



WEEK ONE – MAY 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Living Hope* | *John 3:16-17*

Key Question: *How has God met your needs?*

Memory Verse: *“Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:4 (NIV)*

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.

Key Question: How has God met your needs? Sometimes it's easy to get so distracted by the things we want most in life, or that we don't have, that we forget about the things we already DO have. Whether we have a little or a lot, God has given us each the best gift we could ever receive. We hope this question invites preteens to reflect on how God has shown up for them throughout their lives

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: “Emoji I Spy” Activity Page, and “Emoji Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Hand each kid a plastic cup.
- Share the goal with the kids:
 - Each kid must attempt to balance a cup on top of their head without touching it as they alternate between sitting and standing.
- Once their cup falls, that kid is out of the game.
- Instruct the kids to keep track of how many times they can successfully sit down and stand up while keeping the cup balanced on their heads.
 - *NOTE: If you only have one chair, have the kids take turns completing the challenge one at a time. If you have multiple chairs, consider dividing the kids into two teams. Each team competes until only one team has kids still in the game.*
- Begin the challenge and monitor falling cups.
- Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.
- Call a winner for each round as the last kid (or team) standing.
- Cheer on all the kids as they try the challenge.

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

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.

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 would you explain salvation to someone your age?
 - How has God met your needs?
 - Is it easy or hard for you to put your trust in Jesus? Explain why.
 - If you have questions about what it means to trust in Jesus, who can you talk to?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, and “Make the First Move” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Use the Bible to read John 3:16.
- Call on a kid to share with the group where the book of John is found. (*in the New Testament*)
- *Optional: Consider using the Conversation Guide on Salvation to explain to kids how God met our greatest need.*

- Before closing in prayer, give kids a moment to consider where they are in their relationship with Jesus, whether that's out loud or to themselves.
- Encourage any kids who would like to share, to share their thoughts as you pose the following question: "Which of these statements best describes you?"
 - I have already decided to follow Jesus.
 - I have a lot of questions about salvation/following Jesus.
 - I am ready to follow Jesus.
 - I haven't thought a lot about my relationship with God.
- *NOTE: If a kid is not ready to share, don't force them to share.*
- Encourage kids to talk to a grown-up or trusted adult if they have questions about their faith.
- Close your group in prayer.