



## WEEK THREE – MAY 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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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 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

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

### What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a card from the “I Have, Who Has?” Activity Page.
  - *NOTE: Give any extra cards to older kids. All the cards must be used in this game.*
- Find the kid with the “I have 1 coin” card.
  - Be available to help with reading as needed.
  - Point out the illustrations and numbers on each card.
- Invite the kid with the “I have 1 coin” card to begin the game by reading their card that says, “I have 1 coin. Who has 2 dogs?” and then lay the card face up in front of them.
- Instruct the kid with the “2 dogs” card to raise their hand and say, “I have 2 dogs. Who has 1 soccer ball?” and then lay that card face up in front of them.
- Continue until every kid’s card has been played (and any extra cards have been played too).
- Encourage the kids to pay close attention to their cards and listen carefully to others in the group.
- Play additional rounds as time allows. You can add fun by:

- Timing each round and challenging the kids to complete the game faster each time.

**What You Say:**

“Great job, friends! You had \_\_\_\_\_ (*name each item the kids had*). What do you think guitars, dogs, cats, books, sports, dancing, and all the other things might have in common? (*Invite responses. Affirm ideas, and don’t worry if the kids are stuck.*) They’re all things we may have been given to enjoy, learn from, or even use to help others. *[Transition]* Today, we’ll hear a story Jesus told about some people who were given something very special. Let’s go find out what they did with it and what we can do with what we’ve been given—come with me!”

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

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**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...

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

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**Story Statements**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** “Story Statements” Activity Page, and prepared line of floor tape

### **What You Do:**

- Invite a kid to retell the Bible Story of the Parable of the Talents, they heard in Large Group.
  - Ask guiding questions and correct any errors gently.
- Ask, “What else?” to encourage other kids to add additional details.
- Direct the kids to line up one behind the other along the floor tape line.
- Stand at the front of the line facing the kids.
- Explain to the kids that you will read statements that help retell today’s Bible Story, the Parable of the Talents.
- One at a time, read one bullet-point statement from the “Story Statements” Activity Page.
  - *NOTE: Don’t share the Scripture references because that will clue kids in to the truth of the statement. The reference is just there for you.*
- After you read each statement, instruct the kids to perform one of the following actions:
  - If they think the statement is true, kids are to hop to the right. (*gesture to your left*)
  - If they think the statement is not true (false), kids are to hop to the left. (*gesture to your right*)
- Continue until every statement has been read.

### **What You Say:**

*“Awesome work, friends! You all remembered so much of our Bible Story. Why do you think Jesus told this story? What do you think He wanted people to know? (Invite responses.) Yes! Jesus wanted His followers—and us—to know that whether it’s a lot or a little, we are each responsible for using what we’ve been given to make a difference in the world!”*

*“God is so creative, God made each of us so uniquely! God has given each one of us different gifts, whether it’s our talents, our time, or even our stuff. God wants to help us make good use of those things! The first step is to figure out what gifts you have. One way you can do that is by asking a parent or another adult who knows you well. Your gift might be drawing cards, taking care of animals, playing sports, being kind, sharing, playing an instrument, singing, or being good at math. No*

*matter how much or how little you think you have, there's ALWAYS a way to use what you've been given to share God's love with others. So, remember, **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to use what you've been given."*

## **Prayer Time**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** "I Have, Who Has?" Activity Page cards from the Opening Activity

### **What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit together with you in a circle.
- Show a few of the "I Have . . . Who Has?" Activity Page cards.
  - Choose the cards that are most relevant for your kids.
- For each card, invite kids to name ways they could use that item or talent to help others.
- Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere!
- Encourage kids to ask God to help them use what they've been given this week to make a difference.
- Close your group in prayer.

### **What You Say:**

*"Dear God, thank You for the incredible gifts and talents You give us. Thank You for making each of us so uniquely and wonderfully! Whether it's a lot or a little, we are so grateful for the things we already have to help others. Help us look for ways to use what You've given us to show others just how much You love them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage adults to tell their kid one special gift or talent they see in that kid!***