

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: What Happened Next

Application Activity: Shout It Out

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse with Motions

Prayer Activity: God's Mailbox

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2: 41-52

Bottom Line

Practice talking about God.

Monthly 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



5 min

Opener

5 min

Preteen Opening Activity

What You Need

 Offering Container	0
 "Don't Touch" Activity Page	1

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Place the four pictures from the "Don't Touch" Activity Page on the floor in the center of your group space.
- Invite the kids to stand in a circle around the pictures.
- Explain that you will call out one of the pictures. When you do, the goal is to touch any picture but not the one that was called out.
- To start the game, call out one of the pictures (e.g., "Heart!").
- Kids are to touch one of the pictures, but not the one you called out. (e.g., Bible, Jesus, or Cross)
- Instruct any kid who touched the picture of the word you said to be out.
- Play until one kid remains as the winner.
- Play several rounds.

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect


What You Say:

"That was tricky! You had to really focus to NOT touch the picture I called out. It takes practice to have that kind of control. **[Transition]** Today, we're starting a new series about how we can practice our faith to get stronger. In our true story from the Bible today, we'll see Jesus as a Kid, already practicing and growing in His faith. Let's go check it out."

What You Say:

"These are amazing questions. It's so important to be curious and to ask questions! Jesus set a great example for us. He wasn't afraid to ask questions and talk about God. There are people in your life who know God, and you can talk to them about the questions you have about God! Jesus' friends are all on the same journey to get to know Him better, so

What You Need

-  Whiteboard and dry-erase marker Several
(or large paper and marker)

What You Do:

- Ask your group: "Who remembers what Jesus was doing when Mary and Joseph found Him in the temple?" (*Listening to the teachers and asking them questions.*)
- Say, "Jesus was a Kid, just like you, and He had questions. It's okay to have questions about God. In fact, asking questions is a great way to learn and grow."
- Ask the group: "What are some questions you have about God, Jesus, or the Bible?"
- As kids share, write their questions on the whiteboard (or on the paper). Don't worry about answering them all right now. The goal is to create a safe space for curiosity.
- Validate every question, saying things like, "That's a great question," or "I've wondered that too."
- After you have a good list, ask:
 - "When you have questions like these, who can you talk to?"
 - "How can asking questions to other people who follow Jesus help you **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God?**"




5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

-  One new dental mouth guard (like from the game "Speak Out") 0
-  Resealable Bag 0
-  Hand Wipes Several

What You Do:

- Assure the group that only YOU, the leader, will be using the mouth guard.
-

ask your questions! Asking other Jesus-followers questions is a great way to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God!**"

What You Say:

"It was pretty hard to understand me, right? It can feel that way the first time when we try to talk to other people who know Jesus about their friendship with God! It can feel awkward. And it can be intimidating because we're not sure what to say!

"But the more you talk about God with other people who are following Jesus, the easier it will get. It won't be so intimidating! So ask fellow Jesus-followers questions about following Him. Talk to them about their friendship with Him. Everyone who follows Jesus is trying to get to know Him better, so we are all on the same journey! When you talk with someone else who is following Jesus, you're basically saying, 'Oh, you're on the same journey as me? We can talk about our Friend together!'

"Learning from other people who are on the same journey to know Jesus can be so helpful. We can all **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"

Explain that you are going to say some things about God, and their job is to figure out what you're saying.

- Put in the mouth guard.
- Say one of the sentences from the list below and have the kids guess what you're saying.
 - "God has a plan for you."
 - "You can trust God no matter what."
 - "The Bible helps us know God."
 - "I can pray and talk to God."
 - "Practice talking about God."
- After you've said each sentence, and the kids have guessed, take the mouth guard out, place it in the bag, and wipe your hands.
- Ask: "Was it easy or hard to understand me? Why

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

 Bibles

0

What You Do:

-
- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

[Make It Personal] (Share a true, age-appropriate story about someone God put in your life who was also following Him. Talk about how you learned so much from them about following Him. Share how they showed you how to pray, where to go in the Bible for certain answers, or anything they did that helped you know Jesus better! Share how it was such a sweet gift from God for Him to give you someone who was on the same journey to get to know Him as you!)

What You Say:

"Great job practicing those motions! It's true that practicing a sport or an instrument makes you better at it. It's the same with our faith. The more we learn about God and **[Bottom Line]** practice talking about God, the stronger our friendship with Him will become."

- Instruct the group to put their Bibles aside, stand up, and spread out.
- Explain that you're going to create motions together for this month's Memory Verse.
- Say the first line, "Training the body has some value," and ask for ideas for a motion. (e.g., jogging in place, lifting pretend weights).
- Agree on a motion and practice the line with it.
- Continue through the whole verse, getting the kids' input for each motion.
 - *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*
- Once you have motions for the whole verse, practice it together several times, speeding up each time for a fun challenge

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Why do you think Jesus wanted to stay in the temple and talk with the teachers instead of going home right away?
- What do you think it means for you to "be in your Father's house" or spend time with God today?
- Who are some people in your life who are getting to know Jesus whom you could talk to about Him?
- Jesus asked the teachers who knew God good questions to learn more about Him. What's one question you'd like to ask about God or faith?




5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Paper	0
 Pens	0
 Coloring Supplies	Several

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the pens and coloring supplies.
- Instruct the kids to draw a simple self-portrait on their paper.
 - It can be a stick figure or just their face.
- Around their portrait, ask them to write the names of a few people they could talk to about God this week (friends, family members, teammates, etc.).
- Next to each name, have them write or draw one thing they want to talk to that person about God. (e.g., next to "Grandma," they could write "When you talk to Jesus, what do you say?"; next to "My friend, Sam," they could write, "What do you like about God?")
- Give the kids a few minutes to work.
- When the kids are done, ask if anyone wants to share one person they listed and what they plan to say or do.

- *Allow kids to work in pairs if they feel more comfortable brainstorming ideas together.*
- *For kids who struggle with writing or drawing, they can say their ideas aloud, and you can jot them down for them.*

What You Say:

"This is a great game plan for how you can **[Bottom Line]** practice **talking about God** this week. Let's pray and ask God to give us the courage to follow through with our plans."

"God, thank You for all the people in our lives who are getting to know You. Thank You that Jesus showed us it's important to talk about You and learn about You. Please give us the confidence to talk about You to the people we wrote about today. Help us to see the right time and find the right words to say. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Preteen Opening Activity	Quantity
1. Offering Container	0
2. "Don't Touch" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension Made to Reflect	Quantity
1. Whiteboard and dry-erase marker (or large paper and marker)	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot Made to Play	Quantity
1. One new dental mouth guard (like from the game "Speak Out")	0
2. Resealable Bag	0
3. Hand Wipes	Several

Preteen – Verses to Take with You Made to Move	Quantity
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1. Bibles	0
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Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer Made to Reflect	Quantity
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1. Paper	0
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2. Pens	0
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3. Coloring Supplies	Several
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WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Prayers on the Wall

Application Activity: Voice Changer

Memory Verse Activity: Bop the Verse

Prayer Activity: Prayer Bands

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-13

Bottom Line

Practice praying to God.

Monthly 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




5 min

Opener

5 min

Preteen Opening Activity

What You Need

-  Offering Container 1
-  Noise-canceling headphones (or phones with earbuds playing music) 5
-  Slips of paper with simple (and silly!) messages Several

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- 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."




5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

-  Pieces of leather or cotton cord (about 12 inches per kid) 0
-  Wooden Bead 0
-  Fine-tip Permanent Markers 0

What You Do:

- Ask: "What are some of the things Jesus told His friends to pray about in the prayer He shared?" *(He told His friends to praise God for who He is, to ask Him to bring His Kingdom to our world, to ask for what we need in that moment, to ask for forgiveness and help to forgive, and to ask for help to follow His ways.)*
- Ask kids to think about one part of prayer they want to focus on this week.
- Give each kid a piece of cord, a large wooden bead, and a fine-tipped permanent marker.
- Instruct the kids to use the fine-tip markers to write the word or draw a small, simple symbol on their bead to represent that prayer focus.
 - For praise, they could draw a music note.
 - For needs, they could draw a piece of food.
 - For forgiveness, they could draw a cross.
 - For help following God's ways, they could draw a hand.
- Once they've written their word or drawn their symbol, show them how to thread the cord through the bead and tie a simple sliding knot so the bracelet is adjustable. Assist as needed.

What You Say:

"These look great. Jesus didn't give His followers this prayer as a magic formula, but as a 'game plan' or a model for how they could talk to God. It shows us we can praise God, be honest about our needs, and ask for help. When you see your bracelet this week, let it be a reminder of your plan to **[Bottom Line]** practice praying to God."

5 min

Application Activity


5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

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

What You Need

-  3 prepared jars (or containers) filled with 3 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.

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




5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

- | | |
|--|---------|
|  Bibles | Several |
|  Beach Ball | 1 |
|  Permanent Marker | 1 |

What You Do:

- Give every two kids a Bible.
- Invite them to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to

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.)

What You Say:

"Great job! It's good to remember that being godly—like praying, reading the Bible, and serving others—has value that lasts forever. It helps us now and for the future. Let's remember our Game Plan: **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.**"

start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- **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!
- Write key words from the Memory Verse on the beach ball (e.g., TRAINING, GODLY, VALUE, PROMISES).
- Instruct the group to set the Bibles aside and stand with you in a circle.
- Start by tossing the beach ball to someone while saying the first line of the verse.
- Instruct the kid who catches the beach ball to say the next line and toss it to someone else.
- Continue until the whole verse is complete.
- For the next round, add a challenge: The kid who catches the ball has to say the verse in a specific way based on the word their right thumb is closest to (e.g., if their thumb is on TRAINING, they say it like a sports coach; if it's on PROMISES, they whisper it like a secret; if it's on VALUE, they have to sing it; if it's on GODLY, they have to say it in a big loud voice)

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

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?






5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	Backpack	0
	Several heavy items (like textbooks, canned goods, or water bottles)	Several
	Piece of Paper	0
	Drawing Tools	Several
	Shoebox made into a prayer box	1

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."

- *Be mindful of a kid's physical abilities. Choose a volunteer who can comfortably carry the backpack, or have them simply hold it in their lap instead of wearing it.*
- *For a kid who is hesitant to share aloud, allow them to write or draw their "burden" on a piece of paper. When it's their turn, they can place the paper in a "prayer box" as a symbol of giving it to God while you remove an item from the backpack.*

Supplies

Preteen Opening Activity

	Quantity
1. Offering Container	1
2. Noise-canceling headphones (or phones with earbuds playing music)	5
3. Slips of paper with simple (and silly!) messages	Several

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Pieces of leather or cotton cord (about 12 inches per kid)	0
2. Wooden Bead	0
3. Fine-tip Permanent Markers	0

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

	Quantity
1. 3 prepared jars (or containers) filled with prepared index cards	3

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	Several
2. Beach Ball	1
3. Permanent Marker	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Backpack	0
2. Several heavy items (like textbooks, canned goods, or water bottles)	Several
3. Piece of Paper	0
4. Drawing Tools	Several
5. Shoebox made into a prayer box	1

WEEK

THREE







5 min

Opener

5 min

Preteen Opening Activity

What You Need

 Offering Container	1
 Shallow Pan or Plate	1
 Rice Flour (or powdered sugar)	1
 Small Cup	1
 Coin	1
 Craft Sticks	0

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Pack the flour tightly into the small cup to form a brick, then carefully turn it upside down onto the plate. Gently lift the cup off.
- Carefully place the coin on top of the flour brick in the very center.
- Give each kid a craft stick.
- Explain the game: Kids will take turns using a craft stick to cut away a slice of the flour brick without making the coin fall.
- Go around the circle, letting each kid take a turn cutting away a piece of the flour.

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Say:

"That was a little tense, wasn't it? One wrong move and the whole thing could come down. It's all about the foundation. If the base isn't strong, everything on top is at risk. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus talked about two very different foundations. Let's go see what He had to say.

What You Say:

"Look at the house we built together. What a strong house!

"Jesus' point was clear. It's not enough to hear what God says—we have to also put it into practice. We have to build our lives on a firm foundation. The main way we do that is to **[Bottom Line]** practice hearing from God by reading the Bible, by listening to people who love Jesus, by hearing the Holy Spirit as He guides us, and then actually doing what we hear."

What You Need

 Craft Sticks	0
 Marker	0

What You Do:

- Give each kid 2-3 craft sticks and a marker.
- Challenge the kids to think of what it means to be a wise builder, and write each thing on a craft stick (go to church and do what you hear, read the Bible and live out what you read, listen to godly people and take their advice, listen to the Holy Spirit when He guides you throughout your day).
- Use all the sticks from the group to build the outline of a house.

- *Work in pairs to assist with writing.*




5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

 Large pile of random building supplies (e.g., flattened boxes, paper plates and bowls, cups, craft sticks, index cards, tape)	Several
 Timer	1
 Optional: Tables or handheld fan	1

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into 2-3 teams.
- Explain the challenge: Each team needs to build the strongest house they can in five minutes.
- The twist: Only one person from their team can be at the supply pile at a time. They can only grab ONE item and bring it back to their team's building zone. Then the next person can go.

What You Say:

"You had to make a lot of decisions and work together. Building a strong faith is like that. It doesn't just happen. We have to make wise decisions and have a game plan. Part of that plan is to intentionally **practice hearing from God** by reading the Bible, or listening to other people who love Jesus, or listening to the Holy Spirit as He guides us, and then making the wise choice to do what He says."

[Make It Personal] (Share about how you've read or heard something in the Bible—like about being forgiving—and then later that day, you're tested to live out what you read. Share how that's a moment when you have to choose to be a wise builder or a foolish one. Share how it's not always easy, but building on God's Word is always the wise choice.)

- Before you start, give the teams one minute to huddle with their team and make a "game plan."
- Start the timer and let the building begin.
- After five minutes, "test" the houses. (You could use a fan to simulate wind or gently shake the table to simulate an earthquake.) See which house stands the strongest.
- Discuss: What was the key to building a strong house? Did having a plan help? Did you make wise choices with your supplies?

- *For kids who might find the race against time stressful, remove the timer and focus on the process of planning and building together.*
- *Assign specific roles within the team (like "Planner," "Gatherer," "Builder") so every kid has a clear way to contribute.*


5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Explore

What You Need

-  Few different Bible translations or access to a Bible app on a device that can show different versions (like NIV, NLT, The Message, etc.)

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to find this month's verse, 1 Timothy 4:8, in a standard translation like the NIV. Read it together.
- Then, display or read the same verse from a few other translations.
 - **NIV:** *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*
 - **The Message (MSG):** *Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life*

What You Say:

"It's cool to see how different translations can help us understand the Bible better. No matter which version you read, the truth is the same: growing in our faith is the most important thing we can do. Reading the Bible, in any translation, is a key way we **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.**"

in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever.

- **New Living Translation (NLT):** *Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.*
- Ask the group:
 - How are these verses different? How are they the same?
 - Does reading a different version help you understand the Bible verse in a new way? How?
 - Why do you think we have different translations of the Bible? *(to help more people understand it)*

- *Encourage kids to work in pairs.*
- *Don't pressure kids to read aloud.*

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Why do you think Jesus compared hearing His words and doing them to building a house on rock? And not doing them to building a house on sand?
- What are some things that can make it hard to hear from God in your everyday life?
- What are some ways you can slow down and make time to listen for God's voice?
- What are some ways you hear from God?
- When have you felt like God helped you make a wise choice or encouraged you through someone else?
- How can reading the Bible, talking with people who love Jesus, or listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what you hear help you build a strong foundation like the wise man?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to pair up.
- Instruct the pairs to play one game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors."
- Explain that in each pair, the person who WINS the game gets to pray for the person who lost.
- Give them a simple prayer prompt: "God, please help [kid's name] to be a wise builder this week by listening to Your words and doing them. Amen."
- After the first round, instruct the kids to find a new partner and play again.
- Continue for several rounds so the kids get to pray for a few different people.

What You Say:

"It's awesome to be able to pray for each other. That's one way we can help each other be wise builders. Let's finish our time by praying together for our whole group."

"God, thank You that You speak to us in so many ways—You want us to build our lives on a firm foundation. Help us not just to be hearers of what You say, but doers. Help us make the wise choice to listen and obey You this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Preteen Opening Activity	Quantity
1. Offering Container	1
2. Shallow Pan or Plate	1
3. Rice Flour (or powdered sugar)	1
4. Small Cup	1
5. Coin	1
6. Craft Sticks	0

Preteen – Bible Story Extension Made to Create	Quantity
1. Craft Sticks	0
2. Marker	0

Preteen – Take a Snapshot Made to Play	Quantity
1. Large pile of random building supplies (e.g., flattened boxes, paper plates and bowls, cups, craft sticks, index cards, tape)	Several
2. Timer	1
3. Optional: Tables or handheld fan	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You Made to Explore	Quantity
1. Few different Bible translations or access to a Bible app on a device that can show different versions (like NlrV, NIV, The Message, NLT)	Several

WEEK

FOUR





5 min

Opener

5 min

Preteen Opening Activity

What You Need

 Offering Container	1
 Muffin Tin	1
 Ping-Pong Balls	Several
 Circle stickers in three different colors	Several

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Place one sticker in the bottom of each muffin cup.
- Set the muffin tin in the center of your activity area.
- Explain that each color represents a different category: red = Books of the Bible, blue = Ways to Live for God, and green = Random Things.
- Kids take turns trying to bounce a ping-pong ball into one of the muffin cups.
- When a ball lands in a cup, instruct the kid to name something that fits that category. For example, if it lands in "Books of the Bible," they could say "Luke." If it lands in "Ways to Live for God," they could say "being honest." If it lands in "Random Things," they can say anything, like "pizza."

What You Say:

"That was tougher than it looks! It's easy to name random things, but it takes more thought to focus on the things that really matter. It's kind of like that in life. It's easy to just go along with whatever, but choosing to live for God takes a plan. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, a guy named Matthew made a big choice about how he was going to live his life. Let's go check it out."

5 min

Bible Story Review


5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Imagine

What You Say:

"Great job with those skits. It's pretty clear which choices honor God, right? The Pharisees in our story were focused on who was 'good enough' to be around. But Jesus had a totally different view of things."

What You Need

-  Slips of paper with different scenarios written on them Several

What You Do:

- Divide the group into pairs or trios.
- Give each group a scenario. Here are some examples:
 - *You see the new kid sitting by himself on the playground at recess.*
 - *You see a person trip and drop all their books in the hallway between classes.*
 - *Your friends start making fun of someone you know.*
 - *You know the answer in class, but you also know the kid next to you is struggling to understand.*
- Tell the groups their challenge is to come up with two different ways to respond to the scenario: one that shows what living for God looks like, and one that doesn't.
- Give them a few minutes to plan a very short, simple skit for both responses.
- Invite each group to perform their two skits for the rest of the group.
- After each one, discuss: Which response showed what it means to live for God? Why?

- *Allow groups to simply talk through their two responses or draw pictures instead of creating a full skit.*



5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

What You Need

-  Scrabble® tiles (or letters written on small squares of paper) Several
-  Bag to hold the Scrabble® tiles (or squares of paper) 1

He came for everyone—especially the people who knew they needed help. Matthew got that. That's why he immediately hosted a banquet to introduce his friends—other 'sinners'—to Jesus. He knew they needed Jesus too. That's a key way we **[Bottom Line] practice living for God:** by introducing people to Jesus."

What You Say:

"Look at all these words we spelled! This is like a game plan for our faith. Living for God isn't some big, mysterious secret. It's about these simple, everyday choices to be loving, kind, honest, and helpful. When we do these things, we're putting our faith into practice. Every day is a chance to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Pass the bag of letters around and instruct each kid to draw 7-8 letters without looking.
- Explain that the challenge is to work together, using all the letters in the circle, to spell out words that describe what it looks like to live for God.
- They can trade letters and move around the circle to work with others.
- Encourage them to spell out words like: KIND, LOVE, HELP, SHARE, OBEY, TRUTH, PRAY, GIVE, HONEST, FORGIVE.
- As they spell words, talk about what those words mean and how they connect to living for God.

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

Bibles

Several

What You Do:

- Give every two kids a Bible.
- Invite them to work together to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

What You Say:

"That was fun! And you're getting really good at that verse. It's a great reminder that having a 'game plan' for godliness—for living for God—is what has real, lasting value. So let's keep working to **[Bottom Line]** practice living for God."

- **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!
- Instruct the group to set their Bibles aside and stand in a circle.
- Explain the game "SPARKLE."
- The first person says the first word of the Memory Verse. The next kid says the second word, and so on around the circle.
- When the verse is finished, after the reference is said, the next kid in the circle says "SPARKLE!" and the kid after them is out and sits down.
- The game continues with the remaining kids until only one person is left standing.
- Play a few times to help the kids really learn the verse.

- *Provide a recordable button with the verse recorded so non-verbal kids can participate.*

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit quietly for a moment.
- Challenge them to think about their unique gifts, talents, and personalities. What has God given *them* specifically? (e.g., Are they funny? A good listener? Athletic? Artistic? A leader?)
- After a moment of quiet thought, go around the circle and ask each person to "name it"—to name one way they can use their specific, God-given talents to live for God this week.
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What You Say:

"It's awesome to hear all the unique ways God has equipped each of you. God didn't make any mistakes. He gave you your personality and your talents for a reason. Let's pray and ask Him to help us use them for Him this week."

"God, thank You for making each of us unique. Thank You for the talents and gifts You've given us. Help us to see the opportunities You give us this week to use those gifts to show people what You are like. Help us to be brave like Matthew and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Example: "I can use my sense of humor to cheer up my friend who is sad."

- *Example: "I can use my artistic skill to make a card for my teacher."*
- *Example: "I can use my encouraging words on the soccer field with my teammates."*
- If a kid is stuck, let the group help by pointing out a strength they see in that kid.
- **[Make It Personal] Share one of your gifts and how you plan to use it this week.**

Supplies

Preteen Opening Activity		Quantity
1.	Offering Container	1
2.	Muffin Tin	1
3.	Ping-Pong Balls	Several
4.	Circle stickers in three different colors	Several

Preteen – Bible Story Extension Made to Imagine		Quantity
1.	Slips of paper with different scenarios written on them	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot Made to Explore		Quantity
1.	Scrabble® tiles (or letters written on small squares of paper)	Several
2.	Bag to hold the Scrabble® tiles (or squares of paper)	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Bibles	Several