



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Jesus and His Followers* | Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3

Bottom Line: *Jesus wants us to work together*

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” - Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)

Virtue: *Cooperation – Working together to do more than you can do alone*

Series Overview: Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

Bottom Line: **Jesus wants us to work together.** Sometimes it may feel easier to work alone than with others, especially when you don't agree or get along. But those moments are exactly when we need to learn how to cooperate with others. Just as Jesus gathered a group of VERY different people to help Him accomplish His mission, we too are created to work together, differences and all.

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: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the unique abilities that each kid has. Ask God to help the kids see the importance of working together as a team, just as Jesus calls us to do.
- *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.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
 - “What’s something nice you did for someone this past week?”
 - “What’s something that made you happy this week?”
 - “Can you tell me about something you are thankful for?”
 - “What’s your favorite thing to do with your family?”
 - “What’s the best part of your day when you are at school?”
 - “Who do you like to play with at home or school?”
- *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

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

What You Need: “Acting Scenarios” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to find a partner or form pairs.
- Give each pair a card from the “Acting Scenarios” Activity Page.
- Make sure each pair has a different scenario.
- Give each pair a few moments to read their scenario and discuss how they will act it out together.
- Walk around your group area and offer help if any pair needs assistance.
- Once the pairs have planned their skits, explain that each pair will perform their scene in front of the group.
- Gather your group together.
- After each performance, encourage the rest of the group to guess what scenario was being acted out.
- Allow time for each pair to perform their skit.
- Compliment the kids on their teamwork and creativity.

What You Say:

“Wow! You made great ‘cast’ team members! *[Transition]* Let’s go hear about a group of people invited to be part of the greatest team ever!”

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

Large Group Overview: We start the month in Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3. Here we see Jesus has started His ministry by gathering His disciples together. This was the most unlikely group of people, all from different backgrounds, but Jesus still called them to bring about His mission.

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

Making Disciples

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Disciple Cards” Activity Page, “People Cutouts” Activity Page, parachute (or round tablecloth), packing tape, and prepared paper with the word “Jesus” written on it

What You Do:

- Using packing tape, adhere the prepared piece of paper to the center of the round tablecloth
- Scatter the “People Cutouts” Activity Page randomly around your group area.
- Lay the parachute flat on the floor.
- Invite the kids to stand around the parachute in a circle.
- Give each kid a card from the “Disciple Cards” Activity Page until there aren’t any disciple cards left.
 - Some kids may have more than one disciple card, and that’s okay!
- As you hand out the cards, say the disciple's name out loud and have the group repeat it.

- Invite the kids to share what they discovered about that disciple from today's Bible Story, if there's something to share about the disciple.
- After the discussion, say: "(Insert a name of disciple) decided to follow Jesus." Filling in the blank with one of the disciples.
- Direct the child with that disciple's card to toss their card into the parachute.
- Once all the disciple cards are in the parachute, instruct the group to hold the edges of the parachute.
- Model how to gently shake the parachute to keep the cards moving toward the center, representing the disciples gathering around Jesus.
- Next, say, "(Insert name of disciple), made someone a disciple!"
- Instruct the kid who had that disciple's name to look around the room, find a card from the "People Cutout" Activity Page, and toss it into the center of the parachute.
- Continue playing, calling out each disciple's name, and allowing kids to retrieve a people cutout and toss it onto the parachute.
- Play until all of the cards from the "People Cutouts" Activity Page are found and tossed into the parachute.
- Once all the people cutouts are on the parachute, encourage the kids to find their original disciple(s).
- Encourage kids to take their disciple(s) home and place it/them in their Bibles as a reminder of today's Bible Story.

What You Say:

"Did you notice how Jesus invited people with all kinds of jobs to follow Him? What were some of the jobs they had? (Pause for responses—fishermen, tax collectors, women, etc.) That's right! These people might not have been friends before, BUT Jesus brought them together.

*"Why do you think Jesus brought them together? (Invite responses.) Jesus knew that the more time they spent with Him, the more they'd grow to love like Him. And guess what? They worked together to share Jesus with everyone. That's what Jesus wants us to do too! We can tell more people about Jesus when we work together! Remember, **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants us to work together.**"*

Linked Arm Race

[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, “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page, and painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Guide the kids to look up Ecclesiastes 4:9 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:*** Guide them 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 Ecclesiastes in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ecclesiastes 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 9 in chapter 4.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Collect the Bibles.
- Mark a starting point on the floor using painter’s tape.
- Divide kids into pairs.
 - It’s okay if you have a group of three.
- Mix up the cards from the “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page and place them a distance away from the starting line.
- Direct the pairs/trios to form a line behind the starting point.
- One at a time, instruct each pair to link arms, race to the cards, pick up the top card and run back while both are holding the card.
- After returning, direct the pair to go to the back of the line.

- Repeat until all the cards are picked up.
 - *Note: Some pairs might need to run twice if you have a small group.*
- Once all the cards are collected, instruct the kids to work together to put the verse in order.
 - Help the kids as needed by encouraging them to repeat the verse aloud.
- Once the verse is assembled, encourage the kids to read it out loud a few times.

What You Say:

*“Great job working together! I love this verse. It reminds us that two people really are better than one! A friend can help us and keep us going when things get tough. This verse shows us that we aren’t meant to do things by ourselves. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus wants us to work together because He created us for relationships! Jesus gave us our families and friends because He loves us. When we cooperate and work together, we do what God designed us to do!”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Ball

What You Do:

- I Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Explain to the kids that they will pass a ball around the circle.
- As each kid receives the ball, prompt them to pray for the kid to their left by praying this:
 - “God, please help [kid’s name] to have peace and patience to work together with others.”
- Start the process by praying for the kid on your left, then pass the ball to them.

- Encourage the kids to continue passing the ball around the circle, praying the same one-sentence prayer for the person on their left.
 - They can also add their own prayers if they wish.
- If a kid prefers not to pray out loud, invite them to pray silently and then pass the ball along.
- Once the ball returns to you in the circle, close out in prayer then say something similar to the text below.

What You Say:

*“Thank you for praying for your friend on your left today! Prayer is something we can do alone or with a group of people. It is something we can cooperate on! This week, let’s find a way to pray together with someone —whether it’s a parent, a sibling, or a friend, because **[Bottom Line] God wants us to work together.**”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show their “Disciple” card(s) and share what they learned about him or her in today’s story.