



WEEK THREE – MAY 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Parable of the Talents | Matthew 25:14-30*

Key Question: *How can you use what you've been given?*

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 can you use what you've been given?** Can you think of a time someone has complimented you about something that seemed to come naturally to you? God has given each of us unique gifts and wired us all differently, not just for the betterment of ourselves, but to impact those around us too. We hope this question allows preteens to start thinking about how the ways God made them are impactful.

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

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

What You Need: Dry-erase board; dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into teams of 3-4 and have the teams sit in a circle.
- Give one kid on each team a dry erase board + marker
- Instruct each team to pick a kid to go first and direct them to:
 - Write a number between 1-10 at the top of the board.
 - Pass the board to the left.
 - *NOTE: Ensure that each team has chosen a different number.*
- Direct the next kid to write a dollar sign (\$) in front of the number on the board.
- Explain the game:
 - Invite kids to imagine their team as a group of spies, and the headquarters (HQ) gives each team a small amount of money to complete a mission.
 - The challenge is to use the money wisely to gain more.
- Read each step aloud, giving teams time to calculate and write their answers before passing the board to the left after each turn.
 - *HQ doubles your money.* Multiply your original number by 2.
 - *An agent donates \$6 to your team.* Add 6 to the previous number.
 - *Half your team wants trench coats; the other half wants binoculars.* Divide the previous number by 2.
 - *You buy cool sunglasses on sale.* Subtract the original number from the current total.
 - *HQ rewards you for stellar work.* Multiply your final number by 100.
- Each team should end up with \$300.

- *Note: No matter the number (1-10) kids start with, the final answer will always be 300. See below for an example.*
- Point out how each team began with a different number and ended up with the same now!
- Ask:
 - What would you buy for yourself if you had \$300 to spend?
 - What would you buy for your family or someone else?
 - What do you think is the best way to spend \$300? Share your ideas and why they would be helpful or meaningful with your team.
- *Example (A team picks the number 7)*
 - Original Number: 7
 - $7 \times 2 = 14$
 - $14 + 6 = 20$
 - $20 \div 2 = 10$
 - $10 - 7$ (the original number) = 3
 - $3 \times 100 = 300$

What You Say:

“Great job working together, friends! Did you know no matter which number (1-10) you plug into that equation, the answer would be 300? (Invite responses.)

There are many ways to spend \$300, aren't there? Each of us might use that money differently [*Transition*]. **Today, we'll hear a story Jesus told His followers about some men who were given different amounts of money. Let's go find out what they did with it. Come with me!**”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 3, we head to Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus told His disciples a story about a rich man who left for a long journey and entrusted his servants with some of his money. Each one received a different amount, but at the end of the journey, the man was proud of his servants for using what they were given to double the investment. All except for one...

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper, markers; blanket

What You Do:

- Give each kid a marker and a sheet of paper.
- Instruct kids to write a gift or talent they think they have in large letters, using only three words.
 - If kids aren't sure, offer some suggestions based on what you know about them. If they still can't come up with something, they can write a skill that comes to mind.
- ***[Make it Personal]* Play along with the kids by including a gift or talent you have.**
- Collect the papers from the kids and shuffle them together.
- Take a moment to have the kids introduce themselves. Encourage them to pay attention to the names of others; they will be used in today's game!
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Select one kid from each team to each hold the top corner of the blanket.
- Explain that they will hold the blanket up to create a "wall." The blanket should be held as high as possible.
- Designate a side of the blanket for each team and instruct them to stand on their side of the blanket "wall."
- Explain how to play:
 - The Leader will invite one kid from each team to stand facing the blanket on their side.
 - Hand each kid who is standing in front of the blanket one of the papers that was written on earlier.

- The kids will hold the paper in front of them so that the paper is between them and the blanket and the words are facing the blanket.
 - Once both players are in position, the Leader will shout, "Drop it!" the kids holding the blanket should quickly let go of it, revealing the kid on the other side.
 - The first kid to correctly shout the name of the kid in front of them and the word(s) on the paper that kid is holding wins that round for their team.
- Call on new blanket holders and raise the wall again.
 - Select two new kids to stand facing their team's side of the blanket, give them a paper, and repeat the process.
 - Continue until every kid gets a turn to stand behind the blanket.
 - At the end of the game, the team that scores the most points wins.
 - Gather kids together and hold up each paper as you ask the kids to guess who wrote it.
 - Allow kids to share about the gift or talent they wrote down if they would like to.
 - Invite kids to name some ways that skill could be used to serve God and help others.
 - If time allows, play again with new rules.
 - Provide kids with another sheet of paper. Instead of a gift or talent, ask them to write down a possession or something they have that can be shared with 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, "Mustache Disguise" Activity Page, craft sticks, tape, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct the kids to look up 1 Peter 4:10 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.
- Instruct the kids to read the verse quietly, then call on a kid to read the verse aloud.
- Give each kid a craft stick, a pen, and a mustache from the “Mustache Disguise” Activity Page.
 - **[Make it personal] by participating in this activity with your group!**
- Depending on the number of kids in your group, assign each kid and yourself a portion of 1 Peter 4:10.
- Then, instruct each kid to write their assigned portion only on a mustache.
- Make tape available and model for the kids how to attach the top of a craft stick to the back of their mustache.
- Collect the mustaches and mix them up.
- Place the mustaches in a pile face down on the floor at one end of your group space.
- Direct the kids to form a line as far away from the pile of mustaches as possible.
- Explain to the kids that at your signal, they will take turns running to the mustaches, choosing one at random, and then running back.

- Once everyone has retrieved a mustache, challenge kids to hold them in front of their faces and arrange themselves in the order of the verse.
- Once the verse is in the correct order, recite 1 Peter 4:10 together, letting the kids say the portion on their mustaches.
- Discuss each sentence separately.
 - Why do you think God gives people different gifts?
 - *Note: It's easy for kids to identify specific talents, such as being intelligent and good at sports, art, or music. Help the kids think about skills that may not be as obvious but are talents God can use in unique ways. For example:*
 - *Love and care of animals*
 - *Cooking*
 - *Sense of humor*
 - *Creativity*
 - *Physical strength*
 - *Writing*
 - What gift(s) do you think God has given you?
 - What could be a benefit of using what you're good at to serve others?
- Repeat the mustache game and recite the verse if time and interest allow.