



## WEEK ONE – JANUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

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

**Key Question:** *How do you know God?*

**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 ACTIVITY

---

### 1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

**What You Need:** An item to pass around the circle, timer or mobile device

**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
- Gather kids in a circle.
- Explain kids will play a game similar to Hot Potato.
- To play:
  - Give a ball to a kid.
  - Say a category. For example: candy bars, ice cream flavors, singers/bands, movies, games you play with a ball, etc.
  - When you say go, set a timer for a time of your choosing and let kids pass the ball around the circle.
  - Before passing the ball to the next person, they have to name something in the assigned category.
  - Whoever is holding the ball when the alarm rings is out.
  - Be sure to vary the amount of time you set for each round.
  - Play until one kid is left and declare him or her the winner.
  - Allow kids who are out of the game the opportunity to provide category topics.

**What You Say:**

*“You had to think fast to play this game, and it certainly was easier to play when you knew a lot about the topic you were given. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about the most important thing to know.**”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

---

## LARGE GROUP

---

**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question: *How do you know God?*** *Our preteens start with a big question. For many of them, knowing God seems completely unattainable. We hope that through discovering ways Jesus grew in His understanding of God, they’ll figure out specific ways they can know God too.*

---

## SMALL GROUP

---

### 1. Take a Snapshot

#### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Paper squares, pencils, markers

#### What You Do:

- Give kids 10 squares of paper and a pencil.
- Encourage kids to come up with 10 examples of things we learn.
  - If kids struggle, encourage them to work together and think of their hobbies or things they know how to do.
    - ***[Make it Personal] (Do this activity yourself, and be sure one of your examples relates to learning about God/God’s Word.) Examples could include: music, God’s Word, sports, reading, walking, riding a bike, food, etc.***
- Once kids have 10 examples, instruct them to create a pyramid.
  - The top of the pyramid is what they think is most important thing to know.
  - The second row contains the things they would rank next in importance, and so on.
- When all the pyramids are complete, discuss the pyramids. Consider asking:
  - Why did you rank things in the order you did? (As you discuss the pyramids, explain we are always learning something new and allow kids to change their pyramids if they want.)
  - Discuss the differences among the pyramids. Why do you think the pyramids look different? (This is an opportunity to discuss that though we were all made in the image of God, we have different likes and dislikes and that will influence what things we consider important to learn.)
  - Discuss the similarities.
- **Pro-Tip:** Don’t single out any kid who doesn’t put God at the top of his or her pyramid. Kids are at different places with their faith journeys. For some kids, this activity will be the first time they even considered it to be important to know God. You will re-visit the pyramids during “Bible Story Extension” and will have the opportunity to discuss how Jesus ranked knowing God as the most important thing.

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

#### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - Why is it important for you to know God?
  - What are some ways you have learned about God?
  - What are things you do now or that you will start doing to know God's Word better?
  - Does anyone read a devotional or keep a journal at home? Allow kids time to share what devotionals they are reading and how they help them know God better.

## 3. Make It Personal with Prayer

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, index cards, pens

#### What You Do:

- Ask: What was one new thing you learned today?
- Read Ephesians 1:17–18a.
- Explain that this is a prayer of Paul's for the people of Ephesus. It was a prayer back then and it is a prayer for us now.
  - On the back of the index card, ask kids to write Ephesians 1:17–18 as a prayer, in their own words.
- Close in prayer.

#### What You Say:

*“God, You know everything! There is nothing in this world that is hidden from You. You are so generous, that You share Your wisdom and knowledge with us. We want to know You better. We want to understand how You created us to be and how You want us to live. God, guide us to know You better so that our actions and words will lead others to know You better, too. Amen!”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, don't forget to hand out this month's content overview to each parent!***

