



## WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2025 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Right Now | 1 Timothy 4:12*

**Key Question:** *Who has made a difference in your life?*

**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: Who has made a difference in your life?** Is there someone in your life who has always been encouraging or who has helped you out of sticky situations more than a time or two? God has put people in our lives not just for our own enjoyment but so that we can make a difference to those we interact with. Our hope is that as preteens think through this question, they will be able to recognize the people in their lives they too can impact.

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

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**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

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

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## Opening Activity

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Lead your group to sit in a circle.
- Model for kids how to stretch their arms out to the side.
- Show kids how to place their left palms up and their right thumbs pointing down, touching the person's outstretched palm next to them.
- Explain the goal of the game:
  - On your signal, everyone must try to grab the thumb of the kid next to them with their left hand.
  - At the same time, they must prevent the kid next to them from grabbing their thumb.
- When you're ready, signal "Go!"
- If a kid's thumb is grabbed, they are out of the game.
- Continue playing until only one kid remains.
- Rearrange the circle and play again if time allows.

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

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**Large Group Overview:** We end the month in 1 Timothy 4:12, where we learn about Timothy and the work he did with Paul. Timothy was young, and he could have let that stop him from helping Paul carry out the mission of sharing Jesus with others. Yet Timothy chose to be brave and let God use him to teach others about Jesus in spite of his age.

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

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## Take a Snapshot

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Pens; Index Cards

### What You Do:

- Gather your group together.
- To get the group thinking about ways kids their age can make a difference, suggest some of the following questions:
  - “How could kids your age make a difference by . . .”
    - Being nice to a kid others are making fun of?
    - Reading the Bible?
    - Walking away from a fight?
    - Being careful about what you say?
    - Standing up for what’s right?
- Give each kid an index card and pen.
- Instruct kids to write a sentence describing one way they can make a difference this week in the lives of those around them.
- ***[Make it Personal] Participate by writing your own sentence about a way you can be used by God this week to show love to others.***
- Tell the kids to use at least five words in their sentences and remind them not to let anyone see what they’re writing.
- After writing their sentences, ask the kids to flip over the index card and draw a simple picture illustrating what they wrote.
- Invite the kids to take turns reading their sentences but with a twist:
  - Read the sentence backward by starting with the last word and finishing with the first.
  - While reading, have them hold up the picture on the back of their card for the others to see.
- Pick a kid to start by inviting them to stand before the group.

- Encourage the other kids to listen carefully and try to figure out the forward version of the sentence.
- Have the reader repeat the sentence for the group to decipher if needed.
- After each kid has a turn, point out that it may *seem backward* to think that kids can make a difference.
- Remind kids that God can use their gifts and talents even when they are young.
- Close by emphasizing that if we choose to follow Jesus, He will use us to make a difference in the lives of others every day.

### **Verses to Take With You**

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

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bibles; Prepared “Mad Scientist” Activity Page

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Ask kids to look up Ephesians 2:10 using the following Bible Navigation Tips.
  - ***Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Direct kids to recite the verse aloud together.
- Explain that you will play a game called “Mad Scientist.”

- Each kid will get a secret card from the “Mad Scientist” Activity Page.
- As they recite Ephesians 2:10 together, inform kids that they will casually include their secret gestures at least twice.
- Review the verse again.
  - Assist if kids struggle to remember the verse.
- Distribute a card to each kid.
  - Be sure the cards are folded so no one can see inside them when passing them out!
- Play the “Mad Scientist” game.
- On your signal, ask kids to recite the verse and encourage them to include their secret gestures.
- After each round, let the group guess each other’s “Mad Scientist” gestures.
- Discuss Ephesians 2:10:
  - What are the facts or truths in the verse about anyone who knows and follows Jesus?
  - What do you find most encouraging in this verse?
  - How do you define “good works.” (*This is the phrase used in NIRV. Adjust if using a different translation.*)
  - How can you use the things you’re good at to do some of those “good works” this week?
- Remind kids that using the gifts God gave them often feels natural—they’re doing what they love to do.
- Emphasize that God gave them their unique skills and abilities for a reason; by using those gifts, they can make a difference daily!

### **Make It Personal With Prayer**

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

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

**What You Need:** Index Cards; Pens

**What You Do:**

- Explain to the kids that they will think of two ways they can make a difference—one small and one big.
- Ask kids to think of something small they can do this week to make a difference.
- Instruct each kid to write in tiny print on one side of an index card.
- Next, ask kids to think of something big they hope to do someday to make a difference.
- Instruct them to write this in large print on the other side of the index card.
- Give kids the opportunity to share what they wrote on their index cards. Let them know it's okay if they prefer not to share.
- Invite kids to take a few moments to pray quietly or out loud, asking God to help them accomplish the small and big actions they wrote down.
- End the activity with a group prayer.