



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *They Say It's Wonderful* | Psalm 139:1-14; Genesis 1:26-28; Ephesians 2:10

Key Question: *How would you describe yourself?*

Memory Verse: *"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."* - Psalm 139:14 (NIRV)

Virtue: *Uniqueness – Learning more about yourself so you can make a difference*

Series Overview: Have you ever thought about what makes you, you? We all have different backgrounds, families, or favorite colors. We all enjoy different sports, foods, vacations, and have different friends and experiences in life. Even twins have different fingerprints!

Together, all of those pieces make up who we are. But we can't understand who we are and what we were created to do without first understanding the way God sees us. Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.

Key Question: How would you describe yourself? If you were to ask your friends what's one word they would use to describe you, what would they say? Would you agree with them? Often times we assign labels to ourselves or think less of ourselves than others do. We hope this question will help preteens begin to look at themselves the way that God looks at them.

8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - Before kids arrive, spend some time reflecting on your group and what makes each of your students uniquely made and wonderful.
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

Opening Activity

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

What You Need: “Create a Critter” Activity Page; coloring supplies; dice

What You Do:

- Gather kids together in a circle.
- Make the coloring supplies available in the middle of the circle.
- Give each kid a copy of the “Create a Critter” Activity Page.
- Model for kids how to roll a die and point out which piece it corresponds to.
- Based on the round and the number rolled, they will draw a corresponding part of their critter.
 - For example: The first round is eyes, so kids will draw the eyes that match the number they rolled. The second round is mouth, so kids will draw the mouth that matches the number they rolled, and so on.
- Pick two kids to start the first round and hand each of them one die.
 - *NOTE: Two kids will be going at the same time to help keep the activity moving.*
- Instruct them to roll their dice and draw the critter part that corresponds with their roll.
- The dice will continue to be passed around the circle, and each kid will get five turns (one for each part of their critter).
- As the kids pass the dice, invite them to use the time to draw until the dice come back to them for another turn.
- After the fifth round, invite kids to give their critters a name.
- Give kids a moment to share their pictures with one another to see how similar or different they are.

What You Say:

“Great job, friends! We created *(number of kids in your group)* fun creatures. Can you imagine creating billions and billions of them – AND making each one different and UNIQUE? *[Transition]* **Come with me to hear more about the way God made us, knows us, and loves us.”**

9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start the month in Psalm 139:1-14 where King David has just written a psalm about God’s love for us. Since the beginning, we were created in the image of God. God knew and formed the deepest parts of us, and as image bearers, God loves us no matter what.

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Coloring supplies, “DNA” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “DNA” Activity Page and set out red, yellow, green, and blue coloring supplies.
- Explain to kids that DNA stands for “deoxyribonucleic acid.” It is genetic information inside the cells of the body that helps make each person unique.
- Share with kids that DNA looks like a twisting ladder under a very strong microscope.
- As you read the statements below, encourage kids to fill in the "DNA Chart" using the coloring supplies that correspond to each statement.
 - If kids are unsure about their answers, reassure them that any choice they make is okay.
- Suggested Statements:
 - If you like to play sports, color a bar yellow. If you like to sing or dance more, color a bar blue.

- If your hair is dark, color one of the bars red. If your hair is lighter, color one of the bars green.
- If you like to read, color a bar yellow. If you'd rather watch a movie, color a bar red.
- If you like to organize and keep things neat, color one of the bars blue. If you don't mind a messy room and hate cleaning things up, color a bar green.
- If you're more comfortable being quiet, color a bar blue. If you like to talk a lot, color a bar red.
- If math or science is your favorite subject in school, color a bar yellow. If writing or art is your favorite subject, color a bar green.
- If you have brown eyes, color one of the bars red. If your eyes are blue or another color, color a bar yellow.
- If you like to be in charge and be the leader, color a bar blue. If you prefer to be a helper, color a bar red.
- ***[Make it Personal] Fill in your own DNA Chart along with the kids.***
- As kids finish, let them compare their DNA chart with other kids in the group.
- Gather kids together and ask the following questions:
 - What are some words that best describe you? *(NOTE: Consider sharing one or two positive words describing the kids in your group. This is an opportunity to encourage kids without comparing or embarrassing them.)*
 - Why do you think God chose to make each of us unique?
 - What are some benefits of being different from others?
 - How does it make you feel to know that God made, knows, and loves you?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “Woven Heart” Activity Page, “Woven Heart Instructions” Activity Page, scissors, pens or colored pencils

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of two.
- Provide each pair with a Bible and invite them to look up Psalm 139:14 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they’re looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it’s in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they’re looking for. If it’s in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they’re looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they’re looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they’ve already found.
- Read the verse together slowly, discussing it in parts.
- For example (NIV in parentheses):
 - *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. (I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.)*
 - Ask: What would you say is the most amazing thing about how God made us?
 - *I praise you for that.*
 - Ask: How can we show our praise and appreciation to God for how God made us?
 - *What you have done is wonderful. (Your works are wonderful.)*
 - Ask: What does this part of the verse tell you about God?
 - *I know that very well. (I know that full well.)*
 - Ask: How does it feel to know God made us, knows us, and loves us?
- Give each kid a pen or pencil, scissors, and two different-colored pattern pieces from the “Woven Heart” Activity Pages.

- Provide each pair with a “Woven Heart Instructions” Activity Page to follow.
 - Assist any kids who may need help.
- As kids create their woven hearts, explain that uniqueness is learning more about yourself so you can make a difference.
- Once their pattern pieces are woven together, ask kids the following question:
 - “How would you describe yourself?”
- Invite kids to use a pen or pencil to write their answers on one side of the woven heart.
- Gather your group and invite them to share how they described themselves.
 - Encourage the group to take their hearts home and use them as bookmarks and reminders of their uniqueness!
- Invite kids to write a short prayer using a pen or pencil on the back of their woven hearts.
- Kids can start by thanking God for making them, knowing them, and loving them.
- As kids begin to finish, direct them to hold their woven hearts while reading the prayer they wrote aloud or silently.
- Direct kids to signal they’re finished praying by placing their woven hearts on the floor in front of them.
- Close the group time with prayer.