



WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Noah | Genesis 6-9*

Conversation Starter: *When is it hard to trust God?*

Memory Verse: *“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.”- Hebrews 11:1 (NIRV)*

Insight: *Faith in God’s Son – I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn’t make sense*

Application: *Faith – Trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see*

Series Overview: Every story has a beginning. As we explore Creation, the Fall and other pivotal moments in the origin of our faith, kids will discover that not only did God create everything, but even after people chose to go their own way, God had a plan to restore us. We can see how God faithfully began to fulfill that plan in Abram’s call and in the lives of Jacob and Joseph—and we look forward to the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus. When kids see how God has worked in the past, they can grow in faith that our faithful God continues to work in and through each person who chooses to follow Jesus.

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 for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God gave you courage when you faced a fear. Ask God to strengthen the kids in your group with courage when they face their own fears. Pray they will remember that God is bigger than anything that makes them afraid! Ask God to give them faith like Joshua and Caleb, even when others around them doubt.**
- *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:
 - ***“What's one memory from this summer that you think you'll remember for a long time? Why is it so memorable”***
 - ***“If you could invent a new app or video game, what would it be called and what would it do”***
 - ***“What's one skill you're hoping to learn or improve this school year, either at school or outside of it”***

- *“What’s one small thing that always makes you smile or brightens your day?”*
- *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

What You Need: Buckets (or Laundry Baskets); Stuffed Animals; Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a basket and four stuffed animals.
- Designate starting lines for both teams with cones or floor tape.
- Direct a kid from each team to stand a few feet away from their team’s starting line with the basket.
- Instruct the teams to line up behind their starting line.
- Direct the first kid in line to stand with their back facing the kid with the basket.
- Give the first kid in line the four stuffed animals. Instruct them to hold one of the stuffed animals and place the other three at their feet.
- Explain the Toss Challenge:
 - Challenge the kid at the start line to toss the stuffed animals over their shoulder, one at a time, aiming for the basket.
 - The basket holder should try to catch them.

- If the team doesn't successfully get their stuffed animals in the basket, their team can quickly retrieve the stuffed animals and keep going.
- Retrieve the four stuffed animals and give the next kid in line a turn.
- The team that successfully catches all of their stuffed animals first wins!
- Play until every kid gets a chance to throw the stuffed animals.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If any kids aren't comfortable tossing over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward.
- Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kids feel included and engaged.

What You Say:

“If you think it was a challenge to toss stuffed animals into a basket behind your back, wait until you hear about a man in our true story from the Bible today, who had to trust God to do something really EPIC! Let's go!”

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

After Adam and Eve left Eden, few people loved God. But Noah did. When God told Noah to build an enormous boat, Noah trusted and obeyed, even though the ark likely took decades to construct. Noah continued to trust, even when God instructed him to go into the ark with animals of every kind. He trusted even through 40 days of rain and many long months on the flood waters. And in the end, God delivered Noah and his family.

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Paper; Pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Ask the kids to write or draw a situation when it would be hard for them to trust God.
- To get the kids started, share an example:
 - *“A friend stops talking to you and starts hanging out with another group of kids. You don’t know why, and it hurts. It could feel hard to trust that God has a good plan when you feel left out and alone.”*
- Encourage kids to share (if comfortable) why the situation they chose would be challenging.
 - ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story from your own life when trusting God was difficult. Was there a truth about who God is, or a story from the Bible that encouraged you?)***
- Explain the Folding Challenge:
 - Ask kids to estimate how many times they can fold their paper in half before they can no longer fold it.
 - Instruct the kids to write their guesses on the back of the piece of paper.
 - Each kid is to fold their paper one fold at a time, counting each one. (Most will reach a max of seven folds.)
- Celebrate the closest guessers and every kid’s participation!
- Discuss:
 - How might tough times shake our trust in God?
 - What can we do when we don’t understand why something is happening?
 - How does trusting God help us grow stronger like the folded paper?
- Encourage the kids:
 - *To take the folded paper home as a reminder that even when things don’t make sense, God is with you!*

- *Just like the paper got tougher, your faith grows stronger when you trust God!*
- *Remember, God is good and He is still at work! When things are confusing, trust God one step at a time.*
- *Pray—share your feelings with God and ask God to help you have faith!*
- *Read the Bible and remember who God is and what God has done!*

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If a kid doesn't want to share, allow them to listen and reflect instead.
- Consider pairing the kids up to fold the paper—one can hold it while the other presses it down. Instead of folding the paper, kids who are struggling can also count every time another kid folds theirs.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; Prepared Origami Boat Example; “Origami Boat” Activity Page; “Origami Instructions” Activity Page; Pencils

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1 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.

- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Discuss Hebrews 11:1.
 - What does this verse tell us about faith?
 - When have you had to trust God without knowing how things would turn out?
 - How does this verse help you trust God more?
- Give each kid a pen (or pencil) and a triangle from the “Origami Boat” Activity Page.
- Show the kids your origami boat example.
- Give each kid the “Origami Instructions” Activity Page and walk them through the folding process.
 - If a kid is struggling, encourage them to work with another kid.
 - Explain each step one at a time, waiting for each kid to finish before explaining the next step.
- Once everyone's finished, encourage them to write “Hebrews 11:1” on the origami boat.
- Encourage the kids to use their boat as a Bible bookmark for Hebrews 11:1.
- Share with the kids:
 - *Noah had faith and obeyed God even before he saw the flood.*
 - *Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.*
 - *God is good, He is always working for good, so we can trust God no matter what!*

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Give a kid in the circle the marked Bible, and invite them to read Psalm 145:3.
- Ask:
 - “Think back on today’s Bible Story about Noah. What did you see about God’s power?”
 - “What did you see about God’s patience, love, or God’s attitude toward sin?”
- Let several kids share their thoughts.
- Invite kids to participate in a call-and-response prayer.
- Begin praying, filling in the blanks with what kids share.
 - *(Leader)* “Dear God, thank You for being . . . *(fill in with one of the qualities kids named)*.”
 - *(Kids)* “I can trust You even when I don’t understand.”
 - *(Leader)* “We can have faith because we know You are . . . *(fill in the blank with something about God’s character)*.”
 - *(Kids)* “I can trust You even when I don’t understand.”
 - *(Leader)* “When it’s hard to trust You this week, remind us that . . .”
 - *(Kids)* We can trust You even when we don’t understand.”
- Close the prayer by thanking God for being so good and for loving us so much. Ask God to help the kids grow to trust Him more every day.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Encourage kids to participate in praying aloud to their comfort level. Give kids the option to whisper their response or reflect quietly.