



## WEEK ONE – MARCH 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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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:** 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

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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/or working as a group.*

**What You Need:** Hula Hoops®, and a device for playing music

### What You Do:

- Place the Hula Hoops® on the floor around your group area.
- Point out the Hula Hoops® and explain that you are going to play a game called “Hoop Stop!”
- Share the rules:
  - When the music starts, kids are to walk around the space outside of the Hula Hoops®.
  - As soon as the music stops, kids are to step inside a Hula Hoop® as quickly as possible.
  - Two or more kids can be in the same Hula Hoop®.
  - Kids are considered “inside” the Hula Hoop® if at least one foot is in.
- Start the music.
- Play one round of the game.
- At the end of the first round, remove one Hula Hoop®.
- Encourage kids to make room for other kids who don’t have a spot.
- Continue in the same way, removing one Hula Hoop® per round until one Hula Hoop® is left, and the children try to squeeze into it together.

### What You Say:

“That was fun! You had to make room for your friends to fit into a Hula Hoop®, and I loved watching you cooperate. *[Transition]* Today, we’ll hear about a group of friends who decided to work together!”

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

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**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.

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

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**True or False Story Review**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Direct the kids to sit together in your small group area.
- Explain that you’re going to review today’s Bible Story by asking True or False questions.
- Show the kids what a “thumbs-up” looks like for “True.”
- Encourage the kids to practice showing their thumbs-up.
- Show the kids what a “thumbs-down” looks like for “False.”
- Encourage the kids to practice showing their thumbs-down.
- Read the following questions one at a time, pausing for kids to show their “thumbs-up” for “true” and “thumbs-down” for false.

- If the answer is false, help the kids to talk through what would make the answer true.
  - Jesus could have done everything on His own without help. True or false? (*True! Jesus is God's Son, but He chose to work with a group of people.*)
  - Jesus' followers were called "disciples." True or false? (*True!*)
  - Jesus didn't pay His disciples to work for Him. True or false? (*True! Jesus wanted them to follow Him and work together because they chose to, not for money.*)
  - Jesus chose people who were exactly alike. True or false? (*False! Jesus chose people from different backgrounds who didn't always get along.*)
  - Jesus chose 12 men, including some women, to be His disciples and follow Him. True or false? (*True!*)
  - Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were tax collectors. True or false? (*False! They were fishermen.*)
  - Jesus chose Matthew to follow Him, and everyone loved Matthew. True or false? (*False! Matthew was a tax collector, and people didn't like him at first.*)
  - Only men followed Jesus. True or false? (*False! Women followed Jesus too—like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.*)
  - Jesus wanted His followers to work together and share God's love. True or false? (*True!*)
  - Jesus wants us to work together too. True or false? (*True!*)

**What You Say:**

*"Friends, you did an awesome job answering these questions! We learned that Jesus picked all kinds of people to follow Him—fishermen, tax collectors, and even women like Mary Magdalene! They weren't all the same, and they didn't always get along, just like us sometimes. But they had an important job: to follow Jesus and work together! When we work together and look past each other's differences, we can do more good, just like Jesus' first followers. Remember **[Bottom Line]** Jesus wants us to work together."*

*[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time you worked with others to make a difference. Maybe you were a part of a building project or on a mission trip. How did working together help you make an even more significant impact?)]*

## **Cooperation or Not?**

### **[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Colored construction paper, large die, scissors, and “Game Cards” Activity Page

### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Cut ten pieces of colored construction paper in half to create twenty half-sheets.
- Lay the half sheets of paper in a winding path on the floor to create a life-sized game board.
- Make sure there’s enough space for kids to move between the “spaces.”
- Shuffle the cards from the “Game Cards” Activity Page.
- Place the shuffled pile of cards near the middle of your game board.
- Direct the pairs to line up at the start of your game board.
- One at a time, instruct each pair to take turns rolling the die and moving that number of spaces.
- Once a pair lands on a space, direct them to pick a card from the pile of game cards.
- Read the card out loud for the group.
  - Each card will share a cooperation scenario. Instruct the pair to move forward or backward based on what the card says.
- Continue in this way by instructing pairs to roll a die, move that many spaces, draw a card, and move the correct number of spaces on the card until a pair reaches the end of the game board.
- Gather your group together to discuss.

**What You Say:**

*“How did it feel to move backward on the game board? (Invite responses.) Cooperation isn’t always easy, but it helps us get further. You can always go further when you choose to work together. Which scenario showed someone working together with others? (Invite responses.) Which scenario didn’t show cooperation? (Invite responses.)”*

*“I’m so glad Jesus showed us how to cooperate. He chose people who were all different to work together. If cooperation is tough, we can always ask God to give us peace and patience to work together with others. Remember that **[Bottom Line]** Jesus wants us to work together.”*

**Pray + Dismiss**

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

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to stand in a tight circle with their arms around each other’s shoulders.
- Before praying, remind the kids that they can pray anytime, anywhere! God wants us to pray for each other and pray together!
- Lead the kids in prayer, reminding them that: **[Bottom Line]** “**Jesus wants us to work together.**”

**What You Say:**

*“How did it feel to move backward on the game board? (Invite responses.) Cooperation isn’t always easy, but it helps us get further. You can always go further when you choose to work together. Which scenario showed someone working together with others? (Invite responses.) Which scenario didn’t show cooperation? (Invite responses.)”*

*“I’m so glad Jesus showed us how to cooperate. He chose people who were all different to work together. If cooperation is tough, we can always ask God to give us peace and patience to work together with others. Remember that **[Bottom Line]** **Jesus wants us to work together.**”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share this week’s **Bottom Line:** **[Bottom Line]** “Jesus wants us to work together.”*