



WEEK FOUR – MAY 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *The Widow's Offering | Matthew 6:9-13*

Key Question: *How can you live 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 need to make the wise choice*

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.

Key Question: How can you live for God? Kids might think that they only practice their faith when they come to church, go to Small Group, or sing worship songs during Large Group. But when you practice living for God, you discover that whatever you do—work, play, read, sing, listen, whatever—can be a way you worship God with your life.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Decks of Cards

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Put kids in groups of 3 (*A few groups of two is okay, if needed*) and instruct them to sit together.
- Give each group a deck of cards and instruct them to divvy the entire deck evenly—face down—among the 2 or 3 players.
- Explain that each group will simultaneously play a game with the following rules:
 - All players will take the top card off their stack and place it—face up—on the floor in front of them.
 - The player who laid the card with the highest value gets to take the cards flipped over and place them—face down—at the bottom of the stack in their hand.
 - All cards are valued at their indicated number. Aces are worth 1. Face cards are higher than number cards and are valued in the following subsequent order: Jack:11, Queen:12, and King:13.
 - If there is a tie for the highest valued card, each player must play one more card on top of the one they just laid. The player with the highest value card for that round will then get to take all the cards flipped over.
 - Continue playing rounds until one player has won all the cards. That person is the winner.
- If time allows, you could have a champion round where all the winners of each game play each other.

What You Say:

“The winner of this game was the one who had all the cards. The rest of you lost the game because you got rid of all your cards. [Transition] Today, we’re going to hear a story in Large Group about someone who gave their all. We’ll discuss how our lives can be better if we choose to live that way.”

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Dry erase board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

What You Do:

- Ask kids to sit where they can see the white board and choose a kid to be the first artist.
- Explain that you will whisper something in the artist’s ear (from the list below) so that no one else in the group hears.

- Direct the artist to use the dry erase marker to illustrate what you whispered on the dry erase board.
- Lead the rest of the group to guess what the artist is drawing.
- Once the correct answer is guessed, allow the artist a chance to explain to the group how they can use whatever they drew to live for God.
- Whoever guesses correctly will get to be the next artist.
- Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to draw or as time allows.
- Drawing prompts:
 - Time
 - Money
 - Food
 - Music
 - Sports
 - School work
 - Art
 - Smile
 - Positive attitude
 - Writing
- When finished drawing, encourage kids by telling them they can live for God in so many ways!
- Remind kids what we have talked about practicing all month as ways to grow in their faith. See if kids can list:
 - Practice hearing from God.
 - Practice praying to God.
 - Practice talking about God.
 - Practice living for God.
- Explain that they are all connected. If they practice hearing from God, praying to God, and talking about God, then they will truly be living for God!

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - How can you live for God?
 - Does living for God cost you anything?
 - When you live for God, how can it affect others?
 - How did Jesus set an example for how we can live for God?
 - When we do something for others, how is it like doing something for God?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Faith Skills” Activity Page, pens or pencils, pieces of paper, marker, painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Use the marker to write the following words on each of the four pieces of paper:
 - HEAR
 - PRAY
 - TALK
 - LIVE
- Use the tape to post each piece of paper at four different locations in your group space as prayer stations.
- Briefly review each faith skill you’ve talked about practicing this month:
 - Practice hearing from God.

- Practice praying to God.
- Practice talking about God.
- Practice living for God.
- Tell kids to choose one of the 4 stations and sit down in that area. Help distribute kids evenly among the 4 stations.
- Give each kid a copy of the “Faith Skills” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they will spend time at each of the 4 prayer stations.
 - During their time at each station, they should journal a prayer to God, asking for help with practicing each of those faith skills. (*i.e.: If they are at the “TALK” station, they can write down a prayer about how they can practice talking about God to certain people in their life.*)
- Give kids 2-3 minutes at each station.
- Once everyone has had a turn at all 4 stations, gather everyone together.
- Say a prayer for the entire group. Encourage them to take their paper home to use as a guide during their own prayer time this week.

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure to hand out Week 4 of the Devos to the kids + say that if they bring it back next week completed/signed by parents, they will get a prize! Also, if they had completed all 4 weeks, they will get the grand prize!