



WEEK TWO – JANUARY 2026 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: The Lord's Prayer - *Matthew 6:9-13*

Conversation Starter: *What do you pray about?*

Memory Verse: *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 NIV*

Bottom Line: *Practice praying to God.*

Series Overview: While choosing to follow Jesus is the most important decision a kid can make, it's only the first step! Learning to live and love like Jesus is a lifelong journey that can feel big and abstract for kids. That's why it's so important to provide handholds for kids (and grownups!) to grow in four specific areas of spiritual formation. We call these Faith Skills: Hear from God, Pray to God, Talk about God, and Live for God. This month, we'll walk through all four skills as displayed in the life of Jesus. Kids will discover the value of talking with others about God through the story of young Jesus in the Temple. They'll practice praying to God through The Lord's Prayer and hearing from God in the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. We end the month with the story of Jesus choosing Levi, also known as Matthew, to follow Him—and how Matthew left everything he knew to begin living for God. Just like learning a new instrument or skill, it takes commitment and a game plan to follow Jesus. But as kids learn to spend time daily practicing Faith Skills, even for a short time, they will become more and more like Jesus.

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 that as kids learn more about Jesus, they'll be drawn to a relationship with Him and have a desire to follow Him. Ask God to guide you as you encourage your few in their relationships with Jesus. Pray that you would be able to model this for them in a real, authentic way.**
- *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 thing you did over winter break that you wish you could do again tomorrow?*
 - *If your winter break had a theme song or movie title, what would it be and why?*
 - *What's something new you tried over break—food, game, place, or activity?*

- *What's one thing you're actually looking forward to this year?*
- *Would you rather have one extra week of winter break OR start summer break one week earlier? 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: Noise-canceling headphones, slips of paper with simple (and silly!) messages

What You Do:

- Invite 4-5 volunteers to stand in a single-file line, all facing the same way.
- Give headphones to each of the 4-5 volunteers.
- Encourage the volunteers to make sure the music is playing.
- Show the last person in line a simple (and silly!) written message. (e.g., “The fuzzy caterpillar wears a tiny hat,” or “Purple monkeys dance at midnight.”)
- Instruct that kid to tap the shoulder of the kid in front of them, and say the message one time. Remind kids not to shout.
- Instruct the kid who heard the message to tap the next kid and relay the message they think they heard.
- Continue down the line until the message gets to the first kid in line.
- Encourage all of the kids to remove their headphones and ask the first kid in line to say the message out loud.
- Compare the final message to the original one.
- Play again with different volunteers and a new message.

What You Say:

“It’s amazing how much a message can change when it passes through so many people, right? Communication can be really tricky. It’s easy to misunderstand or mishear things. [Transition] **But today, we’re talking about a type of communication where the message is always heard perfectly. Let’s head to Large Group to find out what it is.**”

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

In Week 2, we follow Jesus to a mountainside where he taught what’s known as The Sermon on the Mount. At the heart of the sermon, we find the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus shared this simple, but profound, way for His followers to talk to God—acknowledging who God is, asking for God’s Kingdom to come and requesting what we need, like forgiveness and provision and protection. It’s both a beautiful link to the church throughout the ages and a template that kids can use to talk to God in their own words. [BOTTOM LINE] Practice praying to God.

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: 3 prepared jars (or containers) filled with prepared index cards

What You Do:

- Divide the group into pairs or small teams.
- Instruct one team to draw one card from each of the three jars.
- Direct them to read the cards aloud, forming a sentence like: “I can pray in the [when], in the [where], about [what].”

- Ask the group: “Is that true? Can you really pray at that time, in that place, about that thing?” (The answer is always YES!)
Discuss why. Continue with different teams drawing cards.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Allow the kids to draw the cards and have the leader read them aloud

What You Say:

“It doesn't matter what combination of cards you pulled—the answer is always yes. You can pray anytime, anywhere, about anything. There are no limits and no rules about when or where we can talk to God. The most important thing is just doing it. The only way to get better at something is to practice. **Let's make a game plan to [Bottom Line] practice praying to God this week.**”

[Make It Personal] (In an age-appropriate way, share when and how you talk to God and about what.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Why do you think Jesus wanted to give His friends an example of how to pray?
- What surprises you about the idea that God—the Creator of the universe—wants to talk with you?
- What do you think keeps you from praying, from talking to God?
- ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ includes asking for things like forgiveness and daily needs—it covers all sorts of topics. What’s something you could talk to God about this week?

- How could making prayer a regular thing you do—like Jesus did—help you grow closer to God?

Make It Personal with Prayer **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

What You Need: Backpack filled with water bottles

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the heavy items in the backpack.
- Ask for a volunteer.
- Instruct the volunteer to put on the backpack and walk around the circle once.
- Ask them, “How does that feel? Is it heavy?”
- Explain that sometimes, our worries, fears, or the things we need to ask God for can feel heavy, just like that backpack.
- Instruct the volunteer to sit down, still wearing the backpack.
- Go around the circle and invite kids to name one thing they want to give to God in prayer this week. It could be a worry, a thank you, or a request for help.
- After each kid shares, take one heavy item out of the backpack and set it aside.
- Continue until the backpack is empty.
- Encourage the volunteer to stand up and walk around the circle again. Ask, “How does it feel now?”

What You Say:

“It feels so much lighter, doesn't it? That's what prayer does. When we give our worries and our needs to God, He takes that weight from us. He is strong enough to carry it. We don't have to carry it all by ourselves. Jesus taught His followers how to pray so they would know they could always talk to God, who is strong enough to handle anything. Let's pray together now.”

“God, thank You that You are bigger and stronger than any of our problems. Thank You for inviting us to talk to You about anything, anytime. Help us to

remember to give You the things that feel heavy this week. We trust You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”