



## WEEK FOUR – MAY 2025 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *John's Disciples Follow Jesus | John 1:35-45*

**Key Question:** *How did you first hear about Jesus?*

**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 did you first hear about Jesus?** Everyone has a starting point in their faith journey. Thankfully God has placed people in our lives to help us grow. We don't have to figure out the hard parts on our own. We hope this question helps preteens think about their faith and who they can talk to when they want to learn more.

---

## 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 a few moments of quiet to pray. Ask God to help you remember how you felt when you first discovered the story of Jesus and what His death and resurrection meant for you.*
- *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:** Index cards, markers, “Informant” Activity Page

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of index cards and a marker (or pen).
- Designate a place for each team to stand on opposing sides of your group area.
- Choose a kid from each team to be an “Informant.”
- Explain that Informants help detectives solve problems by giving them important information.
- Share with the kids that in today’s game, the Informants from each team will receive a one-word message (only they can see it).
- The Informant’s job is to help their team collect all the letters for the word.
- The goal of the game is for each team to collect all the letters and reveal the message together!
- Invite the Informants from each team to stand beside you.
- Give each Informant a stack of cards from the “Informant” Activity Page and a marker (or pen).
  - *NOTE: Encourage “Informants” to use a marker or pen to cross off letters as they share them.*
- Explain how to play:
  - The Informants will select a card from their pile and look at the word closely.
  - Once the Leader signals the start of the game, one kid from each team must run to their Informant.
  - The Informant will share one letter from the selected card without revealing the word.

- *For example, if the word on the card is "SPY," the Informant could share the letter "P." They must share the letters out of order.*
- The runner must return to their team and write the letter on an index card.
- After the letter is written, each team will quickly send another kid to the Informant for a second letter.
- That kid must return to their group and write the second letter on a separate index card.
- Teams will continue repeating the process of sending runners to the informant, retrieving a letter, and returning to their team to write the letters revealed on separate index cards.
- Once all the letters are collected, teams must work together to figure out the message.
- After the first word is guessed for each team, give another kid a chance to be the informant.
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

“Great job, friends! You all really worked together to solve those words quickly! Actually, each word you solved today is a clue about today’s Bible Story.

*[Transition] Let’s go hear about how Jesus CALLED some FISHERMEN to be His DISCIPLES. They chose to FOLLOW Him and couldn’t wait to TELL OTHERS. Come with me!”*

---

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

---

**Large Group Overview:** For Week 4, we head to John 1:35-42 where we meet Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist. One day as John was with his disciples, they saw Jesus walking by. Jesus was the very same man John had been preparing his disciples for! So when the time came, John’s disciples left to go follow Jesus, and that decision led to more disciples following Jesus as they began to tell one another about Him.

---

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

---

**Bible Story Extension**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, pens, index cards

**What You Do:**

- Divide your group into teams of 2-3 kids and give each team a color name.
  - Select the color or allow the teams to come up with their own.
- Give each team a Bible, pen, and index card.
- Assign the team a portion of John 1:35-45 to read and look up.
  - *For example, the red team might look up verses 35-37, the yellow team 2 verses 38-40, and the purple team verses 41-45.*
- Consider using the Bible Navigation tips below:
  - ***Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 each team to choose 2-3 keywords from their verses.
- Share with the kids that a “keyword” can be the name of a person, place, or a word that sticks out to them in the verses.
- Direct the teams to write their keywords in list form on one side of the index card.

- How to play:
  - The team with the first part of the story will begin reading it from the Bible.
  - When they reach one of the keywords they chose, they must replace it with their team color and continue reading.
  - For example, if the yellow team chose “Rabbi” as one of their keywords, they would read, “*They said, “Yellow” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”*”
  - The challenge is for the other groups to figure out what the correct word should be.
    - *NOTE: Consider challenging the teams to find the answers without using their Bibles.*
- After each team reads, give the others a few moments to think about the missing words.
- Lead a discussion about the Bible Story:
  - Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God?
  - What examples in the story do you see of people sharing Jesus with others?
  - What examples of taking initiative can you find in this story?
  - What makes you most excited about telling others about Jesus?
- Tell kids that when people met Jesus and believed in Him, they were so excited that they didn’t wait for someone to ask about it. They immediately looked for ways to share the story of Jesus with others.
- Encourage kids to think of ways to open a conversation about Jesus with a friend (i.e., pray for them, invite them to a church event, share what they’ve been learning about Jesus this month at church, etc.)

### **Make It Personal with Prayer**

#### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Red crepe paper

**What You Do:**

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Hand a kid the red crepe paper roll.
- Instruct that kid to begin by holding onto the end of the roll and tossing the rest across the circle to another kid.
- The kid who catches the crepe paper should hold onto the paper in one hand and toss the rest of the roll to another kid with their other hand.
- Invite the kids to continue tossing the crepe paper in this way to create a “laser field.”
- Once everyone is holding a piece of crepe paper, invite kids to pray for the kid on the other end of their laser.
- Tell kids they can pray silently or aloud.
  - *Optional: Invite kids to share a prayer request or name a person they would like to share Jesus with this week.*
- Close the group with prayer.