



## WEEK ONE – JANUARY 2020

**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.

**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.*

---

**9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 - KIDS ARRIVE**

---

### **Team Welcomes Kids** *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

"Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Jesus loves [child's name]"  
shout out the name

#### **1. Early Arriver Idea: 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.*

**9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP**

*Bible Story – INTRO, Story, OUTRO Videos (whatever works best for your few)  
Worship SONGS*

**9:35-10:05 | 11:05-11:35 - SMALL GROUP**

**GROUPS**

*(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)*

**2. Where’s Jesus?**

**[Bible Story Review]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** “Where’s Jesus?” cards (Activity Page)

**What You Do:**

- Lead kids in a review game that’s a “puzzling” mash up of Concentration® and Where’s Waldo?
- Guide kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group two sets of “Where’s Jesus?” cards (Activity Pages)—face down—and lead them to arrange the cards in a grid (no peeking!).
  - Don’t worry if the grid is uneven. The fact that the kids arranged the cards themselves means that a lot of brain cells were firing!

- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time to find a match.
  - Increase turn-taking by allowing kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.
- When teams match all their cards, challenge them to work together to assemble the puzzles.
- Open your Bible to Luke 2 and encourage kids to use the completed puzzles to help them recall key points of the story:
  - Where did Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and their family go? (Jerusalem)
  - Why did they go there? (to celebrate the Passover)
  - Why were Mary and Joseph looking for Jesus? (They had lost him; he had stayed behind in Jerusalem and they didn't know it.) Can you find Mary and Joseph?
  - Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (In the temple) Where is the temple?
  - Can you find Jesus?
  - What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him? (talking with the teachers about God's Word; talking and asking questions)

### What You Say:

*"I'm sure Jesus learned a lot of things growing up, but even as a kid He knew that the most important thing to know was knowing God. The same is true for you, too! Because out of everything you can learn, **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing.**"*

*"Why do you think that **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing?** (God loves us; He's the best thing ever; because when we know God we can know Jesus.) So, while you're learning all the cool stuff that you're learning right now—like how to read, how to skip count, how to add, how to subtract, how to be a good friend—remember that **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing.**"*

*"If **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing**, what are some ways you can know God more? (I can ask questions; I can pray; I can sing songs to Him; I can read my Bible; I can go to church; I can hear stories about Him.) Yes! So, remember: **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the MOST important thing.**"*

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible

### What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.

### What You Say:

*"Jesus knew that **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing.** That's why he stayed in Jerusalem to talk with the teachers and ask them questions. We can know God by talking with others and asking them questions about Him, too. We can also know God by hearing or reading His Word, the Bible."*

*“One of my favorite verses is John 3:16. (Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked.) It says: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV). What does that verse tell us about God? (He loves us; He sent Jesus so that we can live forever with Him.) Yes! God loves each and every one of you more than you could ever imagine, and because He loves you so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross so that you can live forever with Him! Wow! God loves you, and He sent Jesus for YOU! Let’s pray.*

*“Dear God, thank You so much for loving us more than we could ever imagine. Thank You for sending Jesus so that we can know You even more. Help us remember that knowing You is the most important thing, and help us know You more every day. We love You, Lord. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to tell parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing. Encourage—but don’t force—kids to name one way they’ll seek to know God more. Don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!***