



## WEEK ONE – JANUARY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 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; butcher art paper; 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 butcher paper.

### 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.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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### 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.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. 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.**"*

## 2. Wisdom

### [Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Bible Bits" (Activity Pages), blank colored papers

### What You Do:

- Before kids join you, hide the "Bible Bits" around your environment. Place them where it'll be challenging—but not impossible—for kids to find them.
- Guide kids to get into groups of two. If you have an odd number of kids, pair yourself with a child.
- Use the Bible navigation tips below to help each pair look up and "read" the verse.
  - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Proverbs at the top of the page as you say "Proverbs" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 2 on the page.*

*Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 2 for the little 6; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

- **Finding verses with 1st graders:** *Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show kids what the page looks like.) When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P–R. When kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help children find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 6 in chapter 2. Read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
- Give each pair a blank piece of colored paper (left over from the Activity Pages).
- At your signal, challenge pairs to find the five “Bible Bits” cards that match their color.
- When a team finds all its cards, guide them to work together to put the verse in order.
- “Read” the verse aloud with the kids.

### **What You Say:**

*“Proverbs 2:6 tells us: The Lord gives wisdom (NIRV). Who is ‘the Lord’? (God) Yes, ‘the Lord’ is another name for God. What is wisdom? (Finding out what you should do and doing it; knowing how to make the wise choice; knowing things that help you; etc.) Since God is the One who gives wisdom, knowing Him is SO important. Because the more we know God, the more we think like He thinks and act like He acts. The more we know God, the more we become like Him. That’s why **[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!***