



## WEEK ONE – MAY 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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## 8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### 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

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

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### 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!”**

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

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**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.

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

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**God Loved. God Gave**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bible marked at John 3:16, and device for playing worship music

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to spread out around your group area.
- Explain the game:
  - You will travel around the room, “tagging” the kids as they quickly move around.
  - Once a kid is tagged, they are to freeze in place.

- In order for a kid to become unfrozen, another kid must tag them and say, “God loved,” and the frozen kid must respond, “God gave.”
- The kids are to continue unfreezing their frozen friends by reciting those truths!
- Begin playing worship music to signal the start of the round.
- Travel around the room and begin tagging the kids.
  - *NOTE: Consider calling out different ways for kids to move, such as tiptoe, baby step, slow-mo, etc.*
- When you tag a kid, make sure they freeze in place!
- Make sure kids only become “unstuck” when another kid sees that they’re frozen and says, “God loved,” and the frozen kid responds, “God gave.”
- Stop the music to signal the end of a round.
- Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.

### **What You Say:**

*“That was so fun—nice job, friends! You guys did a great job keeping your eyes open to see what the people around you needed. It’s true that God loved us so much that God gave us Jesus. **[Bottom Line]** God took care of our greatest need!”*

*“God has a plan for us, including us being friends with God forever. But sin, the wrong things we do, gets in the way of our relationship with God. On our own, we can’t do anything about this. And that’s why God gave us Jesus! GOD gave us the most important, valuable, and perfect thing we could have ever received. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay the price for our sin—like lying, saying hurtful things, or maybe being unkind. The list goes on, but thank You, Jesus! Three days later, He rose from the dead. And because He rose, He defeated death and made it possible for us to be friends with God again. If we believe in Jesus, we get the greatest gift we could ever receive. (Open the Bible and read John 3:16.) That’s REALLY good news! Remember, **[Bottom Line]** God took care of our greatest need!”*

### **Memory Verse Mix Up**

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Memory Verse Mix-Up” Activity Page, beanbags, buckets

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Look up the Memory Verse, Philippians 2:4, together using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
  - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Philippians* at the top of the page as you say “Philippians” aloud. Then, guide kids to find the big number 2 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 2 for the little 4; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.
  - ***Finding verses with 1<sup>st</sup> 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.” You can help by telling them that Philippians starts with the letters P-H. 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.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Point out “look out for the good of others” in the NIrV (or “to the interests of others” in the NIV) in the verse and share that God looked out for our good (or interest) by sending Jesus to care for our greatest need!
- Divide the group into teams of four.

- It's okay if there is a group of five!
- Instruct teams to line up at one end of your group space.
- Place a set of cards from the “Memory Verse Mix-Up” Activity Pages facedown a few feet away from each team.
- Place a bucket next to each team's set of verse cards.
- Give the first kid in each team's line one beanbag.
- Direct that kid to toss a beanbag into the bucket at your signal.
  - If the beanbag lands in the bucket, instruct the kid to pick up a card and the beanbag, and bring it back to their team. Direct them to give the beanbag to the next kid in line.
  - If the beanbag doesn't land in the bucket, instruct the kid to retrieve it and try again.
- Allow kids two tries before they pass the beanbag to the next kid in line.
- Continue allowing the teams to take turns tossing the beanbags and collecting all the cards.
- Encourage the kids who are waiting their turn to cheer their teammates on!
- Once a team collects all its cards, instruct the kids to arrange them in order, using the numbers on each card as a guide.

### **What You Say:**

*“Great job putting together this month's Memory Verse, friends! I love this verse because it reminds me that God doesn't just want us to look out for others. God took the initiative to look out for others first. Jesus, God's Son, was a part of God's plan to take the initiative to rescue us. That's why Jesus gave up His life on the cross for us.*

*“As we grow to be more like Jesus, we reflect more of who God is—and that includes taking initiative. It starts with keeping our eyes open to see what people around us need. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** God took care of our greatest need first.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share the Bottom Line:  
[Bottom Line] God took care of our greatest need.***