

WEEK TWO – JUNE 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: Give Peace a Chance | Romans 12:18 (suppt. Acts 9:26-28) Bottom Line: Live in peace with one another Memory Verse: "As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did.." Philippians 2:5 (NIrV) Virtue: Live It Out – Discover how to love like Jesus Basic Truth: I should treat others that way I want to be treated

**Series Overview:** Living and loving like Jesus sounds great in theory, but may be a little hard in practice. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we don't have to do it alone. When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit transforms us, shaping us every day into who God has called us to be and how God is calling us to live. Live It Out is not JUST a theme, but a call to action. It encourages kids to actively live out their faith through their words and interactions with others. And the more we become like Jesus, the more we can make a true difference in this world and in the lives of those around us.

## 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, pray for your group. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for being trustworthy and faithful in every situation. Thank God for sending Jesus as the perfect example of how to live! Ask God to help the kids in your group follow Jesus' example in their words and actions—no matter what challenges they face.
- 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

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o Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

# 9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 - 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

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### **Opening Activity**

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

### What You Need: A ball of yarn

### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As the kids arrive, invite them to stand in a circle.
- Choose a kid to start and give them a ball of yarn.
- Explain how to play:
  - You will ask the first kid a question.
  - Once that kid answers the question, they are to hold the string and hand the ball of string to another kid in the circle.
  - You will ask the kid with the ball of string a question, and they are to answer it.
  - The kid with the ball of string is to hold the string while passing the ball of string to another kid in the circle.
- One at a time, ask a question below, giving time for the kids to hold and transfer the string.
- Continue around the circle in this way until every kid has answered a question and is holding a piece of the string.
  - Question suggestions:

- What's your favorite hobby?
- What's your favorite place to go?
- What's your favorite food?
- What's your favorite color?
- What's your favorite Bible Story?
- What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?

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

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This whole summer you get to lead kids through nine amazing weeks of discovering what it looks like to love like Jesus. Each week will break down a "one another" statement from the Bible. God designed us to be in community with one another even when it's challenging, and we'll need God's Spirit to help guide us as we do. In these nine weeks, kids will learn about difficult concepts such as living in peace with one another or forgiving one another. Invite kids to bring open and honest conversation but be sure to create a safe space for them to process what makes some of those things challenging to do. Some kids may be in situations that make it hard for them to trust, forgive, be at peace with, or even pray for those who have mistreated or hurt them in some way. Be open to listening and hearing their needs and let them know you are here for them. Always be sure to bring the correct people into any conversation that involves the safety of a child.

## 9:50 - 10:10 | 11:50 - 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

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#### **Peace Builder**

### [Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: "Signs" Activity Page, and "Challenges" Activity Page, and painter's tape

### What You Do:

- Use the painter's tape to create a simple winding path about 15 feet long.
- As you create the path, call on kids to share what they remember from today's Bible Story.
- Mark a starting line on one side of the path.
- Place the six signs from the "Signs" Activity Page in the following order along the path:
  - o Jerusalem
  - Road to Damascus
  - Ananias' House
  - o Damascus
  - Back to Jerusalem
  - o Tarsus
- Explain to the group that they will travel together on the path as you recap today's Bible Story.
- Explain how to play:
  - At each location, you will give the kids a challenge to complete.
  - The only way to move to the next location is to complete the challenge together.
- Direct the group to stand around the start line together
- Instruct the kids to begin their journey by moving together to the "Jerusalem" sign.
- Once they arrive, read the "Jerusalem" sign's question and challenge from the "Challenges" Activity Page.
- Give the kids a few moments to discuss and come up with an answer together before presenting it to you.
- Continue in this way until the group has reached every stop.
- Gather the group together to discuss.

## What You Say:

"Watching you work together was a blast, friends! Saul didn't have a good reputation with Jesus' followers, so when he decided to follow Jesus, they had a hard time trusting he'd really changed. That's like when someone who hasn't been kind to you suddenly wants to join your team at recess—you might wonder, 'Can I trust them? It's hard to believe they've changed!'

"Barnabas took a bold chance and stood up for Saul. Because of him, the believers trusted that Jesus had changed Saul, and Saul went on to live it out!

"God is helping each of us become more like Jesus, and that includes living in peace with others. When we choose to follow Jesus, peace is a gift from the Holy Spirit, and we can ask God to help us [Bottom Line] live in peace with one another wherever we go."

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time someone spoke up for you after you had done something wrong. How did it bring peace to the situation? Or, share a time you made peace with a friend after a disagreement.)

## STEM Camp [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Cups, mini toy figures (or small objects), tape, and plain paper

## What You Do:

- Divide the kids into teams of three.
  - It's okay if there's a team of four!
- Give each team three cups, 10 pieces of paper, one roll of tape, and a mini toy figure (or small object).
- Explain the challenge to the kids:
  - "Your challenge is to build a bridge that's strong enough to hold your team's toy figure (or small object)."

- Give the teams at least five minutes to work on their bridges.
- Walk around, check on their progress, and encourage the teams to work together.
- Once the time is up, allow the teams to test their bridges one at a time.
- Direct each team to place their toy or object on the bridge to see if it holds.
- Cheer on each team as they test!
- Gather your group to discuss.

### What You Say:

"Wow! Look at all these amazing bridges! Was building your bridge easy or hard? (Invite responses.) When Saul decided to follow Jesus, the believers had a hard time trusting him. They had to learn how to live in peace with him. Barnabas helped to make this happen by speaking to Jesus' followers about Saul. It wasn't easy for those Jesus-followers, but God helped them build 'bridges' of trust and friendship to make peace with Saul—like the bridges you built today!

"Living in peace with others is similar to building a bridge. It takes patience, kindness, and teamwork. Sometimes, it's hard—but with the help of the Holy Spirit, a gift from God for those who follow Jesus, we can live in peace with others. How can you live in peace with others this week? (Invite responses, like: take a deep breath before you react, ask God to help you speak and act, make peace with someone upset with you, etc.) Good thoughts! Remember, Jesus is with you and can show you how to **[Bottom line] live in peace with one another."** 

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the bridge they built and explain how it reminds them to [Bottom Line] live in peace with one another.