



WEEK TWO – MAY 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Miriam Takes Initiative | Exodus 2:1-10*

Key Question: *Who do you see that needs your help?*

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: Who do you see that needs your help? Have you ever come across someone who looked super busy, was hurting, had questions, or seemed like they could use a little extra love and aid? What do you do in those moments? We hope this question gets preteens started thinking about the people in their lives—in any area—who they can help and how they can help them.

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, pray that you would have an amazing time connecting with your kids today in your Small Group. Pray for each one individually by name, asking God to show you how you can care individually for each of your kids today.*
- *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: Dry-erase board; dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- When enough kids arrive, divide the group into two teams.
- Select a word from the “Spy Words” list below to begin.
- On a dry-erase board, draw a line for each letter in the word or phrase you’ve chosen.
 - For example, if the word is “Spying,” you would draw six blank lines:
“ _ _ _ _ _ _ .”
- Explain how to play “Guess the Spy Word”:
 - Teams will take turns guessing a letter they think is in the spy-related word.
 - If a team guesses correctly, fill in the letter on the blank.
 - If a team guesses incorrectly, write the letter in the corner of the board to prevent it from being guessed again.
 - Continue taking turns until a team is ready to guess the word.
 - The team that guesses the word correctly earns 10 points.
 - If a team attempts to guess the word and is incorrect, deduct 5 points from their score.
 - Winning team gets a prize from your bag!
- Spy Words
 - Top Secret
 - Agent
 - Trench Coat
 - Underground
 - Operation

- Binoculars
- Secret Mission
- Evidence File
- Fingerprints
- Magnifying Glass
- Night Vision Glasses
- Undercover

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we head to Exodus 2:1-10 where we find the Israelites facing tragedy. They had begun to grow so large as a nation that the pharaoh of that time grew scared and ordered all the newborn baby boys to die. Miriam and her mother took matters into their own hand, saving Moses, which eventually led to the saving of the rest of God’s people too.

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: “Case Study” Activity Page, pens

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of two.
- Give each pair a pen and a card from the “Case Study” Activity Pages.
- Ask: Have you ever made an excuse to avoid doing something?

- Share with kids that we can sometimes make excuses for not taking initiative. Excuses can keep us from doing what needs to be done.
- Explain to kids that they will read their scenario card and create a list of excuses that might keep someone from taking initiative.
 - Kids can create a list on the back of their cards.
- Share this scenario example with the entire group before beginning:
 - You can see off to the side that your sibling is getting frustrated with a puzzle. (Possible excuses: Your YouTube show has ten more minutes, you feel too tired to help, etc.)
- Give the pairs a few minutes to make their list.
- Once everyone is finished, discuss the lists as a group.
- Ask:
 - What might taking initiative look like in each "Case Study" scenario?
 - Are any of the excuses similar? Why do you think that is a common excuse?
 - What if it is someone else's job? (For example, if it is your sibling's responsibility to walk the dog) Is that an acceptable excuse for not doing it? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of any good reasons for not doing something? What are those reasons?
- ***[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate time when you saw a need but didn't do anything to help. What excuses did you make for not stepping in? How might things have been different if you had taken the initiative instead?***
- If time permits, let kids share experiences when they should have taken the initiative to help but made excuses not to. What could they have done?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, pens, “Verse Decoder” Activity Page, “Verse Decoder Answer Key”

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen and a decoder from the “Verse Decoder” Activity Page.
- Instruct kids to use the decoder grid to replace the encrypted word with the correct letters.
 - Kids can write the decoded letters on the lines next to each word.
- Once everyone is finished, pass out the Bibles.
- Invite the kids to find Proverbs 3:27 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
 - ***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.
- If you are using a different Bible translation than NIV or NIrV, invite the kids to compare their decoded verse to that translation.
- Invite kids to repeat the verse together several times.
- Ask:
 - Who can you ask for help keeping your eyes open for the needs around you?
 - Is there ever a time when we should not help someone who needs it? Explain.
 - Share an example of a time when someone needed help, but you felt there was nothing you could do. What can you do in a situation like that?
 - In what ways does Jesus show us ways to help someone in need?
- Explain to kids that when they follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives inside of them and can help them become more like Jesus every day.

- Encourage kids to ask God to help them keep their eyes open for the needs around them!
- Challenge kids to take initiative this week by asking, “How can I help?” to someone they love. They might not always see a need or know how to help, but if they ask, there’s a good chance they will find the answer.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
- Encourage the kids to discuss ways they can help the people they love.
- After a few moments, invite them to pray for one another.
 - *Optional: Suggest the kids use words from Proverbs 3:27 to pray, filling in the name of a friend or family member they care about.*
- For example, “Dear God, help *(name of friend)* to not hold back good from those who need it. Help them not to hold back when they can help. In Jesus Name. Amen.”