group to shout, "Gotcha!" when they catch the mistake. Then quote the verse accurately together.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Go over the verse together a few times, reading it off a screen or a board. Cover up one word at a time with a piece of paper (or erase it) and see if kids can remember which word is missing. Erase a new word and repeat.

- Let's all pretend we're code-cracking spies for a secret, powerful organization!
- Imagine the memory verse is a secret code. With your partner, write out the memory verse on your own sheets of paper, but leave three or four words out. Then, switch papers. It's up to you to crack the code and complete the memory verse.

PRAYER

- Dear God, we are so grateful that you are more powerful than evil. Help us not to feel defeated by all the bad things going on around us, and remind us that you are stronger than anything we may face. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What was happening with the boy in today's story?**
- **Why do you think the disciples weren't able to help the boy?**
- **What did Jesus do for the boy?**
- **Read Psalm 27:1. What words does the author of this psalm use to describe God?**
- **Is there anything more powerful than God?**
- **Do you think Jesus was disappointed that the disciples couldn't help the boy who was struggling? Why do you think that?**
- **Why do you think it's easy to forget that God is more powerful than evil?**
- **Does God give us power over evil, too? How do you know?**

ACTIVITY | True Equation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids write down things they struggle with and even the kinds of evil they see in the world. Then have them fold the paper in a tri-fold (like a brochure). Once they fold the right side in, have them write a large greater than sign (>) on that flap. When they fold in the left side, have them write "God," which should be the top cover page.
- You may not have the same struggles like the boy in the story did, but we all have areas in our lives where we allow ourselves to give in to doing things God wouldn't like. Not to mention, this world has many evils that are out of our control.
- Fold your paper into thirds, like this. Once we are done, we will see a true equation emerge: God is greater than (>) every kind of evil, even the ones listed on the inside of your paper. **God is more powerful than evil!**

MEMORY VERSE | II Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/IIThessalonians3-3.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."**