



WEEK ONE – MAY 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Living Hope* | John 3:16-17

Bottom Line: *God took care of our greatest need*

Memory Verse: “None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.” *Philippians 2:4 (NirV)*

Virtue: *Initiative – Seeing what needs to be done + doing it*

Series Overview: Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn’t just some practical principle; it’s really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God’s image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done too.

Bottom Line: God took care of our greatest need. Love is a pretty powerful thing. God knew we could never fix sin on our own and needed a Savior, so God sent Jesus to rescue us out of love for us. God didn’t just see a need but chose to do something about it, and when we put our trust in Jesus we can live with God forever.

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 may visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how you came to know Jesus and how knowing Jesus has changed your life. Pray that the kids would come to understand how much God loves them, and that God provided for their greatest need through Jesus. Ask God to soften their hearts to receive this truth and help them trust God's love.
- *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

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

What You Need: “Emoji I Spy” Activity Page, and “Emoji Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
 - If needed, create a group of three.
- Give each group an “Emoji I Spy” Activity Page.
- Allow the kids a few minutes to observe the emojis on their page.
- Explain how to play:
 - You will select a card from the “Emoji Cards” Activity Page and display it to all of the groups.
 - Groups are to work together to find the matching emoji on their “Emoji I Spy” Activity Page as quickly as possible.
 - When a group finds the correct emoji, they are to jump, turn around, and sit down.
- Before moving to the next card, ensure that every group has found the emoji.
- Direct the kids to point to the correct emoji on their “Emoji I Spy” Activity Page.
- Continue until all emojis from the “Emoji Cards” Activity Page have been found.

What You Say:

“Way to go, friends! You did such an awesome job working together to find those emojis. Look at this one. *(Hold up the glass of water emoji.)* What does it remind you of? *(Invite responses.)* That’s right—a glass of water! Our bodies need water every single day. Some of the other emojis show things like food, clothes, family, or friends. We need those too. *[Transition]* **But I’m so excited today to discover what we need even more than all of these things. Come with me!”**

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

Large Group Overview: We start the month in John 3:16-17 where John writes about the greatest love of all. God loved us so much, that God sent Jesus to take our place because of our sin. God took the initiative by making a move to restore our broken relationship, allowing us to one day live with God forever.

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

Eye Spy

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Tape; Flashlights; “Eye Spy” Activity Page; “Eye Spy Leader Guide” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Tape the “Eye Spy” Activity Page images around your group space.
 - *NOTE: If taping the images around your space isn't possible, consider taping them to the floor.*
- Share with kids that Jesus met with Nicodemus at night.

- Give each kid a flashlight.
- Retell today's Bible Story using the "Eye Spy Leader Guide" Activity Page.
- As you read, pause frequently, giving the kids a moment to "spy" the correct picture and shine their light on it.
- *Extension: Ask kids questions about the Bible Story and have them shine their flashlights up to the ceiling when they want to answer a question!*

What You Say:

"Great job shining your light during our story recap, friends! God knew our greatest need was to restore our relationship with God. Have you ever had a problem you couldn't solve? (Invite responses.) Well, sin is a big problem that none of us can solve alone. So, God made a move and made a way! God sent Jesus to give up His life for our sins—and when we choose to believe in Jesus, we can live with God forever. That's really, really good news—the best news ever!"

*"The good news doesn't end there! As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we reflect even more on who God is to the world. That includes taking initiative—initiative is all about seeing what needs to be done and doing it! Whether it's writing an encouraging note to a sick friend or helping a grown-up carry groceries without having to be asked, we can be on the lookout for ways we can love others by taking the initiative every day! When we share God's love with others, it shows our gratitude that **[Bottom Line]** God took care of our greatest need."*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate time when you took the initiative to see a need and do something about it. What did you see? What did you do about it? How did it make you feel?)*

Make the First Move

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, and "Make the First Move" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into four groups.
- Give each group two Bibles.
- Lead the kids to find Philippians 2:4 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 Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 2.
- Encourage the groups to repeat the verse aloud together.
- Give each group one of the four cards from the “Make the First Move” Activity Page that outlines a part of the Memory Verse and motions to go along with it.
- Give the groups time to work together to practice and memorize their part of the Memory Verse.
- Once the time is up, gather your entire group together.
- Invite each group to teach their portion of the Memory Verse to the rest of the kids.
- Then, practice repeating the verse and motions together several times.

What You Say:

*“Way to go, everyone! I’m so glad we have the Bible. We can learn so much truth from it that can help us love God and others. Memorizing the verses in the Bible is a great way to keep important truths handy when you need them most. God showed initiative by making the first move and making a way to restore our relationship with God through Jesus. Friends, **[Bottom Line]** God took care of our greatest*

need! When we remember this month's Memory Verse, it reminds us to keep our eyes open for the people around us and their needs too."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share the Memory Verse motions and teach it to the adults too. Ask kids to share with grown-ups what it might look like for them to take initiative this week.