



WEEK FOUR – MARCH 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Four Friends Work Together | Luke 5:17-26*

Key Question: *How can you work together to help someone?*

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: How can you work together to help someone? Kids are more aware than you may think. They notice things around them and ask great questions. As kids recognize those who are in need around them, you can begin to have discussions with them about what it looks like to help someone else. We hope this question gets preteens thinking through ways they can help to meet someone else's needs with others' help.

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 have fruitful conversations with them, even if it's only for a couple of minutes. Pray that God will use your conversation and the relationship you've developed with your preteens to help them move more deeply into their relationships with Jesus as they take steps to work with others to make a difference in others' lives.
- *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

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

What You Need: Prepared bags of props, blindfold, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

What You Do:

- Invite kids to gather in your group space.
- Select a kid to stand in front of the group.
- Explain that you will be securing a blindfold over their eyes.
- Once that kid is blindfolded, write one of the following character types on the whiteboard for the rest of the group to see:
 - Princess
 - Superhero
 - Athlete
- Give the blindfolded kid the bag of props that matches the character written on the whiteboard.
- Direct the blindfolded kid to pull out the items from the bag and put them on.
- Instruct the rest of the group to call out directions to help the blindfolded kid put the props on correctly.
 - Tell the group that they cannot say the character name or any related clues when giving directions.
- Once the blindfolded kid has put on all the items, ask them to guess what character they're dressed up as.
- Then, remove the blindfold from the kid and reveal the correct answer to them.
- Repeat the process with the remaining prepared bags of props and select two new kids.

What You Say:

“[Transition] Wow, what an amazing teamwork effort! It probably felt challenging for those of you who couldn’t see what you were doing, but these awesome people in our group helped you get ready! Today, we will hear a story about some friends who worked together in a big way to help someone who needed it. Come with me!”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 4, we head to Luke 5:17-26. Here we encounter four friends and their cooperation to help another friend see Jesus. Their friend was paralyzed and could not walk, so they did everything they could to get him to Jesus — even tear down a roof! Because of the four friends’ faith and cooperation, Jesus did something incredible, changing the life of the man who was paralyzed, forever.

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

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: “Improv Assistance” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to stand on one side of your group space.
- Select two kids to start and direct them to stand in front of the rest of the group.
- Tell kids they are about to play an improv game where a student is late to school and the teacher asks, “Why?”
- Assign one kid to be the “teacher” and the other kid to be the “student.”

- Direct the “student” to face the group and the “teacher” to stand with their back to the group.
- Explain the game:
 - The “student” will explain why they were late to the teacher, but they don’t know the real reason yet!
 - As they explain, you will hold up a card from the “Improv Assistance” Activity Page for the rest of the group to see.
 - Without speaking, the rest of the group will help the “student” figure out why they were late by acting out the scenario on the card.
- Hold up a card from the “Improv Assistance” Activity Page for the rest of the group to see.
- Encourage the rest of the group to act out the scenario from the paper.
- Once the student explains the correct reason why they were late, invite everyone to applaud the actors.
- Choose two new volunteers and repeat with a different scenario from the “Improv Assistance” Activity Page.
- Continue playing as time allows or until all scenarios have been used.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Have you ever been late for one of the reasons we acted out?
 - How did you work together in this game?
 - Why should we work together to help someone else?
- Explain to kids that working together can make a big impact, whether through big actions like organizing a food drive to help those in need or small acts like picking up trash or praying for someone else.
- Share with kids that sometimes small actions done together can create big results!
- ***[Make it Personal] Share a story about a time you worked together with other people to help someone and describe the positive change you were able to see as a result of your efforts.***

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Helpful Verses” Activity Page, markers, paper lunch bag, Bibles

What You Do:

- Invite kids to form groups of two and sit in your group area.
- Give each pair a Bible, “Helpful Verses” Activity Page, and two markers.
- Explain to the kids that the pairs will take turns looking up each Bible verse and reading them aloud.
- After reading all the verses, instruct each kid to circle one that stands out to them the most.
- Invite the pairs to share the verse they circled with each other, explaining why they chose it.
- Provide each kid with a paper lunch bag.
- Prompt the kids to think about someone in their community who might need encouragement or a reminder of God’s love.
- Give pairs a few moments to discuss.
- Explain to the kids that they’ll take the paper lunch bags home and fill them with gifts for that person.
 - For example, if it’s a teacher, kids could add treats and notes to brighten their day.
- Direct kids to use the markers to decorate their paper bags.
- Once they’re finished, ask:
 - “Who are you planning to give your bag to?”
 - “Have you ever received goodies at a moment when you needed it? If so, how did that make you feel?”
- Point out the differences in who kids decide to give to and what their needs are.
- Encourage kids to ask a parent, guardian, grandparent, sibling, etc. to help them fill and deliver their bag.