



ELEMENTARY

MAY 2024

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN COMMITMENT AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply cramming more information about the Bible into a child's brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help them experience how that knowledge can transform their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith, and that takes commitment.

Commitment is part of God's nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God's commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. We reflect God's character when we make a plan and stick to it.

This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday moments of their life.

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for COMMITMENT

Connection because of God's love I live in pursuit of an infinite God who desires an eternal relationship with me.

From the very beginning, God's plan was to have a meaningful relationship with creation. Even when people chose to live life apart from God, God continued to pursue them with unending love. God's ultimate demonstration of love was sending Jesus to make an eternal relationship with God possible for everyone.

Because God loved us first, we can respond in faith and put our trust in Jesus to live forever with God. However, just because we put our faith in Jesus, this doesn't mean we are finished in our faith journey. We can continue to show our commitment to God as we practice our faith and pursue a growing relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

COMMITMENT is making a plan and putting it into practice.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT COMMITMENT WITH KIDS

As you talk about faith skills this month, it's important to have realistic expectations for how kids will put these ideas into practice. We all want kids to prioritize time spent growing in their faith, but it's good to keep in mind that every kid is on a unique faith journey, with their own individual life experiences that impact how they'll connect with God. Be sure to create an atmosphere of grace that doesn't unintentionally shame kids for not spending time working on these faith skills. Some kids may not have chosen to put their faith in Jesus yet. Other kids might experience special needs or developmental diversity that prevents them from being able to practice these faith skills on their own. Not to mention that much of the way elementary kids spend their time is beyond their control. However you find kids in your ministry, meet them where they are and provide attainable next steps for their journey of faith.

This is also a great month for leaders in your ministry to model what it looks like to practice their faith. Be sure to encourage your leaders to share the ways they connect with God through these faith skills. Kids can learn a lot about practicing their own faith from watching and hearing about the diverse ways the adults in their lives practice theirs. We think this could be a powerful month for everyone in your ministry environment to renew their commitment to growing in faith as they head into summer.



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
TWO
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

WEEK 2

In **Matthew 6:9-13** we find Jesus talking about prayer during His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus shared a model for prayer that helps us understand more about how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and ask for forgiveness. It's comforting to know that we can pray while remembering that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

Bottom Line: **Practice praying to God.** Even if kids have grown up in a home where practicing faith is a priority, they might still think prayer is something they do before they eat dinner or get tucked into bed for the night.

Of course, prayer is so much more than that. And, as kids learn about Jesus' model prayer, we want them to understand that they can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything—because God is always listening and wants to hear from us. We hope kids will understand more about prayer and find that talking to God can be an important part of growing in their faith.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Say
The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

TODAY'S 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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host, wearing shoes with laces (for the Bible Story)

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Host, wearing shoes with laces
- Bible
- Prop box containing:
 - Worksheet with a large smiley face and A+ on it
 - Playground ball
 - Inflatable microphone
 - Fly swatter
 - Empty snack box or package
- Table
- Printed script, highlighted with the example prayer for the Host (see script)

BASIC TRUTH

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I can trust God no matter what.



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WEEK
TWO
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Say
The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

TODAY'S 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."
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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here. We've got a lot of fun planned as we continue our training plan together. This month we're talking about what it means to live with commitment.

SLIDE: VIRTUE
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Commitment is about **making a plan and putting it into practice.**

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"When you do your math homework, you're putting a plan into practice so you can become a good student. When you go to basketball practice, you're working hard so you'll be able to do your best out on the court. You also need commitment in order to grow stronger in your relationship with God. That's what we're talking about this month here at [name of your environment].

"Speaking of building our strength, I've got a fun way for us to do that together. It'll be fun and maybe just a little bit silly. Everybody get up on your feet so I can teach you some of the best, most impressive workout moves you'll ever see!

"First up: the sprinkler.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 1: SPRINKLER

"Put one hand behind your head and the other arm straight out in front of you as you move around to water the grass! (*Demonstrate.*)



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WEEK
TWO
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Now let’s do the squirrel.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 2: SQUIRREL

“Grab an acorn and munch it—you know, like a squirrel does. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Up next is the shopping cart.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 3: SHOPPING CART

“You’re pushing your cart through the supermarket, grabbing things from the shelves and putting them into your cart. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Now let’s do the side-to-side.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 4: SIDE-TO-SIDE

“It’s a simple side step you might do if you’re playing football and someone’s trying to tackle you. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Now, another football move—the quarterback toss.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 5: QUARTERBACK TOSS

“Lean back and throw that football down the field! *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Let’s all do the disco dancer!

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 6: DISCO DANCER

“Hold up one finger and point it to the sky. Then point it to the ground on the opposite side of your body. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Up next is the giant leap.

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 7: GIANT LEAP

“It’s easy—you just do a giant leap. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“And now, the chicken strut!

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 8: CHICKEN STRUT

“Fold your arms like chicken wings and flap them by your side as you walk around, sticking out your beak. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Next: the high jump!

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 9: HIGH JUMP



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PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
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25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

“Squat down and touch the floor, then jump up as high as you can with your hands in the air. *(Demonstrate.)*”

“Okay, we all know summer’s coming, so let’s dig into the swimming pool!”

SLIDE: WORKOUT MOVE 10: DIG THE SWIMMING POOL

“Use that shovel and put some muscle into it! *(Demonstrate.)*”

“That’s it! You’ve got all the moves! Now, let’s put it all together. Let’s all follow the screen for a workout to remember!”

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL WORKOUT MUSIC

SLIDES: ROTATE THROUGH VARIOUS WORKOUT MOVE SLIDES, GRADUALLY SPEEDING UP

Lead the audience through the workout. As things speed up, it’s okay to mess up. Just have fun with it!

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“Whoa. That was an amazing workout, friends! Give a friend a high five! And now let’s keep the fun going as we get ready to sing, dance, and worship God.”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY **WORSHIP** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's great to be here with you to sing and worship God! Get on your feet and get ready to sing with us. There is nothing like God's love. This song is a way for us to say thank You to God for loving us so well. Let's sing it!"

AUDIO: "YOUR LOVE" / TRACK 7 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "YOUR LOVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"I'm so thankful for the kindness and love God shows us every day. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"Last week we taught you a new song called 'My Life for You.' These words are like a prayer we can pray to God and say, 'I want to live my life for You.' It's like we read in Psalm 146:2: 'I will praise the Lord all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.' (NIRV) Let's pray these words straight from our heart today as we sing them in worship. Lift this up."

AUDIO: "MY LIFE FOR YOU" / TRACK 9 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "MY LIFE FOR YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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WEEK
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! This month, we’re making a plan and putting it into practice so we can grow in our relationship with God. We’re setting up good habits that we can do every day . . . because if we can put in our best effort and commitment, then we’ll grow stronger in our faith!

“Last week we talked about an important one—HEARING from God, which we can do by reading the Bible. Today we’ll talk about another important part of our training plan, and that’s PRAYING to God.

“Jesus actually talked about prayer, and He gave us an amazing example of how we can pray. We can find what He said in the book of Matthew (*hold up Bible*) . . . which is one of the four Gospels that tell about the life of Jesus.

“In the book of Matthew, we read about a time when Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down to teach His followers. The things that Jesus talked about and taught there have come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount. As Jesus talked to the people who had gathered that day, He explained what it means to be part of God’s kingdom. He explained what it means to show love to God and to others. And He talked about one of the best ways that we can show love to God: by talking with God in prayer.

KEEPING IT REAL

STORYTELLER: “Jesus wanted His followers to understand that prayer isn’t something we do to show off in front of other people. He said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:5-6 (NirV) and read.

“When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They want to be seen by other people. . . . When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can’t be seen.” (NirV)

“It’s not that you can only pray in your room. You can pray anywhere! But the point is that prayer should be a real, honest conversation between you and God—and you can pray to God about whatever you might be feeling.

“I’ve asked our friend [Host’s name] to help demonstrate that for us with her amazing acting abilities. (*Calling backstage*) Come on out, [Host’s name]!

Host enters, waving.

(*To Host*) “Okay, [Host’s name]. I’ll give you some scenarios of things that might happen in our lives today. Then I want you to show all of us, without using any words, how you might react to those situations. I’m talking BIG facial expressions. BIG emotions. I think you’ll be great at this. Are you ready? (*Host nods.*)

“You’re at school, and your teacher gives you your worksheet back with a really good grade on it!



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Hold up the worksheet with the large smiley face and A+ and give it to the Host. Pause for her to react.

(Each time, the Host should put the object on the table after she's held it up.)

"You're really excited to play with your friend at recess, but then you realize she's not there because she's sick at home.

Hold up the playground ball and give it to the Host. Pause for her to react.

"You were chosen for a solo at your chorus concert, but when it was time, you forgot the words and messed up in front of everyone.

Hold up the inflatable microphone and give it to the Host. Pause for her to react.

"You're trying to watch your favorite show, but there's a bug that just keeps flying around your face, annoying you.

Hold up the fly swatter and give it to the Host. Pause for her to react.

"Your mom got your favorite snack from the grocery store, but when you got the box out of the pantry, you discover that your little brother ate it all and put the box back in the pantry EMPTY!

Hold up the empty snack box and give it to the Host. Pause for her to react.

"Thanks, [Host's name]. Great job! I really felt those emotions you were feeling.

(To audience) "Now, let me ask you a question. Do you think [Host's name] could pray to God about some of those feelings and situations? *(Pause for response.)* You do? Which ones? *(Pause for response.)* Right—ALL of them. You can talk to God about ANYthing, because God loves you . . . and God is always with you . . . through the good times and the tough times too.

"If you're feeling angry and frustrated . . .

Hold up the snack box.

". . . you can pray and ask God to help you stay calm.

"If you find out that your friend is sick at home . . .

Hold up the playground ball.

". . . you can pray and ask God to help her feel better.

"If something good happens in your life . . .

Hold up the paper with the A+.



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WEEK
TWO
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

“. . . you can pray and thank God for it!

LEARNING TO PRAY

STORYTELLER: “All right, [Host’s name]—I’ve got another idea of how you can help. Could you please untie one of your shoes?”

Host unties her shoe.

“Now, [Host’s name] . . . can you please show us how you’d tie your shoe again?”

Host ties her shoe, explaining the steps.

(To audience) “Well, there you have it! If you know how to tie your shoes, then you know it’s not something you’re just born knowing how to do. You have to learn, right? Well, prayer is kind of like that too. Of course, you can talk to God about anything . . . but sometimes you might have a hard time knowing where to start. It might feel difficult sometimes to know HOW to pray.

“As Jesus taught the people about prayer, He talked about this. He gave His followers a kind of example prayer that they could use anytime they wanted to talk to God. It can be very helpful to us as we learn how to pray.

“The prayer Jesus prayed is known today as the Lord’s Prayer, and it’s been spoken by believers all over the world for nearly 2,000 years! Jesus told us this:

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:9-13 (NirV) and read.

“This is how you should pray.

*“Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored.
May your kingdom come.
May what you want to happen be done
on earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.
Save us from the evil one.” (NirV)*

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

STORYTELLER: “Now, you can pray Jesus’ exact words if you want to. The Lord’s Prayer is a great prayer to memorize and say the way Jesus said it. Or, you can use the same ideas of the Lord’s Prayer, but in your own words.

“Jesus’ prayer shows that we can praise and thank God for being so loving and good.

“We can say to God, ‘May your kingdom come’ (Matthew 6:10 NirV). In other words, we can ask that the things that are important to God will come true here on earth.



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WEEK
TWO
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

"We can ask God for the things we need.

"We can ask God to forgive us . . . and to help us forgive people who have wronged us.

Give the printed script to the Host, with the section below highlighted.

(To Host) "[Host's name], could you read this for us? This is an example of a prayer that has the same ideas as Jesus' prayer, just worded in a different way.

Host reads from the printed script.

HOST: "Dear God, thank You for being so good. Thank You for loving me the way You do.

"Please bring Your kingdom here on earth. Please make everything right in our world that's wrong.

"Please give me everything I need today so I can show Your love to the people around me.

"Please forgive me for the wrong things I've done, and please help me show forgiveness to others. When I'm tempted to make a wrong choice, please give me the strength to choose wisely instead. In Jesus' name. Amen."

STORYTELLER: "Thank you, [Host's name]. You've really helped us understand what Jesus taught about prayer. (To audience) Let's give [Host's name] a big hand!"

Host exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Prayer is a great way that you can grow in your faith. That's why Jesus took time to help His followers understand HOW we can pray.

"You can follow the example Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer . . . or you can simply talk to God about how you feel about things that are happening in your life. God is ALWAYS there to hear every word.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"So as part of our training plan, let's make sure to **practice praying to God.**

"Let's pray and talk to God now."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for loving us and caring about all our needs. Thank You for being there to listen anytime we want to talk to You! Thank You for the way Jesus gave us an example of how we can pray. Help us practice talking to You about whatever is going on in our lives. Help us get in the habit of praying, and help us stay committed to put that plan in practice. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “When you practice talking to God, your faith grows! You can follow the example of the Lord’s Prayer that Jesus shared with His followers, because it helps us remember to do some really important things.

“Jesus’ prayer reminds us to thank God for the good things in our lives.

“It helps us to notice what God is doing in the world around us.

“It reminds us to ask God for the things we need . . . because **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what!**

“And Jesus’ prayer also reminds us how much God LOVES us and forgives us—even when we’ve messed up.

“So let’s make prayer part of our training plan.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Let’s **practice praying to God.**

“Remember that you can be completely honest when you talk to God. You can talk to God anytime . . . anywhere . . . about anything!

“You might be in the habit of talking to God when you get up in the morning or before you go to sleep at night. You might be in the habit of praying before meals, or when you’re riding in the car. Or maybe you’re just getting started and learning how to talk to God. Just remember that you can ALWAYS pray to God and know that God is there to help you.

“You can head to Small Group now and keep talking about this super-important part of our training plan!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP