



## WEEK FOUR – MAY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *The Widow's Offering | Mark 12:41-44*

**Bottom Line:** *Practice living for God*

**Memory Verse:** *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living + the life to come." – 1 Timothy 4:8*

**Virtue:** *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what*

**Series Overview:** This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

**Bottom Line: Practice living for God.** We know that many kids love to sing and worship God. But worship isn't just something we do when we sing at church. Worship is really how we honor God with our whole lives—how we love others and serve them, how we give our time and talents, how we follow and praise God, and even how we rest. We want kids to practice living for God and understand what it means to worship God with every part of their life.

---

**9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

---

**Opening Small Group Activity**

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Paper Plates; Markers

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids as they arrive!
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a paper plate and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to place their plate on their head and draw what you assign them with their marker—without showing anyone else what is being drawn!
- Go around the circle and discreetly assign some of the following to different kids in the group:
  - Basketball net
  - Baseball
  - Bowling ball
  - Dancer
  - Artist
  - Microphone
  - Baker
  - *Other ideas that relate to practice/training*
- Give kids about one minute or so to draw on the paper plate on their heads.
- Once kids are finished drawing, one by one, invite them to share their masterpieces without revealing what they are.
- Instruct the rest of the kids to guess what the other kids drew.

**What You Say:**

*[Transition] Today we'll hear about someone who practiced living in a way that seemed simple to others but meant so much to Jesus!"*

---

**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

---

**Large Group Overview:** We finish the month in **Mark 12:41-44**. Jesus noticed how wealthy people were giving lots of money at the temple. Then a poor widow walked up to the offering box and gave just two small coins. While this seemed like a small gift, Jesus told His disciples that this woman actually gave more than the rich people did—because she gave everything she had.

---

**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP**

---

**Cheerful Givers**

**[Live For God | Application Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Envelopes; Index Cards; Writing Utensils; Stickers

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid an envelope, index card, and marker or pen.
- Instruct the kids to write down on an index card one example of something they could give to God this week.
- Recall the ways that we can give to God that were talked about in the previous activity: our money, time, attitude, or talents
  - Invite kids to fill out more than one index card if they have additional ideas and if time allows.
- Once kids have finished writing, encourage any volunteers who would like to share with the group.
- Direct kids to place their index cards inside their envelopes.
- Set out the markers and stickers.
- Give kids time to decorate their envelopes.

- As the kids are working, ask: “Where are some places you could put this envelope that could help remind you to love others by living for God?”

### **What You Say:**

*“Wow! I’m so amazed by the number of ways you came up with to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God!** It’s not about what we give, it’s about the heart behind it. If you keep your eyes open and pay attention, you can find ways to give your all to God in everything you do—whether it’s at home, at school, at a friend’s house, or during your daily activities. Jesus showed us how to live for God by loving others, and anytime we do something for other people, it’s like we’re doing it for God. In everything we do, we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**”*

### **Live It Out**

#### **[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Bibles; Poster Board; Markers

### **What You Do:**

- Divide the group into 2-3 teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Direct each team to look up the Memory Verse, 1 Timothy 4:8, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
  - ***Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:*** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “1 Timothy” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.

Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 4.

- Give each team a poster board.
- Set out some markers near each team.
- Direct each team to copy the Memory Verse on their poster board.
  - Kids can take turns writing or can choose one kid to write for their team.
- When teams have finished writing the verse, instruct them to work together to agree on five key words that stand out to them the most and circle them on their poster board.
- When teams have finished choosing their words, direct them to work together to recite the verse and choose a motion for each of the five words their team circled.
- Give the teams time to repeat the verse with the motions several times.
- Bring all of the groups back together so each team can recite the verse and show their chosen motions.

**What You Say:**

*“I loved seeing which words stood out to you from this month’s Memory Verse! To me, the best part was seeing you decide which motions to act out for each word. Just like you practiced acting out God’s Word, it reminded me that we can also [Bottom Line] practice living for God in our daily lives too. The more we practice giving our best to God, the more we can show others that we love them. And the more we can show others that we love them, the more we can show them how much God loves them!”*

**Pray + Dismiss**

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need: N/A**

**What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to find a quiet place in the room to pray.

- Continue as time and interest allows.
- Close your group time in prayer.

**What You Say:**

*“This month, we talked about so many different ways we can grow in our faith. First, we talked about how we can practice hearing from God. Then, we talked about how we can practice praying to God. Then, we talked about how we can practice talking about God. And finally, today we talked about how we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**. These are things that we can practice all the time, every day. The more we practice, the more we can grow closer to God and grow in our faith. And when we **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**, we can show others how wonderful God is and how much God loves them too!”*

*“Dear God, thank You for the encouraging story about the woman who gave You everything. Please show us how we can use our money, time, attitudes, and talents for You. We want to show You we love You by the way we live. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their Giving Envelopes to let adults know how they plan to live for God this week by loving others.***