
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

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

What You Need: Colored Construction Paper

What You Do:

- Place three pieces of colored construction paper in different parts of your group space.
- Invite the kids to stand together.
- Explain how to play:
 - You will cover your eyes and count to ten.
 - During that time, the kids must quickly choose and stand by one of the colors.
 - After counting to ten, you will call out one of the three colors and open your eyes.
 - Any kids who are standing in the section of the color you called out must sit down until the next game.
 - Repeat the process of counting to ten and selecting a color until only one kid remains standing.
- If time allows, begin another game and allow the winning kid to call out the colors.

What You Say:

“That was fun! In this game, the winner was the last one standing and everyone else was kicked out of the game. [Transition] But today in our Bible Story, we’ll discover a different kind of winning—one where everyone is included and accepted. Come with me!”

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

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- **Ask:**
 - How does it feel to be accepted?
 - What makes you different from your friends or family?
 - Why are differences a good thing?
 - How does it feel when you are not accepted?

- What do you think Jesus would say to someone who wasn't accepting of others?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, blindfolds, prepared index cards, paper, pen or pencil

What You Do:

- I Invite the kids to form groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
- Instruct the groups to stand together on start line on one end of your group space.
- Place the eight prepared index cards on the floor on the opposite end of your group space.
- Hand each group a Bible and a blindfold.
- Direct the groups to choose who will be blindfolded for the game.
- Instruct the kids to secure the blindfold over the other kid's eyes so they cannot see.
- Explain how to play:
 - When you say, "Go!" each kid without a blindfold will guide the blindfolded kid to pick up one of the index cards from the other side of your group space.
 - The kid can remove their blindfold once they travel back to the start line.
 - Each pair should use the Bible to look up the verse reference written on their index card.
 - The child who did not wear a blindfold should use their non-dominant hand to write the verse on a piece of paper while their partner reads it aloud.
 - Once every group has finished, give everyone a turn to read their verse out loud for the entire group.

- Explain that in this activity, everyone had to do something that may have felt uncomfortable. They either had to walk blindly or write with the hand they don't normally write with.
- Share with the kids that sometimes it can feel uncomfortable to accept those who are different from us. Thankfully, Jesus shows us the best examples to get out of our comfort zones and live more like Him.
- **Ask: Why does it sometimes feel uncomfortable to accept those who are different from us?**
- Invite the group with this month's Memory Verse, Philippians 2:5, on their index card to read it aloud to the group.
- Repeat the verse together several times.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper, pens, and coloring supplies

What You Do:

- I Invite the kids to spread out and sit in your group space.
- Hand each kid a blank piece of paper.
- Make the pens and markers available.
- Explain to the kids that there are so many ways we can spend time with God.
- Share that one way we can talk to God is through creating or doodling!
- Invite the kids to spend a few minutes writing out a prayer on their piece of paper.
- Encourage them to think of someone they need to work on accepting.
 - *i.e. Maybe there's a child next door who is very different from them or they are struggling with wanting to spend time with their brother or sister.*
- Invite the kids to write a prayer asking God to help them accept them and treat them with love and respect.

- Then, encourage the kids to doodle a picture of a scene of them accepting that person.
- After everyone has finished doodling, give kids a few minutes to spend quiet time praying the prayers they wrote.
- Then, close your group in prayer.
- *Tell kids that if they enjoyed spending time with God by doodling, they can do this at home on their own!*