

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

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

Preteen Discussion Questions



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

Conversation Starter

What do you pray about?

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.

5 min

Application Activity

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

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 3 Bibles | Several |
| 1 Beach Ball | 1 |
| 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.

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.*)

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.**"

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.

- **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?

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 – 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 |