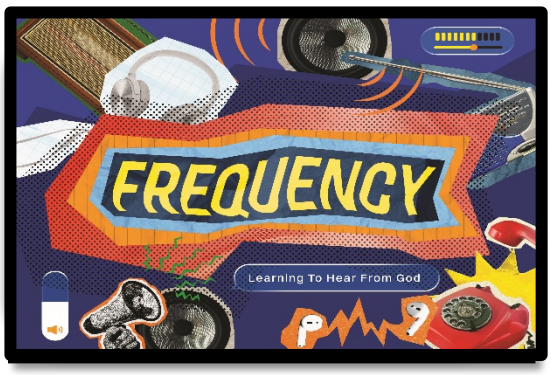
FLATIRONS KIDS

4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Stay Connected

What You Need: ☐ Bibles ☐ Paper ☐ Coloring/writing supplies

What You Say:
Here's how we play: when I give you instructions on what to do, you must stay physically connected the whole time. That means holding hands or linking elbows, but you cannot let go!

What You Do:

- Have all kids hold hands or link elbows together.
- If your group is large, split kids into 2 groups.
- Instruct kids to follow your instructions.
- Remind them that they cannot let go—they have to complete the action while holding hands or keeping arms linked.
  Action suggestions:
  - Jump
  - Spin
  - Sit down
  - Stand up

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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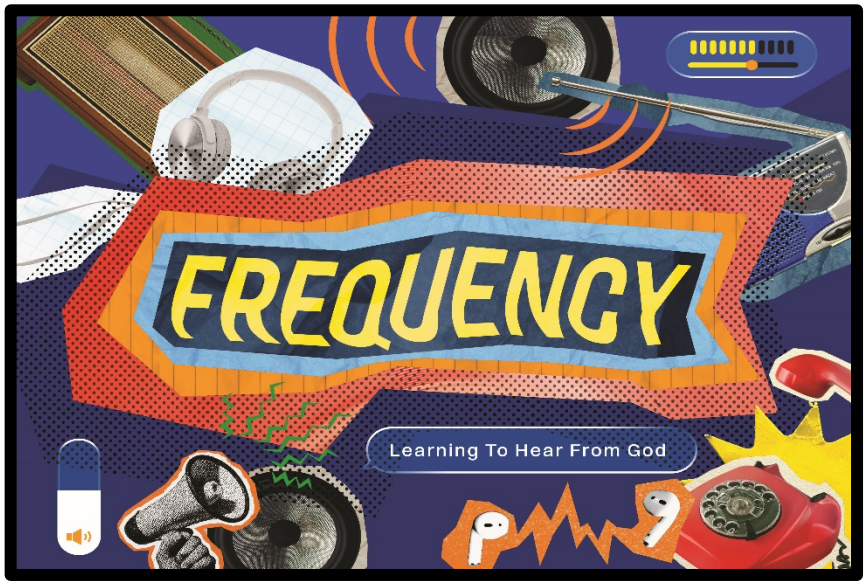
Small Group Week 3



Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches • John 15:1-11
Bottom Line: I can grow when I stay close to God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIrV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ***[Conversation Starter]* What is standing in the way of you and Jesus? What distracts or disconnects you from Him?**
- Why do you think Jesus chose to use a vine and branches to teach His followers to stay connected to Him?
- Why is it important to stay connected to Jesus?
- What can help you stay connected to Jesus?

Activity Name: Connections

What You Need: ▢ Bibles ▢ Paper ▢ Coloring/writing supplies

What You Say:

You will work together in groups to make a list. I want you to think of as many items as possible that you use on a daily or weekly basis that require some sort of connection. It may be items that have to be plugged into outlets for electricity or items that need some sort of internet connection to work (or maybe both). I'm going to give you five minutes to think of as many of these as possible.

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of four. Have the group decide who is going to be the Recorder for the group. The Recorder will write down the group's ideas.
- Give a piece of cardstock and a pen to each group's Recorder.
- Ask if the group has any questions. Answer questions to clarify the assignment.
- Have groups circle up and tell them they have five minutes.
- Set a timer. Give a one-minute heads up.
- Gather kids back together in the Small Group space. Have groups share their list of items. Allow kids to write down any additional items that they think of during this time.

What You Say:

Sounds like our lives would be really impacted if these things we depend on each day or week were not connected to their source of power. In our Bible Story today, Jesus taught about a strong connection that His followers should have with Him. He compared it to Him being a vine (like a grapevine) and His followers being the branches. The vine is the part of the plant that brings up nutrients from the ground and provides strong support for the plant. The branches can only exist by being connected to the vine. If the branches remain connected, they will produce fruit—specifically grapes! But there are things in life that can cause us to become disconnected from Jesus, like focusing on whether we have the latest and greatest stuff or spending too much time on entertainment, such as shows or video games.

Read John 15:5-11. Say, "Jesus is very clear in verse 5 that we cannot do anything without Him. He is our source of power to know God, follow God, and accomplish the important work that God has for us. Also, verses 8-10 tell us about the good things we receive when we remain connected to Jesus—we receive the love that He has for us (and He loves us so much!). We also receive the joy that He wants to give us. He calls it "complete joy," which means it's a joy that satisfies. Today's Bible Story about the Vine and the branches reminds me that **I can grow when I stay close to God.**

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.