



, COMMITMENT | WEEK 5 | MAY 29-30, 2021

K-1 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*

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.

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:

(Bucket or Bin, Coins of Different Sizes)

What You Do:

- Set the buckets on the ground.
- Have kids stand far enough away from the bucket that it will be a challenge for the kids to toss a coin into the bucket.
- Hand each kid a coin and have them try to toss the coin into the bucket
- If a kid makes it in the bucket, invite them to do a victory dance.
- If a kid misses, let them pick up their coin, get back in line, and try again.
- Play at least two rounds, giving kids a new coin each time.

What You Say:

“Do you think the size of your coin mattered? Was a smaller coin easier to get in the bucket or harder? (*Wait for responses.*) What about a coin like a quarter? (*Wait for responses.*) **[Transition]** Well, let's head to Large Group to hear a story about a woman who had some coins and find out what she did with them.”

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, 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.

LGL: 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

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

(Card For Each Small Group, Streamer)

LGL: "Hello, fun people! I'm so pumped for my race today! I'm finally ready. All of you have helped me train along the way, and together we've learned a lot about commitment.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

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

(SLIDE: THEME)

"We've done some agility training. We've fueled up with some water bottle flipping. And we've even worked on our communication skills. Thank you for helping me put my training plan in practice!

"Of course, that's not the ONLY training plan we've practiced this month. We've also learned how we can grow stronger in our relationship with God.

(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)

(Reference the screen.) "We can HEAR from God when we read the Bible. We can PRAY and talk to God—anytime, anywhere, about anything! We can TALK to other people about God. And look at that last one—we can LIVE for God. That's what [Storyteller's name] will tell us about today. If we put our training plan into practice, we'll be able to do what Jesus said is most important: love God and love other people.

(SLIDE: THEME)

"I'm just about ready to start my race—and I need YOU to help me pull it off. I've got an important job for each small group. Here are your instructions. Don't let any other group see what it says!

Pass out a card to each Small Group Leader.

"First, take a look at the symbol on your card. When you see that symbol on the screen, that's your cue to jump up and do whatever it says on your card. Leaders, you can take 30 seconds to explain to your group what it says on your card and figure out how you'll do it. Ready? Go!

(AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)

Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.

“Okay! Does everyone know what to do? *(Pause for response.)* Great! *(Do some runner’s stretches.)* Then I think it’s time to begin. After all that training, it comes down to this!
Get into a runner’s starting stance, facing the audience.

“First group, you’re up!

(SLIDE: HORN SYMBOL)

The first group should stand up, raise their arms then make a horn sound (as explained on their card).

LGL: As soon as they do, start slow-motion running while facing the audience—i.e. pretend like you’re actually running in a race.

(AUDIO: CHARIOTS OF FIRE)

Tech team: Let the Host slow-motion run for a few steps then put up the next symbol on screen to cue the next group to do the task on their card.

(“Rainstorm,” “Wind gust,” “Huge hill,” “Crowd wave,” “Shoe’s untied,” “Leg cramp shake-out,” “Hydration station,” or “Dance it out”)

LGL: React to what the small group does for each one, while still running in place with the music in the background. For example, if it’s “Leg cramp shake-out,” start shaking your legs and commenting so the rest of the audience knows what’s happening. (“Oh no! Leg cramp! Better shake it out.”)

Repeat the process until you’ve gone through the symbols for all the groups, ending with the “Big finish” symbol.

Tech note: Only show the symbols on screen that match the actual cards that the LGL passed out to the groups. This might mean that you don’t use all of the slides.

(SLIDE: OTHER SYMBOLS AS NEEDED)

(SLIDE: FINISH LINE SYMBOL)

The last group should come on stage, find the streamer, and hold it up in front of the LGL (with half of the group holding each side).

(AUDIO: OLYMPIC FANFARE AND THEME)

LGL: Burst through the streamer then make your way around the perimeter of the room, thanking the kids along the way.

(SLIDE: THEME)

(back on stage) “Amazing! I can’t believe I finished! And I think I did really well, too—912th place. Thank you all for helping me train and succeed.

“Now let’s all stand up and get ready to worship God. He’s the One who gives us the strength we need to stay committed in ANY situation!”

WORSHIP

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



BIBLE STORY

(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH, FAITH SKILLS; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

(Bible)

LGL: We've had a great month learning how we can show commitment—not only in a race, but also in our relationship with God. Remember that we are defining it this way...

(SLIDE: LIFE APP) “Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

There are some important things we can practice that will help us get to know God better—like hearing what God has to say to us by reading the Bible, praying to God, and talking about what we believe. If we can do those things regularly, they'll change the way we live every day!

(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)

Funny enough, that's our last skill that we are talking about! How can we LIVE for God? Well, when Jesus was on earth, he and his disciples witnessed someone who truly understood what it meant to live whole life for God. Let's see who that was!

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

“Wow! Jesus saw the small gift the widow gave as her offering. But He didn't see it as small. He saw how big it was, because it showed how much the widow trusted God!

“If you think about it, the widow's offering was actually a way for her to worship God. After all, worshipping God is about more than just singing songs. It's about LIVING life in a way that honors God. We can show God how much we love Him with the choices we make . . . the way we treat other people . . . and the way we live our lives each day. So remember our Basic Truth...

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

“What makes it easier to remember to worship God with our lives? Well, let's check out our Bottom Line.

(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) “Practice living for God.”

“If you ever wonder what it looks like to live for God, look at the way Jesus lived. Look at the way Jesus treated people—with love and compassion. Look at the way Jesus went to the cross for us, so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. Jesus saw things that were wrong, and He made them right. He can help US do that, too. We can LIVE for God every day when we put what we believe into action.

“Did you know that you have lots of chances to live for God, every single day? It's true! Before you do something, first stop and ask yourself if it will honor God. Does it honor God to play that certain video game even though your parents told you not to? Does it honor God if you're mean

to your friend because they said something unkind to you? 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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COIN RUBBINGS

(Bible, Pennies - 1 Per Kid, Paper, Crayon)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a penny, a piece of paper, and a crayon.
- Review the Bible story with the questions below.
 - o As Jesus and the disciples watched people bring their offerings, what did they notice the rich men do? (*dropping handfuls of coins in; making a big show of the large amount of money they gave*)
 - o What did they see the widow give? (*two coins*)

- o Who impressed Jesus more: the men who gave large amounts or the widow who gave so little? Why? (*the widow because she showed she trusted God by giving ALL she had*)
- o What are some ways we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** that don't involve money?
- Show the kids how to place their penny on a hard surface (like a tabletop or whiteboard), lay the piece of paper over it, and use the side of the crayon to rub over the penny. What happens?
- Encourage the kids to create a title for today's Bible story and write it at the top of the page.
- Instruct the kids to write **[Bottom Line] "practice living for God"** at the bottom of their paper.

What You Say:

"If I put a bag of gold next to this penny, which amount is greater? (*Pause.*) The bag of gold, of course. But on that day when Jesus watched the people bring in their offerings, which one cost the giver MORE: the bags of gold or the two coins? (*Pause.*) Yes, the two coins. The rich men made a big show of their giving that day, when in fact it didn't really affect them. They still had plenty of money left to spend. While the widow, whose husband had died and who didn't have any way to make money, quietly gave ALL she had. She chose to trust God completely, believing that He would provide all she needed. And THAT—her complete trust and faith in God—is what impressed Jesus.

"There are so many ways we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** that don't have anything to do with money. We can help. We can serve. We can make wise choices that protect us and the people around us. Every time we have a choice, we can ask ourselves: Does this choice honor God? Does what I'm about to do show love to others? These questions will help you as you make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

[Make it Personal] (*What are some choices you've made in the past that you know honored God—especially those that might seem silly to others? How did those choices protect you and strengthen your faith and trust in God?*)

BEAN IN A BAG

(Zip-top Bag, Absorbent Paper Towels, Dry Pinto Beans, Water, Permanent Marker)

NOTE: Presoaking the beans overnight will help them sprout faster for the kids once they're home, but it isn't necessary. If you do soak them overnight, be sure and drain them before the kids arrive.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a zip-top bag and a paper towel.
- Lead each kid to dip their paper towel in a water bowl. Keep the paper towel fairly damp, but not dripping.
- Encourage the kids to fold their wet paper towel and place it in their bags.
- Have extra paper towels on hand for spills.
- Give each kid three to four pinto beans.

- Instruct the kids to place all of their beans on the same side of the bag—sandwiched between the side of the bag and the paper towel.
- Assist the kids in squeezing the air from the bag and closing it.
- Write each kid’s name on their bag.
- As the kids do this activity, ask the questions below to get them thinking about the different ways they can live for God.

NOTE: Keep in mind what you know about your kids’ home lives. Be sensitive to difficult situations kids might be in and, if necessary, avoid questions that might trigger an emotional or “loaded” response. If needed, have private conversations with kids if a subject arises that warrants a follow-up.

- o Have you ever given something to a friend? What was it?
- o What is a talent you have that you could share with someone else? *(sing someone a song to cheer them up, draw someone a picture, make someone cookies)*
- o What is a treasure you could share with God or someone else like the widow did? *(share their favorite teddy bear with their sibling, save up money and donate it to a charity, go through their toys and books and donate the ones that are still in good shape)*
- Instruct the kids to tape their bags on a window at home that receives lots of sunlight during the day.
- As the days go by, they can watch it sprout and grow!

What You Say:

“This was so much fun! I can’t wait to hear how much your beans have grown when we come back next week. Just like these beans need water, sunlight, and time to grow, we need to do certain things to grow. When we want to grow in our faith and in our relationship with Jesus, we have to take time to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God**. We are always learning and growing when it comes to our relationship with Jesus.”

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

(K/1st GodTime Card, Crayons or Markers)

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids that the same way the beans will need sunlight and time to grow, there are things we need to grow in our relationship with Jesus. We need to:
 - o Hear Him through His Word (the Bible)
 - o Pray to Him
 - o Talk about Him with others



- o Live for Him
- Close in prayer, asking God to help the kids practice living for Him every day.

What You Say:

“These beans are pretty special—we just can’t see it yet. As the week goes by, you will see them grow. Just like our faith in Jesus, we will grow when we **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.** Let’s talk to Him together.

“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, just like our beans. 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 card to each kid. If there’s spare time, the kids can start coloring their GodTime Card.