



## WEEK TWO – NOVEMBER 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Jonah | Jonah 1-3*

**Bottom Line:** *God knows what's best*

**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

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**8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | 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 before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for never giving up on you, even when you’ve tried to run or hide. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you felt like you were far from God, but He kept reaching for you! Ask God to remind each kid that His presence isn’t based on our performance. Pray that kids would be confident that He is with them at school, at home, on hard days, and on good days. Pray they would feel God's love chasing after them, even when they make mistakes.**
- *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 the nicest thing someone did for you this week?”***
    - ***“What is one thing that God made that you think is extra cool? (Like a sunset, a dog, or a tree”***
    - ***“Do you like to play outside or inside more when it's cold?”***

- *“Do you like hot chocolate or apple cider more?”*
- *“When you grow up, what is one thing you want to teach someone else how to do?”*
- *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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**9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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## **OPENING ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Swedish Fish; Plastic cups; bowls; timer

### **What You Do:**

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Place a handful of Swedish Fish<sup>®</sup> candies in the center of a table or flat surface.
- Place a bowl on the opposite end of the table.
- Select two kids to start. Give them each two plastic cups and demonstrate how to place their hands in the cups.
- Explain the goal:
  - The kids must move as many fish as they can from the table into the bowl by catching the fish candies between the cups.
  - Say, “You’ll try to catch the fish between your cups (no fingers) and carry them to the bowl!”
- Set a timer for 30-60 seconds and cheer them on!

- Count the fish to see who “caught” the most and reset the fish in a pile in the middle of a table.
- Continue until every kid gets a turn.

**Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- Meet the mobility needs of your group by playing this activity around a table.
- Offer the option of holding the cups instead of placing their hands inside the cups, and allowing kids to push the fish while holding the cups.

**What You Say:**

“What a silly way to go fishing! Amazing job, everyone!”

**“In today’s true story from the Bible, we’ll hear about a fish MUCH bigger than these and a man named Jonah who tried to run away from God. Let’s head to Large Group to discover how God used a fish, a storm, and even a second chance to show just how much He loves us!”**

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

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During Week 2, we’ll meet a prophet known for his lack of confidence. God told Jonah to go preach to Israel’s enemies. But Jonah didn’t trust God to take care of him—so he hopped onboard a ship heading in the opposite direction. A storm blew up, and Jonah ended up in the belly of a giant fish. Jonah cried out to God and was spit up on dry land. But when he reluctantly traveled to Ninevah and the people actually repented, Jonah just about choked on sour grapes, unable to handle God’s mercy to his enemies

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

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## **Jump If You...**

### **[Live For God | Application Activity]**

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to stand in a big circle.
- Explain how to play:
  - Say, “I’m going to say a sentence that starts with, ‘Jump in the middle if you ...’ If the sentence is true for you, take a big jump into the middle of the circle, then jump back to your spot.”
- Demonstrate by reading the first statement.
- Read the statements slowly, one by one, and give the kids time to respond.
- After the final statement, invite the kids to sit down, and discuss.
  - **Jump in the Middle If You ...**
    - Have brown eyes
    - Like broccoli
    - Have a brother
    - Like chocolate ice cream
    - Like roller coasters
    - Love to read
    - Like to eat tacos
    - Don’t like sour candy
    - Have a younger sister
    - Love math the most
    - Are wearing red
    - Are at church today

#### **Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- To adjust to the mobility of your group, instead of instructing the kids to “jump,” lead them to raise their hand, nod their head, or spin in place.

**What You Say:**

“Some of these things—like what you’re wearing or what ice cream you like—are things people can see or hear about you. But other things about you are more personal, like how you feel when you're nervous, or who you pray for at night.

“We have to ask each other to find out those things about each other. BUT God knows it all! He knows every little thing about you—even the number of hairs on your head! (Luke 12:7)

“God knows every little thing about you! And there’s something else God knows about you—He knows every little thing that is going on in your life!

“He knows if there is a mean kid whom you are trying to be kind to. He knows that you’re nervous about your spelling test. He knows that you’re trying to do your math work instead of playing video games. God knows when you’re happy or sad, when you need help, or when you’re trying really hard to make a good choice.

“God is your closest, closest friend. He knows everything about you, and He loves you so much! And He goes through every bit of life with you. So talk to Him about everything!

“In everything you are facing in your life, He wants to guide you to goodness. God is good and His ways are good.

“That means He’s the best One to lead us. When you’re not sure what to do, or when things feel too big or confusing, you can stop and pray to your friend who is right with you, ‘God, I trust You. Show me what’s best.’ God is with you, so take a deep breath and follow Him wherever He leads you! Do whatever He tells you to do. Because God is always guiding you to goodness. **God knows what’s best.**”

**JUMPING VERSE**

**[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

**What You Need:** Bibles; Floor tape

**What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each group a Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.
  - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** *Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.*
  - ***Finding verses with 1st graders:*** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book’s name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.*
- Use the floor tape to make a line on the floor.
- Instruct the kids to line up single file behind the line.
- Explain that you will say the verse together as a group, jumping after each phrase.
  - This is the Memory Verse in the NIrV:
    - *But those who trust in the Lord (jump) will receive new strength. (jump) They will fly as high as eagles (jump) They will run and not get tired. (jump) They will walk and not grow weak. (jump) Isaiah 40:31 (NIrV)*

- *Optional: Repeat the activity with various motions (clap, spin, tiptoe, stomp, or pretend to fly).*
- Gather the group together to discuss.

### **Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- Adjust to the mobility needs of your group by trying various motions (like clapping, tapping a knee, or raising both arms).
- If the group is large or high-energy, split them into two groups to give everyone space to move.

### **What You Say:**

“The Bible is one big book full of truth! It’s got two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our Memory Verse this month comes from the book of Isaiah, which is in the Old Testament! Isaiah was someone God chose to send a message from Him to His people. They were feeling really tired and weak. But Isaiah reminded them of this awesome truth: When you trust in God, He gives you new strength! And guess what? That promise is for us too!

“Whatever you’re facing, God can give you strength. Maybe you’ve been doing the right thing over and over and over, like being kind to the new kid, and you’re tired. Maybe you’ve been working really hard to learn how to read and write, and you’re tired. Life is hard, and we can get tired! We need new strength!

“But God is the strongest! And when we trust that the strong God is with us, this verse promises that He will give us strength. If you are feeling all wimpy and tired, God is the strong One. You can pray to Him, and He can help you be stronger because He is strong. When you trust in Him, He will give you new strength so you can keep going and not get so tired! Keep practicing these motions at home and remember: **God can do the impossible!**”

### **PRAYER TIME**

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

**What You Need:** Index cards; coloring supplies

**What You Do:**

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Invite kids to close their eyes and think about something they might not want to do, even though they know it's the right thing and God's way.
  - Share examples like being kind to someone who isn't kind, telling the truth, helping a sibling, doing something that feels scary.
- Say, "Now let's all take a quiet moment to talk to God about it! You can ask God to help you trust Him."
- Offer index cards and coloring supplies for kids who may prefer to draw or write their prayers to God instead of praying silently!
  - This gives visual and kinesthetic learners a hands-on way to reflect and connect with God.
- Close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

*"Dear God, we are so grateful that You are always good and we can trust You and follow Your ways no matter what! Sometimes it's hard to do what's right. Sometimes we want to run away from things we don't like or don't understand. Help us to trust that You are good, and You know what's best. Help us to stop and pray when we feel afraid or unsure. Help us to trust You and obey. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"*

***[As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to talk to their parents about how Jonah finally chose to trust God after some crazy circumstances because God knows what's best.]***