



COMMITMENT | WEEK 4 | MAY 24, 2024

Elementary Lesson

All I Have to Give

Monthly Virtue: Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

Bible Story: All I Have to Give (The Widow’s Offering) • Mark 12:41-44

Key Question: How can you live for God?

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

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)

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

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. Because God’s promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. 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.

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 worship songs during 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 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.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You’re in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

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, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) (Said on the fourth weekend of the month only) “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? (Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap). Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (6 Min)

RESCUER REVIVOR

(No Supplies)

Let’s remind ourselves of what we are talking about all month.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

We need commitment for lots of different things in life. If you take piano lessons, then that means you’re putting your plan to be a musician into practice. Or you might play on a soccer team. You can’t just show up for the game, right? You’ve got to put in the work. You’ve got to practice hard so you can be strong and ready to play.

“We also need commitment in our relationship with God. We need to make a plan to grow in our faith in God, and then put that plan into practice! Check out our monthly 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)

We will talk more about that later, but for now, let’s play a game!

(SLIDE: RESCUER REVIVOR)

(SLIDES: FUN 1 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)

HOW TO PLAY:

- CHOOSE 2-4 'REVIVORS'. Choose 2-4 contestants to be 'Revivors' who will be running the whole time.
- DIRECT EVERYONE ELSE. Have the rest of the kids scatter around the room and stand up. Explain that once they have chosen their spot, they will need to stay there for the entire game. Once they have chosen their spot, have one half of the room sit while the rest stand.
- EXPLAIN. Say that the halves of the room are competing against each other. One 'Revivor' is trying to have everyone in the room sit and the other is trying to have everyone stand. On 'GO' they will run and tap the shoulders of the contestants who are in one place. If they are currently standing, then they need to sit, and vice versa. At the end of a minute, count how many people are standing vs sitting and declare a winner.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, READY, SET, MOVE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

Find a partner near you; we're going to have a quick conversation. Tell the person this: Out of all the things on this planet—food, water, air, PlayStation 5s—what are the most important things to you? Give your partner a list of your Top Three Most Important Things.

Let kids chat for a moment. Then ask a few kids to share their responses.

"For me, it's [say a few things that are important]. Can't live without them—next question! Out of all the people on this planet, who is the most important to you? A parent? A teacher? Vlad, who gives you cookies? Who's the most important?"

Let kids chat for a moment. Then ask a few kids to share their responses.

"For me, it's [the person who is most important]. Can't go a day without them, for sure. Next question. How do you show the people who are important to you that they are, in fact, important to you? What do you do to show them?"

Let kids chat for another moment, and after, ask a few to share their thoughts.

Last question, and this isn't for you to turn and talk . . . just for you to think about.

"Is God important to you? (pause) I know the 'church' answer but think about it. Is God really important in your lives?"

“If so, how do you show how important God is? What things do you do? How do you talk, pray, sing even, to let God know how you feel? And is it more than those things? Is there something we can do to worship God?”

“These are pointed questions, for sure. It’s one thing to think that God is great . . . but it’s another thing entirely to actually do things to show God the gratitude we feel. Thankfully, we’ve got a great story today that illustrates how we can put our worship of God into action!”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)

“I love this story because it shows us what it means to not hold anything back. That may look like the widow and mean sacrificing our money. But it doesn’t have to be just money. We can give our time, attention, a good attitude, our talents—there are lots of ways to worship God.

“So, as awesome as it is to come together and worship God through singing or reading the Bible each week, God wants us also to go out and live and show love in the world like God really matters to us. Even if it might be difficult. Think on this...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) ‘I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.’

When we show people through our actions – whether that’s giving a part of our earnings to God through tithing, or being kind when others wouldn’t, or making a stand for doing the right then when others don’t - we are painting a picture of who God is. We should tell people with our actions and our words.

Let’s wrap up today by asking our Key Question.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘How can you live for God?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

“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.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

KEY QUESTION (K-5th) (No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: How can you live for God?

(Answers will vary: Pray regularly, read the Bible, talk about God to others, love others because God loved us first, etc.)

GIVING TOSS (K-5th) (Bible marked to Mark 12:41-44, Beanbag, Paper - 10, Markers)

What You Do:

- Ask for four kids who would like to read aloud.
- Open the Bible to Mark 12:41-44.
- Invite the four kids to take turns reading one verse each from Mark 12:41-44 to review the Bible Story.
- Ask: "What are some other ways you can live for God, other than giving money?"
- Write out the following words, each on a different piece of paper: (Steer kids towards these ideas as they are naming ways they can live for God, if needed.)
 - o money
 - o time
 - o attitude
 - o talents
- Scatter the papers face up around your small group space.
- Direct kids to gather a few feet away from where you've scattered them.
- Give one kid a beanbag.
- Instruct the kids to take turns tossing their beanbag onto one of the papers.

- As each kid tosses their beanbag, encourage them to share an example of how they can give some of their money, time, attitude, or talents to show God’s love to others (depending on which paper their beanbag lands on).
 - Prompt with examples listed below, if needed.
- As one kid gives an example, encourage the other kids to listen.
- Examples:
 - o Money: give an offering at church, pay for someone’s lunch at school, buy a birthday present for your brother, save up money for a gift to get your adult
 - o Time: help a neighbor weed their flowerbed, help a classmate with their homework, help your grandma cook dinner
 - o Attitude: stay positive even if you didn’t get your way, be forgiving if someone admits a mistake, take a deep breath, and stay calm if you feel angry
 - o Talents: consider playing an instrument to cheer someone up, be a good teammate when you’re playing sports, give your very best in all of your extracurricular activities

What You Say:

“Everyone did a great job coming up with ways we can live for God. One of the ways we can live for God is to love others. In our Bible Story today, we know that even though the widow gave the least amount of money, she actually gave the most because she didn’t keep anything back. Jesus knew that it was easy for the rich men to give lots of money. They’d never miss it. But the poor widow gave up everything that she had to honor God.

“We can give our very best to God—sometimes that might include money, but it can also be our time, attitude, and talents. What matters most is our heart behind it. In all of these ways, we can [Bottom Line] practice living for God.”

[Make It Personal] (Share about ways that you, personally, have lived for God—either by giving your money, time, attitude, or talents. If you can, explain how giving your very best in those situations has shown others that you love them, and that God does too!)

GIVING TOSS: EXTENSION (2nd-5th)

(No Supplies)

Ask:

- Does living for God cost you anything?
- When you live for God, how can it affect others?
- How did Jesus set an example for how we can live for God?
- When we do something for others, how is it like doing something for God?

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for the encouraging story about the woman who gave You everything. Please show us how we can use our money, time, attitudes, and talents for You. We want to show You we love You by the way we live. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th) **(Supplies Vary)**

What You Do:

Follow the instructions of the “Books of the Bible” activity that is in your bin.