
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, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for those who have already discovered a relationship with Jesus and are following Him. Pray that the Spirit would change them, continuously renewing their hearts and minds so they can be more like Jesus. Pray for those who haven't yet taken a step of faith. Ask God to begin to draw them in and to use the time your group spends together to reach those who don't yet have a relationship with Jesus.*
- *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's one moment from this week you'll probably remember for a long time?*
 - *If this week had a title, what would it be?*
 - *What's something you're excited about that's coming up soon?*
 - *Would you rather be really fast OR really strong? How would you use your speed or strength?*

- *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: any type of building toy—Magnatiles, Legos, blocks, etc...

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to build together
- Challenge them by saying, “What can you build with these things?”
- Encourage them to work together or on their own to build anything they can imagine—a tower, a robot, a car, or a castle.
- Give them plenty of time to build and create.

What You Say:

“Wow, look at all the amazing things you built! You are all such great builders. Today in our true story from the Bible, we’re going to hear about two different builders. One was very wise, and one was ... not so wise. Let’s go find out what they built!”

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

We’re staying in The Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus wraps up his teaching

with the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders. Anyone who hears Jesus' words and actually DOES them is like a wise man who built his house on a solid foundation of rock. When a wild storm whipped up, that house stood strong. But people who hear Jesus' words and don't follow through are just like a foolish man who slaps together a home on the sand—one that collapses when the wind comes. Truly hearing from God means putting what you hear into action. Kids can be confident that God does speak to them because, as we read in John 10:27-28, Jesus is the good shepherd and we are His sheep. And a sheep KNOWS the shepherd's voice. [BOTTOM LINE] Practice hearing from God.

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

SEE THE VERSE

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids to listen closely as you read a verse or verses from the Bible.
- As you read the verses from the Bible, encourage the kids to make a motion or movement that relates to the verse. (e.g. “God so loved the world” could be heart hands or making the world with their hands in a circle above their head.)
- Read the verses one at a time and give the kids time to think and move.
 - John 3:16
 - Philippians 4:6
 - Psalm 119:105
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

What You Say:

“Great job! One of the ways we can hear from God is through the Bible! The Bible teaches us who God is and how to live like Jesus.

“We also learned today that there are two other main ways God speaks to us: God speaks to us through other people who love Him. And He speaks to us through His Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us and tells us ways to make our world look more like God’s Kingdom. Like when He says, ‘That girl looks lonely. Why don’t you invite her to play with you?’

“When we hear from God, what we hear will always, always, always line up with what we hear in the Bible. The Bible is truth, and we’ll know we are hearing from God when what we hear lines up with the truth of the Bible!

“So let’s read the Bible! That’s one main way we can **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.**”

BOOKMARK VERSE

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Plain Bookmarks; Tassels; Stickers; Coloring Supplies; Bibles

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips.
 - *Finding verses for 2-3rd 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. When they 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 correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.*
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

- Share that “being godly” means getting to know God and following His good ways!
- Give each kid a bookmark.
- Make the coloring supplies and stickers available.
- Tell the kids they are going to make a special bookmark to use in their Bibles at home.
- Encourage them to decorate their bookmark however they would like.
- While they work, say this month’s Memory Verse together a few times:
 - *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8 NIrV)*
- When they are done decorating, help them put the tassel on the bookmark.

What You Say:

“These bookmarks look fantastic! You can use these to mark your spot in your Bible when you read it. Reading the Bible is one of the best ways we [**Bottom Line**] practice hearing from God.”

ROCK IT

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Large Flat Rock; Paint markers

What You Do:

- Let each kid hold the rock and feel how strong and solid it is.
- Tell them that we want to build our lives on a firm foundation like Jesus talked about in our Bible Story today.
- Ask: “What is one thing you want to pray for this week?”
- As each kid shares, invite them to use a permanent marker to write their name on the rock.

[Make It Personal] (Share one thing you want to pray for this week and write your name on the rock.)

What You Say:

“This rock can help us remember that we can hear from God! He is strong, and we can build our lives on a firm foundation by listening to what God says and doing what He says. Let’s pray and thank God for that.”

“Dear God, thank You that You speak to us. Help us to hear what You say and do what You say so we can build our lives on a firm foundation, like this rock. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”