



WEEK ONE – JANUARY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *The Boy Is Back in Town* • Luke 2:41–52

Bottom Line: *Knowing God is the most important thing.*

Memory Verse: *“The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.”*
Proverbs 2:6 (NIRV)

Life App: *Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We start the month in Luke 2:41–52 as we discover a moment from Jesus’ childhood. Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human. And Jesus recognized something very important. He knew that if He wanted to be a part of God’s story and know the secrets of the world around Him, He needed to be in a place where He could learn what His Father said. For Jesus, studying Scripture was a priority.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask kids:
 - What do you think is the most important thing to know about:
 - a dog?
 - a cat?
 - a fish?
 - an elephant?
 - a Tyrannosaurus Rex?"
 - Note: Feel free to add or omit topics according to your group's interests. Also, you can encourage responses by saying things such as: "Ah, interesting!" "Good thinking!" "Ooh, I hadn't thought of that!" or "What else?"
 - What's the most important thing to know about your best friend?
 - What's the most important thing to know about YOU?

2. You Name It!

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Timer; whiteboard; dry-erase marker

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of Scattergories®.
- Challenge kids to name as many things as possible that they might find in:
 - a grocery store
 - a movie theater
 - the ocean
 - a park
 - a zoo
 - a church
- The catch: They only have a minute for each category!

- Print the kids' answers on the whiteboard.

What You Say:

“You guys are smart, quick thinkers! [Transition] In Large Group we’ll hear about two people who found someONE in what they thought was an unexpected place! Let’s go learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Knowing God is the most important thing. Our kids are growing up in the information age. There is no lack of information. However, not all information is as equally valuable. We want our kids to discover that when they focus on knowing God first, the rest will fall into place.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Show What You Know

[Bible Story Review]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Show What You Know” Activity Page; scraps of paper or index cards; markers; painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Pass out four scraps of paper (or four index cards) and a marker to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to label their cards A, B, C, and D.
 - The purpose of these cards is to ensure kids select an answer for themselves, rather than just following the crowd to move to a certain box.
- As the kids are working, use the tape to mark four boxes on the floor in four corners of your small group area. Label each box A, B, C, or D.
- Gather the kids in center of your small group area.
- Read a review question and multiple-choice answers (from the Activity Page) and give kids a moment to pick their answer.
- Repeat the question and possible answers if needed.
- Instruct kids to hold up a card with their answer—A, B, C or D—and then move to corresponding box on the floor.

- Reveal the correct answer and then have the kids return to the center for the next question.
- Repeat until all questions have been answered.

What You Say:

*“Isn’t it cool to read about Jesus as a twelve-year-old boy? Of all the places for Mary and Joseph to find him, it makes sense that he would be in the temple talking about God. Because **[Bottom Line]** knowing God is the most important thing.*

*“Tell me about something you’re learning in school right now. (Pause.) You will learn so many important things as you grow in knowledge. After all, that’s what school is all about at your age. The awesome thing about God is that there is ALWAYS something new to learn about him. I’m still learning new things as a grownup! Of all the things you’ll learn, **[Bottom Line]** knowing God is the MOST important thing.”*

2. Knowing God Mural

[Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- Set the butcher paper in the center of your space.
- Encourage kids to write or draw pictures of ways we can learn more about God.
- To get them started, talk about what you do in Small Group (read the Bible, pray, talk with one another about what God is teaching you, ask questions, etc.) as a way to get them thinking, and ask:
 - What are some ways you learn about God?
 - How do we get to know God?
- Once the kids have had a few minutes to write or draw their answers, ask some kids to share.
- Discuss other answers you see on the page.
- Set the mural aside for the Prayer activity.

What You Say:

*“I love what you’ve written and drawn here on our mural. Even though we can’t see God face to face, He has provided a way for us to know Him. We can know Him by reading His Word, we can learn about Jesus and what He has done for us, we can pray and talk to God, and we can talk about God with our friends and our small group here at church. God loves you and wants you to know Him. **[Bottom Line]** Knowing God is the most important thing.”*

[Make It Personal] *(Talk to kids about your quiet time routine, your own small group, or other ways you spend time with God in order know Him more and more. How does this time grow your knowledge and understanding of God and help you grow in your relationship with Him?)*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: The mural from the “Knowing God Mural” activity

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around the mural they created earlier.
- Encourage them to choose one thing they want to start doing regularly as a way to know God better.
- If the kids feel comfortable, have them place their finger on the mural to indicate their selection.
- Lead the kids in prayer, asking God to help them grow in their knowledge of Him.

What You Say:

*“I’m so thankful to know that even as a twelve-year-old boy, Jesus wanted to spend time in the temple, asking questions and talking about God. I think that tells us just how important it is for us to do the same thing. That’s one big reason we meet as a small group each week—so that we can ask questions, discuss what we’re learning, and grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. Because **[Bottom Line]** **knowing God is the most important thing.**”*

(Pray a prayer similar to the one below, using your own words.)

“Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus. Thank You for His example in the temple. We want to grow in our knowledge and understanding of You, because knowing You is the most important thing. Help us read Your Word, talk to You in prayer, and come to our small group each week so we can grow in our relationship with You. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off the “Knowing God Mural” they created earlier as they learned today that [Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing. Don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!