



WEEK ONE – NOVEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Elijah + Prophets of Baal | 1 Kings 18:16-45*

Conversation Starter: *What seems impossible to you?*

Memory Verse: *“Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.”- Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)*

Insight: *Identity Based on God’s Image – I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth*

Application: *Confidence – Living like you believe God is with you*

Series Overview: God chose a people and promised through them to bless the whole world. And God fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus to rescue and redeem us. When we begin to understand this story and allow it to inform everything in our lives, we can live from a place of quiet confidence, knowing God is always with us and is able to work every single thing we face into a beautiful pattern for our good. This month, we’re exploring some larger-than-life characters from God’s story who lived during the decline of Israel and Judah and the following exile. These individuals chose to—or failed to—place the full weight of their lives on trust in God. Through stories of Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah we see how making choices from a foundation of trust changes everything about the way you live.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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 before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time! Thank God that your confidence is grounded in Him, not in how capable or impressive you feel. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you felt outnumbered or unsure but chose to trust God anyway. Thank God for how He showed up! Ask God to meet preteens in their moments of self-doubt or peer pressure. Pray they would believe that trusting God when it's not popular is still worth it, and that He can do the impossible in their everyday lives.**
- *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 is one skill or talent that someone taught you this year, and why are you thankful they took the time to teach you?*
 - *Think of a small, helpful thing you do every day that you are thankful you can do. (Like walking to the bus, packing your lunch, or remembering to pray.)*

- *When you are having a tough day, what's the best thing a friend or leader can say to you?*
- *Would you rather be famous for winning a million dollars or for doing something amazing that helps the whole world?*
- *If you had to choose: never use a screen again or never eat your favorite food again? Why?*
- *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

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: “Image Cards” Activity Page; 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.
- Before you begin, show and name each “Image Cards” Activity Page card.
 - *Fire, water, a log, and a jar.*
- Encourage the kids to stand in separate areas of your group space.
- Tape one card (face out) on each kid’s back. Tell the kid what is on their back, but try not to let anyone else see the card that is on the kid’s back.
- Share the goal:
 - “One at a time, one person will come to the center. All of the other kids will try to figure out what’s taped to that kid’s back by moving quickly enough to see it! If you’re in the middle and someone shouts

out what’s on your back, you’re out, and I will choose another kid to go.

- Repeat until every kid has had a chance to play.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- *Instead of running, try this seated version:*
 - *Give each kid a card and divide the group into two teams. Tell them not to show anyone yet.*
 - *Teams take turns helping their teammates guess what’s on their cards using clues.*
 - *The first team to guess all of their cards correctly wins!*

What You Say:

“You all are SO fast, and that was really fun! You had no idea what was on the other kids’ backs, but you went for it! Water, fire, logs, and a jar?”

“This might’ve seemed like just a silly game, but we’ll hear more about these things today in our true story from the Bible, where a man named Elijah showed us what it means to put our confidence in the one and only true God. Come with me!”

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

We start off with Elijah on Mount Carmel. King Ahab had led the people far from God—and for three years, the land had received no rain. But Elijah was so confident in God that he challenged 450 prophets of Baal to a duel-by-fire-from heaven. These prophets placed their confidence in a false god. But when Elijah called out to the one true God, the answer was explosive!

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Say, “I am going to share several scenarios. For each scenario, I’ll also share two possible responses you could have to each scenario. I’ll point to the side of the room that corresponds with each response. With your group, talk about what trusting God might look like in each scenario, and then as a group, travel to one side of the room or the other.”
- One at a time, call out the “What’s My Move?” scenarios and point to the side of the room that corresponds with each response.
- Give the groups a moment to think, talk, and travel to the side of their choice together.
- **“What’s My Move?” Scenarios**
 - I feel scared about trying something new.
 - *Pray and wait on God OR try it even if I still feel afraid.*
 - When I know someone who’s hurting.
 - *Send them a message OR go talk to them and let them know I care.*
 - When I don’t understand what God is doing.
 - *Ask questions and look for answers in the Bible OR trust that I may not know right now and that’s okay.*
 - When you want to share your faith.
 - *Invite someone to church OR be a good friend and let them see how much Jesus loves them by the way you treat them.*

- When life feels too hard or too big ...
 - *Tell a trusted adult or friend what you're going through OR take some quiet time to talk it out with God.*
- A friend did something that hurt you.
 - *Choose to forgive right away, OR take time to pray and ask God for help forgiving.*
- *NOTE: Point out that all of those answers could've been the right move. Encourage the kids to listen to God, pray, and act boldly in confidence trusting that He goes with them in everything!*
 - Why didn't Elijah back down when everything else around him was hopeless?
 - How does it help to know the Holy Spirit is in you if you've chosen to follow Jesus?
- Say: "God can do the impossible! Sometimes, you still might not know what to do next. And although your next choice may not be clear, there is one thing that is clear: following God and His ways is always the right move. Elijah didn't know how things would turn out, but he just followed God, and God showed up. That is all God asks of you too!"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- For an option with less movement, complete this activity with everyone seated. The kids can point to their choices.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; Plain paper; coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible.

- Invite them to look up Isaiah 40:31 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.*
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids, and repeat the verse together several times.
- Give each group a piece of plain paper.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Challenge each group to come up with 4-5 simple symbols (or emojis) that could represent key parts of the verse.
- If using the NIV, encourage the kids to break the verse up like this:
 - *Those who hope in the Lord*
 - *will renew their strength.*
 - *They will soar on wings like eagles;*
 - *they will run and not grow weary.*
 - *they will walk and not be faint.*
- Encourage the kids to work together to draw their symbols on plain paper with coloring supplies.
- Once everyone is finished, invite several groups to share their symbols and why they chose them.
- Ask:
 - What do you think it means to trust in the Lord?
 - Why do you think new strength is a gift God gives when you trust Him?

- Say, “The symbols you made can help you carry Isaiah 40:31 with you everywhere you go. Whether you feel tired, alone, or hopeless, you can always trust God to give you strength!”

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If it’s more comfortable for your kids to create motions to remember Isaiah 40:31, invite them to come up with a movement for each part of the verse.

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Blocks; Pens; Sticky notes

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Begin playing the worship music softly.
- Give every kid:
 - One block
 - One sticky note
 - One pen or pencil
- Say: “We will all face things that feel tough or impossible.”
- Invite them to take a moment and think about something in their lives that feels that way.
 - *Maybe they’re struggling to make friends at a new school, or maybe they’re ready to give up on learning a new skill.*
- Invite the kids to draw or write that “impossible thing” on their sticky note.
 - *NOTE: Use this opportunity to have a conversation about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! If you need help with what to say ask your ministry leader.*
- Once they’re ready, encourage each kid to:
 - Bring the block to the center of the circle.

- Add it to the group tower or stack.
- Whisper or silently say aloud a short prayer like, “God, I trust You with this.”
 - *NOTE: Let them know they can place their block and sticky note face down on the tower if they prefer to keep it private.*
- Close the group in prayer. Ask God to help the kids trust that He goes with them in everything they face. Ask God to help them remember that they can go through life confidently because the strongest goes with them! His presence with them in everything will be a firm foundation for each of their lives!