



WEEK THREE – MAY 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *The Parable of the Talents | Matthew 25:14-30*

Bottom Line: *Look for ways to use what you've been given*

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: **Look for ways to use what you've been given.** We've all been given something. Whether that's knowledge and a big brain, money, skills, or something else! God has entrusted each of us with a gift and talent to use in various ways to make an impact. Some ways may not be as noticeable, but we can ask God for help as we figure out what God has in store for us and use what we've been given.

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 moment to pray for them. Pray for those who may visit your group for the first time. Reflect on the gifts God has given you to help others. Pray that the kids would recognize the unique gifts God has given them and look for ways to use those gifts to help others. Ask God to give them creativity and joy in serving God with what they have*
- *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

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “I Have, Who Has?” Activity Page, *optional: timer*

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in your group area.
- Explain to the group that kids will take turns acting out various actions while the rest of the group guesses what they’re doing.
 - For example:
 - drawing
 - singing
 - baking
 - throwing a football
 - making people laugh
 - kicking a soccer ball
 - sewing
 - building, etc.
- Select a kid to go first.
- Quietly share an action with the kid going first that the rest of the group can’t hear.
- Give that kid about 30 seconds to act out their action without using words or sounds.
- Invite the group to call out their guesses.

- Once the action is guessed, invite the kid who guessed correctly to go next.
- Continue as time and interest allow.
 - *NOTE: Consider allowing the kids to come up with their own actions to perform.*

What You Say:

“Awesome job acting out and guessing each of those actions! Can you name some of the actions that were acted out today? *(Invite responses.)* That’s right—things like drawing, playing sports, singing, and so many more! Did you know that all of those things could be considered gifts or talents? **[Transition]** Today, we’re going to hear a parable from the Bible about people using the gifts God gives them. Let’s go find out more!”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 3, we head to Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus told His disciples a story about a rich man who left for a long journey and entrusted his servants with some of his money. Each one received a different amount, but at the end of the journey, the man was proud of his servants for using what they were given to double the investment. All except for one...

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

Talents That Stick

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Sticky notes, pencils, prepared poster board, and markers

What You Do:

- *NOTE: Before you begin the activity, write this week's Bottom Line across the top of the poster board.*
- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Give each kid 2-3 sticky notes.
- Set out the markers and pencils.
- Invite the kids to use the markers and pencils to write or draw two or three gifts or talents they think they're good at on each sticky note!
 - Examples: playing soccer, singing, playing an instrument, baking, drawing, encouraging others, math, learning languages, gift giving, caring for their pets, crafting, etc.
- Display the poster board and point out the Bottom Line on it.
- Read the Bottom Line aloud for the kids and invite them to repeat it together.
 - **[Bottom Line] Look for ways to use what you've been given.**
- As kids finish drawing or writing on each sticky note, invite them to stick their notes onto the poster board.
- Point out all the different gifts, talents, and things kids mentioned.

What You Say:

*“Great job, everyone! You all named so many different gifts, talents, and things God has given you to show others God’s love. We might not have a bunch of money, but we can use what we do have to help the people around us. There are even more talents and gifts you and I have to share! This week, ask your grown-ups or a friend who knows you well what you’re good at too. Always remember that no matter how much or how little you think you have, there’s always a way to share God’s love with others! **[Bottom Line] Look for ways to use what you’ve been given.**”*

Secret Codes

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “Secret Decoder” Activity Page, and pencils

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Give each kid a “Secret Decoder” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Divide the kids into groups of two and give each pair a Bible.
- It’s okay if there is a group of three.
- Lead the kids to look up 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.
- Direct the kids to repeat the verse several times together.
- Explain to the kids that they will work together to decode this month’s Memory Verse.
- Instruct the kids to begin decoding the Memory Verse, filling in the missing letters by matching the images with the letters in the word bank.
- ***NOTE:*** Encourage the kids to fill in one letter at a time. For example, if the spy goggles represent the letter “A,” instruct the kids to write an “A” in each space where they see spy goggles.
- Once the kids finish, recite the verse together once more.

What You Say:

*“Great job decoding this month’s Memory Verse! Can you say it with me one more time? (Pause to read the Memory Verse out loud together.) It can be easy to look out for ourselves without looking out for the people around us too. This verse reminds us not just to look out for our own good but to also look out for the good of others. God has given each of us unique gifts and talents to share God’s love with those around us! We can take the initiative to use our gifts and talents daily when we **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to use what you’ve been given.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share the “secret code” that they decoded in the Secret Code Activity (the Memory Verse). Encourage the kids to use the “secret code” to pray this week and ask God to help them use what they’ve been given!