
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: Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - Before kids arrive, take some time to pray and connect with God. Ask God for wisdom for how you lead your group today. Pray that your kids would grasp how amazing it is that God loves them and gave Jesus for 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.
 - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them
- *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

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

What You Need: “See the Stars” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit together in your group space.
- Display the star picture with the number “1” from the “See the Stars” Activity Pages for the kids.
- Explain to kids that it’s a picture of stars that exist in our sky.
- Share that this portion of stars includes a constellation.
- Give kids an opportunity to guess or tell you which constellation the star page shows.
- Display the constellation picture with the number “1” on it to show the group where the constellation is hidden in the first picture.
- Continue showing the kids each star picture and its matching constellation picture, allowing them to guess the constellation as you share.

What You Say:

“Those stars are beautiful! It was challenging to find the constellations. We really had to focus on the individual stars that made each picture. [Transition] Today, we’ll hear a true story from the Bible about some people who had their focus in the wrong place. Come with me to see how Jesus changed everything by shifting their focus!”

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

This whole summer you get to lead kids through nine amazing weeks of discovering what it looks like to love like Jesus. Each week will break down a “one another” statement from the Bible. God designed us to be in community with one another even when it’s challenging, and we’ll need God’s Spirit to help guide us as we do. In these nine weeks, kids will learn about difficult concepts such as living in peace with one another or forgiving one another. Invite kids to bring open and honest conversation but be sure to create a safe space for them to process what makes some of those things challenging to do. Some kids may be in situations that make it hard for them to trust, forgive, be at peace with, or even pray for those who have mistreated or hurt them in some way. Be open to listening and hearing their needs and let them know you are here for them. Always be sure to bring the correct people into any conversation that involves the safety of a child.

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Look Out Notes” Activity Page; pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Divide kids into four groups.
- Invite the groups to spread out and sit together in your group space.
- Hand each group a journal page from the “Look Out Notes” Activity Pages and a pen or pencil.
- Direct the groups to read through the scenario on their page.
- Point out to the kids that the pages look like an excerpt from a journal entry.
- Direct the groups to come up with the best resolution to the scenario that models looking out for someone else.

- Instruct the kids to write what they come up with on the lines provided on the journal page.
- Once everyone has finished, give each group a chance to read their scenario aloud to everyone and share what they wrote.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Why should we look out for one another?
 - What do we sometimes need to do for someone else when we look out for them?
- Explain to the kids that when we look at Jesus, we see that He kept His focus on other people instead of Himself!
- Share with the kids that we will have moments when we are given opportunities to look out for other people. Sometimes, that means we have to take the focus off of ourselves.
- Encourage the kids to ask God to take their focus off themselves and help them look for the needs of the people around them.
- ***[Make it Personal] Share with the group an age-appropriate time when someone looked out for you. Describe the impact it left on you.***

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Shallow bin, prepared ping pong balls, Bible

What You Do:

- Fill a shallow bin with the prepared ping pong balls.
- Place the bin on the floor at one end of your group space.
- Invite kids to gather and sit on the opposite end of your group space.
- Select a kid to go first and explain that they will pretend to be an astronaut on a quest the moon.
- Their mission is to find one ping pong ball with a Bible verse reference written on it.

- Explain how to play:
 - The kid will walk to the bin of ping pong balls and search for a ball with writing on it.
 - *NOTE: For added fun, encourage them to slow motion bounce or moonwalk to the bin.*
 - Once they find a verse reference ping pong ball, they must travel back to the group.
 - The kid will select another kid, a fellow astronaut, to help them look up the verse, read it with them, and then aloud to the group.
 - Repeat the process until every verse ball has been found.
- Once each verse is read, ask questions for discussion.
- See the list below for suggested questions corresponding to each verse.
- **Verse Questions:**
 - Matthew 5:38-42
 - Is it difficult to turn the other cheek?
 - How can you go the extra mile with someone in your life?
 - 1 John 3:17-18
 - How should God’s love affect our actions?
 - What does love in action look like?
 - John 15:12
 - Is it optional to love others? Why or why not?
 - Philippians 2:5
 - How can we think and act as Jesus did?
 - Romans 15:1-2
 - How can you “build up“ your neighbor?