



WEEK ONE – JULY 2025 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What makes it hard to forgive?*

Memory Verse: *“As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did.”*
Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

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.

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

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

What You Need: small whiteboards, dry-erase markers, paper towels, timer

What You Do:

- Welcome kids with a smile as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into groups of two. It's okay if you have a group of three.
- Give each group a small whiteboard, a dry-erase marker, and a paper towel to clean their whiteboards.
- Direct the groups to select a kid to start and hand them the whiteboard and dry-erase marker.
- Explain how to play:
 - Each kid will take turns writing or drawing something on their board. This could be a word or a random doodle.
 - At the start of each kid's turn, the leader will set a timer for one minute.
 - After one minute, the kid who is drawing must stop and pass the whiteboard to the other kid.
 - That next kid will erase what's on the board completely, creating a "clean slate" for them to draw.
 - The leader will set the timer again and cue the kids to begin drawing.
- Set the timer for 1 minute and instruct the groups to begin.
- Play until each kid has had at least two turns.
- Ask:
 - What did it feel like to erase what was on your board?

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

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.

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Large craft sticks, “Voting Paddles” Activity Page, scissors, glue sticks, and “Would You Rather” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Give every kid two large craft sticks, scissors, and one “Voting Paddles” Activity Page.
- Make the glue sticks available.
- Instruct the kids to cut the “X” and the canoe apart on the dotted line.

- Tell the kids to glue each image onto a popsicle stick. Make sure they leave room to hold the sticks.
- Explain that they will use the paddles to vote on “Would you rather..” questions.
- Kids can respond to each question by:
 - Holding up the canoe paddle if they would rather forgive.
 - Holding up the X paddle if they would rather have the other choice.
- Read a question from the "Would You Rather" Activity Page.
- Encourage the kids to hold up their chosen paddle to vote.
- After every kid has voted, lead a discussion about that scenario.
- Continue reading the scenarios, allowing time for voting and discussion after each one.
- Create a safe space for kids to share their thoughts without swaying them one way or another.
 - *[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate example of a time you chose to forgive when it was hard. What made it hard to forgive? Has someone ever forgiven you? Share how that felt.*
- Share with kids that choosing to forgive doesn't mean you let someone keep hurting you. They should tell a grown-up they trust if this keeps happening.
- Forgiveness is a choice we can make every day, and making that choice frees us from getting bitter and helps us live more like Jesus.

Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Colorful sticky notes or bandanas; “Tag Review” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the group into three teams.
- Assign each team a specific color of sticky notes or bandanas.

- *For example, “red team” gets red sticky notes, “yellow team” gets yellow, “green team” gets green.*
- Select one kid from each team to be the "tagger."
- Give the remaining kids on each team their team's color sticky note or bandana (their “flag”).
- Instruct the taggers to attach the sticky notes or bandanas to themselves (on a shirt, pant leg, or arm).
- Explain the rules to the group.
 - The three taggers start in the center of the group area.
 - When the leader says "Go!" taggers will try to capture flags by pulling them off kids from the other teams.
 - If a tagger captures a flag, everyone must freeze.
 - The tagger will bring the flag to the leader.
 - The leader will ask that tagger a Bible story question from the “Tag Review” Activity Page
 - The taggers can ask their team for help with the answer.
 - If the tagger answers correctly, they can keep the flag.
 - If the tagger answers incorrectly, they must return the flag to its original owner.
 - Once the question is answered, the leader will call out “Go!” and the game will continue.
 - The game ends when all the Bible Story questions are answered.
- Ask another kid to share the correct answer to a question if a kid answers incorrectly.
- The team who captured the most flags wins!