



COMMITMENT | WEEK 5 | MAY 29-30, 2021

4th-5th Lesson

Gotta Live

Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Bible Story: Gotta Live (Widow's Mite) • *Mark 12:41-44*

Key Question: How can you live for God?

Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Basic Truth: I am made by God to worship Him.

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

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely 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 kids experience what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment.

God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has followed through on those plans, we get the chance to be with God forever. We reflect God's commitment to us when we can 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. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out that faith every day.

Key Question: How can you live for God? Kids might think that they only practice their faith when they come to church, go to Small Group, or sing in large group. But when you practice living for God, you discover that whatever you do—work, play, read, sing, listen, whatever—can be a way you worship God with your life.

We finish the month in **Mark 12:41-44**. Jesus is with His disciples and notices how wealthy people are giving lots of money, but then came a poor widow. She gave just two small coins. While this seemed like such a small gift, Jesus says this woman gave more than the rich people 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 how we honor God with our whole lives— through how we love others and serve them, how we give of our time and talents, how we obey and praise God, even how we rest. We want kids to practice the faith skill, LIVE, and discover that worship isn't just singing loud. It's living loud.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(Coins)

- Give each kid a coin.
- Instruct them to do the following steps in preparation for the Coin Catch Challenge.
 - Bend one arm at the elbow so that their forearm is horizontal to the floor and their hand is touching their opposite shoulder.
 - With palm facing up, place the coin on top of their elbow so it is facing the ceiling. They are now ready for the challenge.
- Tell kids to quickly snap their arm downward as they try to catch the coin before it hits the ground.
- Encourage kids to keep practicing until they can catch the coin several times in a row.
- Stack a second coin on top of the first once they can easily catch one coin then let them try again. As they succeed, keep giving them more coins to see how many they can catch.
- Suggest other coin challenges as time allows.
 - Coin Spin: How long can kids spin a coin on a flat surface such as an uncarpeted floor or table.
 - Coin Stack: How many coins can kids stack on their forehead while standing with head tilted back?
 - Coin Tower: How many coins can kids stack in one minute using only one hand?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

HOST: Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using.
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words.
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Let's kick off today by playing a game!

LARGE GROUP GAME

ULTIMATE COIN TOSS

(Coins, Dot Stickers, Taped Bullseye)

LGL: "Friends! Believe it or not, we've reached the end of May! What a journey! Ups and downs, high times and serious points, a rollercoaster of a month, for sure."

"Speaking of roller coasters, has anyone ever been to a carnival? I know we haven't had those lately, but pre-Covid, remember those midway games that are totally rigged against you, the haunted mirror maze that's built out of a trailer, and there are rides with names like 'Whip-a-Whirl' and 'The Zipper'?"

"Yeah, those were *awesome*. My mom used to drop us kids off and we'd run around those carnivals for hours, racking up tickets from skee-ball, eating double-fried food, and riding rides until we puked. It was the best!"

“I thought I’d bring some of that Carnie love to KidCity today for y’all! One of the rigged games that you wasted your money on was the Coin Toss and we’ve got our own version of it today, called, “Ultimate Coin Toss!”

(SLIDE: ULTIMATE COIN TOSS)

“I know, I know. Super creative title! Anyway, here’s how the game works: it’s every Small Group for themselves. Don’t even look at the other Small Groups—they’re now the *enemy*. Each Small Group will get a stack of coins and a sheet of stickers. Take the stickers and put them on your coins. That way we can tell coins apart from one another.”

“You’ll pick your spot surrounding the bullseye in the center of the room and toss, roll, flip, chuck, wing, or otherwise launch your coins to try to land them on the bullseye! After everyone has gone, the most team coins in the bullseye wins. Let’s hand out the coins and pick your spots!

Have everyone toss at the same time, then after the count, retrieve the coins and hand them back out to the teams. Play the game three times, then have everyone head back to their seats.

“Great job! Before we get to our upcoming story, let’s sing out and have an awesome time of worshipping God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: RISE AND SING, THIS IS LIVING NOW)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)

(No Supplies)

“Here’s a question for you. In your life right now, what would you say is the most important thing to you? If you were to really think about it, what thing, like a ‘physical’ thing, do you hold most dear in your life? *(Pause for responses)* What about people? Is there *someone* who is the most important to you? Like, someone who you would do anything for? *(Pause for responses)*

“Last question, where does God fit in this? On the overall list of important things, where does God fit? Now, I know the ‘right’ answer that you’re supposed to give in church, ‘*God the most important thing,*’ and maybe God is the most important thing to you, but if God is *actually* that important, how can you let God know it? How can you LIVE like God is the most important thing?”

Our Basic Truth today is...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am made by God to worship Him.

I know what you’re thinking...what does that have anything to do with what we were just talking about?! Let’s watch the So&So Show and see if we can find that answer...

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

“The rich men, like the religious leaders, were concerned with what things looked like on the outside. But the poor widow who had almost nothing chose to give everything. Jesus saw her heart and knew that her pennies were worth far more than the rich men’s gold.”

“Now, you might be wondering something. Weren’t we talking about worship before this story? What does worship have to do with this story of the widow? She didn’t even sing any songs.”

“You might already know this, but worship is *way* more than singing a song. You can actually worship God with your actions, your words, your whole life. You’re actually...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “made by God to worship Him.

“So how exactly does that apply to you? We know God is pleased when we do things, both with our words and actions, that show how much we love Him and love others—and really, Jesus gave us the best example of what that looks like. He lived His whole life doing things that pleased God.”

“For us, I think we struggle when there isn’t immediate feedback. You know, some kind of reward. The art of service, random acts of kindness, doing things for others for no reason—it’s kind of a lost art. But if you get this, *really* get it, you’ll be changing not only your own lives but the lives of those around you.

“Before you do something, anything really, stop and ask yourself if it will honor God. It only takes a moment, but it could potentially help you make a wise choice, not to mention stopping you from doing something not so smart!”

“When you head out from here, think on this question...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “How can you live for God?”

“Big actions, small actions, with words or deeds, what can you do? We can honor God and live for Him when we choose to love the people around us. Remember our memory verse says...

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: 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)

“So let’s train hard in LIVING our lives in a way that worships God!

PRAYER

“Let’s pray together.

“God, You are so good to us! You provide what we need. You are worthy of all we have to give. Thank You for this story that shows us how we can live for You with our whole hearts. We don’t want to just SAY that You’re important in our life. We want to LIVE for You each day. Help us have the commitment to trust You and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(Bibles, Coin)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Read aloud the brief narrative of today’s Bible story found in Mark 12:41-44.
- Invite kids to take turns flipping a coin in the air. Based on how the coin lands, they can share what they remember from today’s lesson.
 - Heads - Share a fact or detail from this story.
 - Tails - Share something we can apply to our life from this story. (Kids can share about what they have to give, like the widow gave her coins. How can they use what they have to show others who God is?)
- After each kid has had a turn tossing the coin, ask:
 - How was the widow showing trust in God?
 - In what ways was the widow practicing living for God? How was it different from the others in the story?
- Reiterate that living for God is about more than giving money. It’s about trying to include God in every part of your day. It’s about asking yourself before you make a choice, “Does this honor God, and does it show love to others?”
- Look up and read Luke 10:27.
 - If you could sum up from this verse what it means to practice living for God, what would it be?

- o In what ways does this verse sum up what it looks like to practice living out your faith?
- o What questions should you ask yourself when trying to make a wise choice and live for God?
- Repeat the coin toss, but this time ask kids to take turns sharing the following answers based on where the coin lands.
 - o Heads - Share one way we can honor God.
 - o Tails - Share one way we can show love to others.
- As kids give answers, prompt them to go deeper than the typical or “easy” answers.
 - o Challenge them to go a step further in their responses by adding a “SO THAT . . .” or “BECAUSE . . .” after their answer as well.
 - o This will help them think beyond the surface answers that they know are correct but may not have taken to heart or know how to apply.

SLAP BRACELET

(Blank Slap Bracelets - 1 Per Kid, Permanent Markers of Different Colors)

What You Do:

- Tell kids that they are going to be creating a way for them to remember during the week to LIVE for God.
- Review the 4 Faith Skills (Hear, Pray, Talk, Live). Emphasize that these skills are sometimes hard to remember when we aren't at church, but not to get discouraged, all it takes is practice!
- Pass out the slap bracelets and put the permanent markers in the middle so kids can reach them (give a gentle reminder that “permanent” means “permanent”!). Have the kids write the 4 Faith Skills on their bracelet and then decorate it however they want.
- While they are doing so, review the monthly verse.

What You Say:

“This month, we’ve learned all about commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice. Just like you make a plan to grow healthy physically, we need to make a plan to grow in our faith! So far, we’ve learned that we can practice hearing from God, praying to God, and talking about God. But we actually need to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God!** As our verse reminds us, growing in faith isn’t just good now, it makes a difference forever!”

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Finish the following sentences:
 - o Living for God is easiest when . . .
 - o Living for God is hardest when . . .
- Is there a difference between KNOWING God and LIVING for God? Explain.
- If someone said they wanted to live for God but didn’t know how, what would you tell them? What’s the first step you’d tell them to take?

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“God, we know we won’t grow in our faith if we don’t actively practice hearing from You, praying to You, talking about You, and living for You. Help us continue to practice every single day so we can grow. We love You and are so grateful for the greatest gift ever—Your Son, Jesus. It’s in Jesus’ name we ask all these things. Amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.