



WEEK TWO – OCTOBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Joshua + The Spies | Numbers 13-14:35*

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

Memory Verse: *“It is for freedom Christ has set you free.” – Galatians 5:1 (NIRV)*

Insight: *God’s Spirit/Transformation – God’s Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus*

Application: *Courage – When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.*

Series Overview: God has given each of us a key role to play in His story—but that doesn’t mean the journey will be easy. As we continue to follow the journey of God’s people, we discover that Moses wasn’t ready for his leading role; that Joshua and Caleb had to go against the flow; that Rahab put everything on the line for the sake of a God worshiped by her enemies; and that Ruth set aside the safety of home to forge into the unknown. God’s people were on the move, but every new step was an act of courage. While the kids in your ministry aren’t facing down an Egyptian ruler or setting off for new lands, they still need courage to do difficult things every single day. From speaking up in class to starting a conversation with a new kid to facing a doctor visit, kids need the help of God’s Holy Spirit. You can remind them that feeling scared doesn’t mean they can’t be brave. In fact, courage means trusting God to help you be brave. When kids choose to rely on God’s help to do something hard, even when they’re afraid, others can see God at work.

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. Thank God for each preteen in your group and for the ways He is working in their lives. Recall a time when you felt afraid but chose to trust God. Thank Him for giving you courage when you needed it most. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help us be brave, even when others around us are afraid. Ask God to help you remind the preteens that they don't have to face fear on their own because He is always with them. Pray that they would learn to focus on God's presence and His promises instead of their fears! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give them the courage to do what's right, even when it feels scary.**
- *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 :
 - ***“You get to pick one tool to carve a pumpkin: a spoon, a tiny saw, or a giant potato peeler. Which one do you choose and what kind of jack-o'-lantern face will you make with it?”***

- *“Describe your perfect fall afternoon. What food are you eating, who are you with, and what are you doing?”*
- *“You are in charge of planning the best fall festival ever. What is one super-unique game or food booth you would make sure to include?”*
- *“Would you rather have to rake a giant pile of leaves every day for a month, or be forced to eat only pumpkin-flavored food for a whole week?”*
- *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: Pieces of Painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, mark small lines in your group space for each kid to stand on.
- Instruct the kids to stand on a piece of floor tape or on a floor dot.
- Say, “We’re about to play a fun game, and listening is key! I’ll call out several actions for you to do, and you are to move in that direction! If you make a wrong move, sit down until the next round!”
- Challenge the kids by speeding up the actions you call out!
- Reset and keep playing quick rounds so no one sits out too long.
- Gather the group to discuss.
 - **Actions to call out:**

- “Front”
- “Back”
- “Left”
- “Right”
- “JUMP!”
- “Touch the ground.”

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- To modify movements, allow the kids to choose how far or fast they move. Or, invite them to point instead of moving.
- Keep the energy of this game pressure-free and fun!

What You Say:

“That was so fun! It took some serious focus to make the right move. Sometimes life feels like this—when we’re unsure which way to go or wonder if we’ll make the right choice. *[Transition]* **Well, today’s true story from the Bible is about Joshua and some spies who went into an unknown land. Most of them focused on their fears, but two of them put their focus on God, and it made all the difference! Let’s go hear the story!**”

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

After a long journey through the wilderness, Moses and God’s people neared the land that God had promised to them. But when Moses sent out twelve spies to survey the land, they came back with mixed reports. While the spies all agreed the land was full of good things, ten of the spies were fearful of the people who lived there in strong, walled cities. Joshua and Caleb alone encouraged the people that God was with them and would help them take the land. But when God’s people gave in to panic instead of listening to Joshua, God told Moses the people must now wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Only Joshua and Caleb would live to enter the Promised Land.

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: “My Journey” Activity Page, coloring supplies, pencils, and a device for playing music

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “My Journey” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Use the device to play soft worship music in the background while kids work on the activity.
- Walk through the page one prompt at a time.
 - Mountain: Think about a challenge you’ve faced that felt hard—something that felt too big to face alone. Write about it or draw a picture in this box.
 - Bridge: Think of a time you did something brave and knew God was with you and was helping you. Use this box to praise God for being with you and giving you courage!
 - River: What’s something coming up where you need to ask God for courage? Maybe you’re trying out for a new sport, or you want to stand up for a friend being picked on. Ask God for help in this box.
- Fill out a “My Journey” Activity Page with the kids.
- Give the kids time between each prompt to process and reflect.
- Once everyone is finished, lead them to form groups of two or three to discuss their “My Journey” Activity Page together.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you had to be brave and trusted the Holy Spirit to help you. Maybe you wanted to try out for a new sports team, or perhaps it was leading this Small Group!)***
- Point out 2 Timothy 1:7 on the Activity Page.

- Ask: What do you think this verse is saying?
- “Whenever you feel fear, that fear is **not** from God! It’s like a shadow trying to dim your light. God Himself lives inside you through His Spirit, and He gives us power and love!”
- “God’s Spirit gives you power. The kind of strength you need to do what’s right, even when it’s hard.
- God’s Spirit gives you love. The kind of love you need to care about others and put others first.
- God’s Spirit gives you self-control. The kind of wisdom you need to know when to take the brave step, and when to wait.”
- Explain that when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in them, so they can be closer to God, and help them be more like Jesus.
- Encourage kids that God knew life would be scary at times, but He is with them all of the time and can help them be brave, no matter what they’re up against.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Some kids might not work well with soft music playing—that’s okay! Opt out of playing music if this is the case.
- Allow kids to keep their reflections private if they choose to do so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- What are people afraid of?
- Why do you think most of the spies were too afraid to move forward, even though God had promised them the land?

- Can you recall a time you believed something was possible when others were afraid or unsure?
- What's something you feel nervous about or unsure you can do?
- How can remembering that God is the strongest help you face what you are facing?
- When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you! What do you think it means to know that God is with you?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.
- Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: "Compass Prayer" Activity Pages, clipboards, plain paper, and pencils

What You Do:

- Before you begin, spread the four "Compass Prayer" Activity Pages out (North, South, East, West) so they visually form a compass around your group area.
- Give each kid a clipboard, a piece of plain paper, and a pencil.
- Instruct them to draw a compass shape on their page like this, "+"
- Starting with "North," lead your group to travel to each "Compass Prayer" Activity Page, read the prompt, and respond to it on their paper.
- Encourage them not to rush, this is a personal moment for reflection and connection with God!
- Close in prayer.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Invite kids to draw instead of writing full sentences.