



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
FOUR
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 4

We finish the month in **Mark 12:41-44**. Jesus noticed how wealthy people were giving lots of money at the temple. Then a poor widow walked up to the offering box and gave just two small coins. While this seemed like a small gift, Jesus told His disciples that this woman actually gave more than the rich people did—because she gave everything she had.

Bottom Line: **Practice living for God.** We know that many kids love to sing and worship God. But worship isn't just something we do when we sing at church. Worship is really how we honor God with our whole lives—how we love others and serve them, how we give our time and talents, how we follow and praise God, and even how we rest. We want kids to practice living for God and understand what it means to worship God with every part of their life.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Have to Give
The Widow's Offering
Mark 12:41-44

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice living for 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, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Yard/leaf bags (one per Small Group)
- Balloons, inflated with air, not helium—enough to fill the yard bags for all of your Small Groups (see "What You Do")
- *Optional: Host's phone (if not using on-screen countdown)*

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- My Friend Jesus doll
- Prop box full of various items of sports/workout equipment, each with a different kind of eyes printed on cardstock from the Story Eyes LGV (in the LG Assets PDF) and attached to the equipment; you'll need:
 - "Amazed eyes" for the person listening to Jesus
 - Two sets of "angry eyes" for the religious leaders
 - Three sets of "dollar sign eyes" for the rich men who give their offerings
 - "Kind eyes" for the widow
- Small bucket to represent the offering boxes
- Three bundles of fake money
- Two small coins



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
---------	--------	-------	---------	--------	------

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Have to Give
The Widow's Offering
Mark 12:41-44

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice living for 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

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, everyone! I'm so excited to be here today. I just love coming to [name of your environment] because we always have so much fun together! This month, we've been training hard and talking about 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

"Anytime you decide you want to be better at something and you practice **DOING** that something, you're showing commitment! That's definitely true about our faith in God. When you commit to your relationship with God by doing things like reading the Bible, praying, and talking **ABOUT** God, you'll grow stronger in your faith.

"It's time for another workout so we can keep training and building up our strength together. Today's game is called 'Yard Bag Knee Balloon Ball.' You probably haven't played it before, because we just made it up. But I have a feeling it'll push you to your limits of fun and excitement!

"Each small group will have their own bag full of balloons.

Reference the yard bags filled with balloons.

"Go ahead and make a circle with everyone in your small group while your leader comes up to get one of these bags.



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

As the kids circle up, have each leader take a yard bag back to their group.

“Leaders, you may dump out the balloons inside your group’s circle, and then everyone in the group can pick one up. You can then put the empty bag in the middle of the circle.

“The goal is to get as many balloons as possible into your team’s bag. But the only way to move your team’s balloons is to bounce them in the air with your knees—like this. *(Demonstrate.)* You can pick up your balloon if it falls to the floor and then bop it with your knee again, but that’s the only time you can use your hands.

“You’ll have one minute to play the game, and the team that has the most balloons INSIDE their bag when the time runs out will be the winner. Let’s see if you can work together and show your commitment to this very silly training challenge!

“On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (60-SECOND VERSION)

If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

Cheer for the groups as they play the game. When there are 15 seconds remaining, you can tell them they can use their hands.

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“That was awesome! I feel like Yard Bag Knee Balloon Ball might really take off, don’t you? Don’t be surprised if you see it in the Olympics someday!

“Go ahead and put all of the balloons in the bags, and then your leaders can bring the bags over to the side of the room. Then we’ll worship!”

Allow time for cleanup before you move on to Worship.



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY **WORSHIP** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "All right friends, get on your feet. Get ready to sing and move and give praise to God. You might even want to stretch a little bit. This first song is about the way God's love moves us into action. Let's have some fun and sing this together. Here we go!"

AUDIO: "MOVIN' ME" / TRACK 6 FROM READY, SET, MOVE!

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "MOVIN' ME" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"That's right! God's love moves us to live differently. It makes us want to share love with the people around us. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

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

"I love David's words from Psalm 145:9-10: 'The Lord is good to all. He shows deep concern for everything he has made. Lord, all your works praise you. Your faithful people praise you.' (NirV) Every day, we can choose to live our lives for God and God alone. Let's make these words the prayer of our heart today. Let's lift our voices and sing to God together."

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



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! We’ve been talking about a training plan that will help us grow stronger in our relationship with God. These are some habits we can put into practice that will help us be more confident in what we believe, and that will help us keep learning and discovering new things about God.

“What are those habits? We can practice hearing from God by reading the Bible. We can practice praying to God. And we can practice talking about God with other people.

“Today, we’ll talk about another important part of the plan that we can commit to. It’s something that we can see in a story from the book of Mark. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“For three years, Jesus traveled all around with His disciples, healing people, performing miracles, and teaching people about God’s kingdom. In everything He did, Jesus lived fully for God, and He taught others to do the same. In this story, Jesus noticed the way someone lived their life for God . . . and He wanted to make sure His disciples didn’t miss it!

“To tell you what happened, I’ve got an idea. I thought we could use some different types of workout or sports equipment—you know, since we’re putting together a training plan!

Pick up the prop box full of workout/sports equipment and set it on the table.

ANGRY LEADERS

STORYTELLER: “We’ll pick up the story one day when Jesus was teaching in the temple courtyard.

Dump the workout/sports equipment onto the table. Turn the box upside down. Then get the My Friend Jesus doll and place it on top of the box.

“Okay. So here we have Jesus . . . and here we have all the people listening.

Reference the pile of workout/sports equipment on the table.

“Most of the people were amazed to hear what Jesus had to say.

Pick up the piece of equipment with printed “amazed eyes” and hold it up so the kids can see it. Then set it back down in the pile.

“But the religious leaders didn’t want to listen to Jesus.

Pick up the two pieces of equipment with printed “angry eyes” and hold them up so the kids can see them.



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“These men didn’t believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They were upset because Jesus was challenging the way they’d always done things. So they were always looking for ways to trick or trap Jesus and get Him in trouble with the people.

Place the two “religious leaders” on the table, apart from the other items.

Note: As you tell the story, try to keep the groups of equipment representing the different people separate from each other on the table so the kids can tell them apart.

“But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said:

Open the Bible to Mark 12:38-40 (NirV) and read.

“Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in long robes. They like to be greeted with respect in the market. They love to have the most important seats in the synagogues. They also love to have the places of honor at dinners. They take over the houses of widows. They say long prayers to show off.” (NirV)

THE WIDOW’S GIFT

STORYTELLER: “A little while later, Jesus went and sat down across from the place where people came to offer their gifts to God.

Make the Jesus doll walk to the other side of the box, then sit down.

“As Jesus watched, some rich men dropped large amounts of money into the offering boxes.

Pick up a piece of equipment with printed “dollar sign eyes.” Make the piece of equipment walk past Jesus and drop a stack of fake money into the bucket.

Do the same thing with two other pieces of equipment with printed “dollar sign eyes.” Each time, have the piece of equipment drop a stack of fake money into the bucket.

“But then . . . a poor widow appeared.

Pick up the piece of equipment with the printed “kind eyes” and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“A widow is someone whose husband has died. So that meant this woman was on her own. She came up and put two very small copper coins into the offering.

Make the piece of equipment walk past Jesus and drop two coins into the bucket.

“These coins were only worth a few pennies, so this was not very much money at all, especially compared to the amount that the rich men gave.

THE BIGGEST GIFT

STORYTELLER: “Jesus was so impressed with this that He called His disciples to come over to Him.



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Pick up some of the remaining workout equipment and set it on top of the box, next to Jesus.

“Jesus said to them:

Open the Bible to Mark 12:43-44 (NirV) and read.

“What I’m about to tell you is true. That poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. They all gave a lot because they are rich. But she gave even though she is poor. She put in everything she had. That was all she had to live on.” (NirV)

“Wow!

Hold up the piece of equipment representing the widow.

“Jesus could see that this woman was truly living for God. She had given her small amount of money as an act of worship—a way to honor God. She didn’t do it to be seen by other people. She did it because her relationship with God was so important to her . . . and that caused her to live differently. That was why Jesus said she gave the biggest gift of all.

Set down the props and walk in front of the table as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus knew that it was easy for the rich men to give lots of money for the offering. Because they had so much money, they’d never miss it!

“But for the poor widow, it was different. She didn’t have much to begin with, but she gave up everything that she had as a way to live for God.

“That’s an important part of our training plan:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“We should **practice living for God.**

“For us, that could mean giving money as an offering. But it could also mean that we share God’s love with the way we treat other people . . . and that we honor God with the choices we make each day. Our relationship with God is what changes us and makes us want to live differently. It makes us want to worship Jesus by living His way and following His example.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, the story of the widow’s offering is pretty amazing. She didn’t have much at all, but she trusted You with everything she had! Help us to trust You like that too. Your goodness and love fill us up and make us want to make a difference in the world around us. Please show us how we can follow You and share Your love in everything we do. Help us to live for You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “The rich men gave a bigger amount of money than the widow did. We know that. But when you really think about it, the widow actually gave the **MOST**. She didn’t keep anything back. She held everything she had with open hands (*demonstrate*) and trusted God with all of it.

“That’s the kind of trust I want to have. I want to live in a way that shows that **[Basic Truth] I can trust God no matter what**. If we can learn to live that way—with that kind of commitment—then we’ll grow stronger and stronger in our faith as we follow Jesus each day.

“This is another important part of our training plan:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“We should **practice living for God**.

“If we’re paying attention to the people and situations around us, we can find lots of ways to live our lives fully for God. We can live for God at home, at school, at practice, and anywhere else we go.

“We can be generous—not just with money, but also with our time, our kind words, and our good attitudes. Jesus said that when we do things for others, it’s like we’re doing those things for Him. So let’s think about it. What could you do for someone else this week that would also honor God?

“Let’s talk about that in Small Group! Have fun and I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP