
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

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

What You Need: “Guess that Ball” Activity Page and “Sports Names” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- Scatter the shapes from the “Guess that Ball” Activity Page in the circle’s center.
- Explain to the kids the shapes represent different sports-related balls.
- Place the cards from the “Sports Names” Activity Page in the circle’s center.
- Explain to the kids that each shape has a matching sports card.
- Select a kid to go first and direct them to match a ball shape with its correct sports name.
- Encourage the kids to pay attention to the various sizes and shapes of the balls.
- Once that kid has found a match, invite them to place it together on the floor, away from the rest of the cards.
- Repeat the process by selecting kids to find a match until every sport is matched with a ball.
- Use the answer key to check the numbers on the shapes and the cards kids chose for each pair.
 - Answer Key:
 - 1 - Football
 - 2 - Soccer
 - 3 - Volleyball
 - 4 - Baseball
 - 5 - Tennis
 - 6 - Golf

- 7 - Lacrosse
- 8 - Pickleball
- 9 - Bowling
- 10 - Basketball
- 11 - Hockey
- 12 - Table Tennis

What You Say:

“There are SO many sports! Great job working together to match each ball correctly with its sport. Each ball is designed for a specific game. WE are designed to follow Jesus! When we follow Him, our actions can reflect who He is and show others what He’s like! [Transition] Today, we’re going to talk about how the way we live can reflect God’s love and how we can encourage others through our actions. Let’s go find out more!”

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

Bible Story Extension

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles, Paper, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
- Instruct the groups to spread out.
- Hand each group a Bible, a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil.
- Direct the groups to look up Hebrews 10: 24-25 using the Bible Navigation tips:
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.
- Instruct the groups to read the verse together.
- Explain that they will have several minutes to create their own cheer, chant, or rap encouraging the group to live like Jesus.
 - This could be to the tune of a well-known song or an original tune the group creates.
- Direct the kids to use the paper and pen or pencil to write their words down.
- Give each group a chance to perform their encouragement for the entire group.

- Share with the kids that the purpose of the book of Hebrews was to encourage believers to live like Jesus!
- Explain that we're especially called to encourage others who love Jesus to love LIKE Jesus.
- Ask kids this question and allow plenty of time for discussion:
 - What encourages you to live like Jesus?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, index cards, pens or markers

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in your group space facing the whiteboard.
- Ask kids to share various things they could say to someone to encourage them.
 - (*i.e.*, “You are not alone!” “I believe in you!” or “You can trust God no matter what!”)
- Give each kid an index card and a marker or pen.
- Invite the kids to think of someone they’ll see this week who could use some encouragement.
 - *This could be a friend, family member, teacher, coach, etc.*
- Instruct the kids to use their index cards to write an encouraging message to the person they thought of.
 - *Consider encouraging kids to write a prayer for them.*
- Challenge the kids to give their index card to that person this week.
- Invite each kid to pray for the person they made a card for.
- Close your group in prayer.