



WEEK FOUR – NOVEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Esther | Esther 1-10*

Conversation Starter: *When has someone stood up for 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 He sees and values every voice, no matter the age! Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you were able to stand up for someone who needed help or speak up with love and courage. Ask God to help preteens understand that they don't need to wait until they're older to be used by Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them see the people around them who need to see God's love, kindness, and truth, and to act on what He shows 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.
 - 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: 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.
- Before you begin:
 - Create a large circle or square with floor tape.
- Divide the kids into two teams (or more, depending on your group's size).
- Explain: "Each team will choose a kid whom they'll protect. That kid's identity must stay a secret!"
- Direct the teams to secretly choose a kid to protect, and then stand on opposite sides of the tape zone you created.

- On your “go!” the teams will walk (no running!) toward the zone, trying to get as many teammates—including the selected kid—inside as possible.
- In the zone, the teams must try to protect their selected kid from being tagged by the other team.
- Each opposing team can try to gently tag three people from the other team.
- If they tag a regular player, that player steps out for one round. If they tag the real VIP, the round is over!
- Play several rounds, switching selected kids each time.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Remind the group to use gentle tags if tagging and to include everyone.

What You Say:

“That was so fun! How did it feel to be protected by your team? *(Invite responses.)*”

“Standing up for others can feel hard and complex. Sometimes we don’t know who needs us to stand up for them, or what will happen if we do.”

“Today, in our true story from the Bible, we’ll discover a woman named Esther who stood up for others even though it was risky for her. Let’s go hear more and discover how God can help us stand up for others too!”

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

Next up, in Week 4, we’re back in foreign lands with the story of Esther. After catching King Xerxes’ eye, Esther was made queen. But when a plot was set in motion that would destroy all the Jewish exiles in Persia, Esther knew that even her royal position couldn’t save her. So relying on her confidence in God, she went before the king to beg for the lives of her people.

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

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: “Block Sort” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct each team to sit together in a circle.
- Give each group a set of cards from the “Block Sort” Activity Page.
- Say, “You’ll work as a team to sort these cards! Think about which words describe someone who is putting their confidence in God, like Esther from our Bible Story. As your team chooses a word, use it as a ‘block’ to help build a castle or tower in the middle of your team!”
- Remind the kids that some words describe someone whose confidence is in God, and some don’t.
- As they finish, review the chosen words and discuss why each one fits (or doesn’t).
- Discuss why the other words do not fit.
- *[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you stood up for someone, or for a group of people who needed help, even when it felt tough. Explain how God helped you do it!)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- When has someone stood up for you?

- Why do you think it's important to stand up for others, even if it's risky or uncomfortable?
 - What might happen if no one stands up for someone who needs help?
- Just like Esther, God has placed you to live exactly where you are at this exact time—in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church. Since He has placed you exactly where you are to help, who do you think He wants you to help? What do you think He wants you to do?
- What do you think it sounds like or feels like when God is guiding you to help or stand up for someone?

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: Small ball

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Say, "We all need confidence and courage, just like Esther—and God wants to give it to us every day! Today, we will pray for each other. When I toss you the ball, you can pray out loud or silently for God to give us the confidence to stand up for others. Ready?"
- Start the prayer, and pass the ball to a kid in the circle.
- Continue passing the ball around until every kid gets a chance to pray.
- Close in prayer together.