



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2025 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When have you seen people 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.

Key Question: **When have you seen people work together?** Whether it's at school, at home, in sports, or with a hobby, kids are constantly learning to work together and are watching other people learn how to work together, too. Seeing other people who have set a good (or bad) example of what it looks like to work together can inspire kids to want to work well together because they can do more and BETTER together than alone.

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, pray that you will be able to have meaningful conversations with your kids today in Small Group. Ask God for the wisdom you need to know what questions to ask and which of your kids needs special attention today.
- *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

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit on the floor, leaving space at the front for your “stage.”
- Call on two kids and invite them to stand on the stage as “Actors.”
- Explain to kids that they will begin acting out a scene together.
 - This is an improv activity, so they will make the scene up as they go.
 - If the kids seem unsure how to start, suggest a scenario to help get them going, such as, *“You’re upset because they’re out of your favorite candy at the movie theater.”*
- On your “Action!” give the kids a few moments to act out their scene.
- Then, call out “Freeze!” for the actors to stop moving and talking.
- Choose one kid from the seated group to replace one of the actors on stage.
- When the play resumes, direct the new actor to start a completely different scene.
- The two actors will continue acting out the new scene.
- Continue to call out *“Freeze!”* every minute or two, allowing more kids to take turns replacing the kids on stage, one at a time.
- Feel free to jump in and participate as well!
- Continue playing as time allows.

What You Say:

“Everyone did a fantastic job jumping in to make a super entertaining story! You all worked together to keep the show going. Only two of you got to act at the same time, but *[Transition]* **Today, we’ll discover a story we all can play a part in together. Come with me!**

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

Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Collaborate & Color” Activity Page, coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Place the six “Collaborate & Color” Activity Pages in different areas of your group space (on the floor or a table).
- Make coloring supplies available in each area.
- Assign each kid to one of the six pages.
 - *NOTE: If there are six kids or fewer in your group, each kid will have one piece to themselves, or allow the kids to color more than one piece.*
- Explain that you will give them several minutes to color the page at their station.
- Encourage the kids at each station to work together to answer the following question:
 - “Which part of the story do I see in this picture?”
- Once everyone is finished, read through the following points.
- As you read, direct the groups to lay down the pages they colored, placing each one they colored together to form a mural.

- “Jesus called so many ordinary people to be His disciples. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were two sets of brothers and fishermen” (Place page one on the floor.)
- “Jesus invited Matthew to join Him, a tax collector, and then Simon the Zealot, who hated the Romans.” (Place page two next to page one.)
- “Jesus even included a man named Judas Iscariot, even though He knew Judas would eventually betray him.” (Place page three next to page two.)
- “Several others were part of the group Jesus called his disciples. They were a mix of all different kinds of people!” (Place page four under page one.)
- “Women traveled with a learned from Jesus, too! Like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.” (Place page five next to page four.)
- “Joanna and Susanna learned from Jesus and gave their own money to support Jesus and the disciples.” (Place page six next to page five to complete the picture!)
- Once the mural has been put together, give the kids a moment to observe the whole picture.
- Explain that every piece of the mural was necessary for completing the picture, similar to how Jesus chose ordinary, everyday people to be His disciples and close friends.
- Share with kids that the disciples came from all different backgrounds, but they used their gifts and abilities to work with Jesus and spread the Good News of God’s love.

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: “Together Verse” Activity Page, Bibles

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of two.
- Provide each pair with a Bible and invite them to look up Ecclesiastes 4:9 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Tell them to hold the Bible so that its spine is on the ground and the pages are facing upright. Explain that they can estimate where the halfway point is in the pages, and open up their Bible to that point. Ask them what book they are in. Explain that Ecclesiastes is close to the middle of the Bible, so they may have landed there. If they landed in Song of Solomon or Isaiah, they should flip slightly back towards the front of the Bible. If they landed in Psalm or Proverbs, they should flip forward. 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.
- Once everyone has found the verse, select a kid to read it aloud to the group.
- Read the verse aloud together again.
- Divide kids into six groups.
 - If your group is smaller in size, form fewer groups.
- Invite kids to spread out and sit with their groups.
- Hand each group a card from the "Together Verse" Activity Page.
 - If your group is smaller, assign them more than one section of the verse.
- Invite each group to create motions for their section of Ecclesiastes 4:9.
- Once everyone has finished, call on groups in verse order to show the rest of the group what they came up with.
- Then, invite the kids to go through the entire verse together several times.
 - Allow each group to lead their portion with the motions they created.
 - Direct the entire group to perform all the motions together.
- Thank the group for working together to help each other learn Ecclesiastes 4:9.
- Explain that memorizing scripture can help us grow closer to God and guide us through life.