



## WEEK ONE – JULY 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Jesus Forgives Peter | Colossians 3:13 (suppt. John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)*

**Bottom Line:** *Forgive one another*

**Memory Verse:** *“Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.”- Romans 15:5 (NIrV)*

**Virtue:** *Live It Out – Discover how to love like Jesus*

**Basic Truth:** *I should treat others the way I want to be treated*

**Series Overview:** Jesus is the greatest example of what it looks like to value others. Through the way He lived His life, Jesus taught us how to value one another. And when we follow Jesus, God’s Spirit helps us to live like Jesus—transforming not only us but the world around us.

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## 8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Connection Centers

*Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders*

**What You Need:** Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

### What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - Before kids arrive, pray for your group. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for being trustworthy and faithful in every situation. Thank God for sending Jesus as the perfect example of how to live! Ask God to help the kids in your group follow Jesus' example in their words and actions—no matter what challenges they face.
- *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.
  - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
    - “What’s something nice you did for someone this past week?”
    - “What’s been your favorite part of summer so far?”
    - “Can you tell me about something you are thankful for?”
    - “What’s your favorite thing to do with your family?”
    - “What’s the best part of your day when you are at school?”
    - “Who do you like to play with at home or school?”
- *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

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## **9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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### **Opening Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Beanbags; Walk-In Loop Music

### **What You Do:**

- Great each kid by name and with a high five as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Lead kids in a variation of the game “Hot Potato.”
  - Select a kid to start, and give them the beanbag (or soft item).
  - Begin the music, cueing the kids to pass the beanbag around the circle.
  - When you stop the music, instruct the kid holding the beanbag to quickly drop it.
- Add various challenges and extra fun:
  - Prompt the kids to change the passing direction when you shout, “SWITCH!”
  - Pass two objects at a time in different directions!
  - Vary how long you play the music before stopping it.

### **What You Say:**

“Excellent job, friends! *[Transition]* Today’s true story from the Bible shows us how fish, letting go, and Jesus come together to show us all something really special. Let’s go!”

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

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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.

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

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### **Jesus Forgives**

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

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Bible marked at John 21, “Campfire Recap” Activity Page, “Campfire” Activity Pages placed in sheet protectors, dry-erase markers, paper towels, and coloring supplies

**What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Ask: “How do you feel when you’ve done something that you know you shouldn’t do—like if you were to yell at someone, push someone, lie to a friend or an adult, or take something that didn’t belong to you?”
- Pause to give the kids space to respond about how they would feel. (*Kids may feel sad, or afraid they won’t be liked anymore, etc.*)
- ***[Make It Personal] Share with the kids how you feel when you’ve done something that hurts someone else’s feelings too.***
- Give every kid a “Campfire” Activity Page in a protective sleeve and a dry-erase marker.
- Direct the kids to scribble over their page to show how they described their feelings.
  - There is no “right” or “wrong” way for the kids to draw.
- Invite any kids who would like to share their drawings.
- Encourage the kids to share what they remember from today’s Bible Story.
- Respond by saying, “\_\_\_\_\_ (*name of kid*) remembers that Jesus forgave Peter and asked Peter if he loved Him.”
  - *NOTE: Rephrasing validates each kid’s voice and shows them that their words matter.*
- Open the marked Bible to John 21 to show kids where today’s Bible Story came from.
- One by one, read the bullet points from “Campfire Recap” Activity Page.
- Ask: “How do you think Peter felt after he denied his close friend, whom he loved, three times?”
  - (*Pause to accept responses. Kids might say sad, bad, terrible, etc.*)
- Ask: “Did Jesus stay angry at Peter? (*Answer: No!*)
- Ask: “What did Jesus do? (*Answer: Jesus forgave Peter.*)
- Give each kid a paper towel and direct the kids to erase the drawings on their sheet protector.
- Instruct the kids to remove the “Campfire” Activity Page from the sheet protector.
- Set the coloring supplies in the middle of the circle.

- Invite the kids to draw a picture of themselves and Jesus around the campfire image.

### **What You Say:**

*“After all that Peter had done, Jesus still loved him and forgave him! Jesus forgave Peter, and Jesus forgives YOU too, the moment you ask! I love looking at your drawings of yourself and Jesus around the campfire—I hope this reminds you just how much Jesus loves you! Jesus does MORE than just forgive you. He wants you to keep being His friend! He loves you more than you could ever imagine!*

*“So, every day, think about how much Jesus loves you and forgives you all the time. It’s because of Jesus’ love for us that we can ‘Live It Out’ and **[Bottom Line] forgive one another.**”*

### **Prayer Time**

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

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

**What You Need:** “Forgiveness Fish” Activity Pages, and coloring supplies

### **What You Do:**

- I Give every kid a card from the “Forgiveness Fish” Activity Page.
- Point out and read the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Forgive one another.**
- Repeat the Bottom Line together several times.
- Prompt the kids to think of someone they might need to forgive.
  - *If the kids are stumped, share responses, like: a friend, a sibling, a neighbor, a teammate, etc.*
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Direct kids to turn their cards over.
- Instruct the kids to draw a picture of the person they can forgive on the back of their card.
- Encourage kids to take the cards home as reminders that because Jesus forgives us, we can **[Bottom Line] forgive one another** too.

- Encourage the kids to hold their cards as you close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

*“Dear God, Your love for us is more amazing than we can imagine! Thank You SO much for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Thank You that You forgive us the moment we ask! Help us remember how You forgive us so that we can be like You and **[Bottom Line] forgive one another** too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] forgive one another**. Invite the kids to share their Forgiveness Fish cards.*