



WEEK FOUR – MAY 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *John's Disciples Follow Jesus | John 1:35-45*

Bottom Line: *Look for ways to tell others about Jesus*

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 tell others about Jesus.** When you hear good news do you typically keep it to yourself? Probably not! You want to share it with everyone around you no matter how that happens: notes, video, facetime, email, etc. Good news is worth sharing, and Jesus is the best news of all. So what can you do to share Jesus with others?

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 people in your life who shared Jesus with you and thank God for them. Pray that the kids would look for opportunities to share Jesus with others, just as John pointed his disciples to Jesus. Ask God to fill the kids with boldness and love so they can be a light to those around them.*
- *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: Floor tape; binoculars

What You Do:

- D Using floor tape, create two parallel lines down the middle of your group area.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a pair of binoculars.
- Invite each team to line up in front of a tape line.
- Instruct the kids—one at a time—to walk along the taped line and back while looking through the *wrong* end of the binoculars.
- After each turn, direct the kids to pass the binoculars to the next kid in line.
- The first team to have all the kids travel to the end of the tape and back while looking through the binoculars backward wins!

What You Say:

““Way to go, friends! That was a tough game, and you all did a great job staying on your lines! When we were looking through the binoculars the wrong way, it made things harder to see, didn’t it? What do we use binoculars for when we use them the correct way? (*Invite responses.*) That’s right! We use binoculars to help us find things that are far away or to see them more clearly. **[Transition] In**

today’s story from the Bible, we’ll learn some truth about some people who saw Jesus clearly for who He really is—and it changed everything. Let’s go!”

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

Large Group Overview: For Week 4, we head to John 1:35-42 where we meet Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist. One day as John was with his disciples, they saw Jesus walking by. Jesus was the very same man John had been preparing his disciples for! So when the time came, John’s disciples left to go follow Jesus, and that decision led to more disciples following Jesus as they began to tell one another about Him.

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

Go Tell Everyone!

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Finish the Comic” Activity Page, pencils, and coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Gather your group together.
- Give each kid a pencil and a “Finish the Comic” Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Encourage the kids to write their names on their comics.
- Read the Bible Story Recap Guide below, pausing for the kids to fill in each empty speech bubble of the comic strip with what each disciple said.
- Encourage the kids to use their own words.

- *NOTE: Consider allowing the kids to draw symbols instead of writing—like shocked faces, smiley faces, hearts, etc.*
- Direct the kids to place their names on the top of their papers.
- Encourage the kids to color in their comic strips once you’ve finished reading the Bible Story Recap Guide.
 - Bible Story Recap Guide:
 - John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Savior because of the sign God gave him. John the Baptist even pointed Jesus out to Andrew, saying, “*Look! The Lamb of God!*” (*John 1:36, NIV*). *(Pause and prompt the kids to fill in John the Baptist’s speech bubble.)*
 - Andrew and John spent the day with Jesus, and they were SO amazed by Him that they couldn’t keep the news to themselves. Meeting Jesus changed their lives, and they wanted everyone to know about it. Andrew ran to tell Peter about Jesus! *(Pause and prompt the kids to fill in Andrew’s speech bubble.)*
 - Jesus also called a man named Philip to follow him. Philip also couldn’t contain the news, so Philip told his friend Nathanael! Philip couldn’t wait to share the incredible news that Jesus was the Messiah, the one God had promised to send. *(Pause and prompt the kids to fill in Philip’s speech bubble.)*

What You Say:

“Great job filling in the Bible Story comic, friends! These people were so excited about the promised Savior, Jesus, and they couldn’t wait to tell others about Him. Sharing about Jesus starts with being excited about who He is. Jesus is God’s Son, and it’s because of Jesus that we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever! That’s REALLY good news! So we don’t have to wait around for someone to ask us about Jesus. We can take the initiative to share God’s love by telling the people around us about Jesus. We can pray for them and show them God’s love through our actions. We can even tell them about a time that gave us peace during a tough time. [Bottom Line] Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.”

[Make It Personal] (Tell about an age-appropriate time when you were able to share Jesus with someone else. Maybe you shared how you had peace in a tough

situation, were able to talk about Jesus with a friend or a neighbor, or had a conversation at home with your family about what Jesus did for you.)

Verse on the Move

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible marked at Philippians 2:4, and prepared paper plates

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in the front of your group space.
- Open the Bible marked at Philippians 2:4.
- Call on a kid to read the verse aloud to the group.
- Repeat the verse several times together.
- Give each kid a paper plate with a word from the Memory Verse.
 - *NOTE: If you don't have enough plates for your entire group, consider playing this game more than once, with as many different kids as possible each round.*
- *NOTE: If using NIrV, the verse is easily broken up in this way:*
 - *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)*
- Direct the kids to hold their paper plates, words facing out so others can see.

- Explain how to play:
 - Kids are to work together to organize themselves in verse order.
- Give a signal to start the game and prompt the kids to begin organizing themselves in verse order.
- Encourage the kids to talk it out and help others find their places.
- Once the verse is in order, invite the kids to repeat the verse together, holding up their plates as they say that part of the verse.

What You Say:

“You all did a great job taking the initiative to move around and help each other organize the Memory Verse! We needed to put the verse in order, and you did something about it to make it happen.

*“When we **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to tell others about Jesus, it can help them see how much God loves them! Whether it’s a friend who needs encouragement or someone in your family who doesn’t know Jesus—the good news of Jesus is for everyone! God cared for our greatest need by sending Jesus to rescue us, and that’s good news worth telling others about. **[Bottom Line]** Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their comics with their families, retelling the events of today’s Bible Story!