



JANUARY THEME

ILLUMINATE YOUR BRAIN

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:41-52

Extra Credit | Boy Jesus at the Temple
Spark Story Bible | The Boy at the Temple (p. 230-233)

BOTTOM LINE

What God says is the most important thing to know

MEMORY VERSE

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”
Psalm 119:105, NIV

LIFE APP

Knowledge | learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **KNOWLEDGE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

This WEEK: We continue our look at knowledge in **Luke 2:41-52** as we head to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old. He had traveled to Jerusalem with his family for a festival. When Mary and Joseph began their journey home they realized Jesus wasn’t with them. So, they turned around and went all the way back to Jerusalem to find Jesus in the temple surrounded by priests and rabbis. 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.

Bottom Line: **What God says is the most important thing to know.** We need to keep learning what God says through God’s words. Through reading the Bible, we can hear what God wants us to know about the best way to live and in the process discover how to have a forever relationship with God.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your kids would start to grasp the power of God’s Word and that what God says is important and life giving. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw kids to the Word and engage them through it. Pray for kids to have opportunities to discover what God says by reading the Bible and talking to others about it.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

• Ask:

—What are some things that you’ve learned how to do? (*ride a bike, play an instrument, count to 100, do a magic trick, make a snowman, play a game, play a sport, do a cartwheel, skate, swim, etc.*)

—What was something that was hard for you to learn? [**Make It Personal**] (*Share something that was hard for you to learn.*)

—What was something that was fun to learn? [**Make It Personal**] (*Share something that was fun for you to learn.*)

•• NAME IT!

What You Need: No supplies needed



What You Do:

- Challenge your group to name as many things as possible that they might find:
 - In a grocery store
 - In a movie theater
 - In the desert
 - In the ocean
 - At church
- The catch: they have only 60 seconds for each category!

What You Say: “You guys are smart, quick thinkers! [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we’ll learn/we learned about a time when some people found something—or someONE—they didn’t really expect to find at a church.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **WHERE ARE YOU?** (application activity/review the Bible story)

What You Need: “Show Me Where” cards

What You Say: (Hold up the picture of the temple.) “In our story today, we heard about the temple. The temple in Jesus’ day was like our church, except it was considered to be where God actually lived. People went there to study under wise rabbis and learn about God. When you choose this card today, you will act out something for the word ‘temple.’ (Hold up the other cards as you mention them.) These other cards represent a home, a park, and a school. If you were lost, this is where your parents might look for you. But, in Jesus’ day, these things didn’t really look like this. But when Jesus’ parents couldn’t find him, they probably looked in peoples’ homes, common areas, and in places where people gathered together.”

What You Do:

- Stack the cards face down.
- Choose a kid to stand in front of the group.
- The kid up front will choose a card from the top of the stack and act out the place shown on the card.
- The actor cannot use words or point to words; she has to just act out the place using motions.
- You might need to give kids suggestions of how to act out each card. For instance:
 - For “home,” they might make a roof with their hands over their head.
 - For “park,” they might swing their arms forward and backward like a swing.
 - For “school” they might act out writing on a whiteboard.
 - For “temple” they might pantomime opening a scroll or kneeling to pray.
- Once the kids have guessed the place the actor is acting out, the actor chooses a new card.
- The actor keeps acting out the cards until she acts out the card for “temple.” (If this is the first card chosen, she will end up only acting out one place.)
- When the actor has acted out “temple” and the other kids have guessed it, choose a new actor. Challenge the new actor to use different motions for the places.
- Repeat the activity as time and interest allow.



- Kids keep acting out the places until they get a temple card. Once they have successfully acted out the temple and the others have guessed it, they sit down and another kid stands up to act.

What You Say: “When Mary and Joseph lost Jesus, they looked for him everywhere, but Jesus told them that of course they should’ve known that he was in the temple—his father’s house. Jesus knew that **[Bottom Line] what God says is the most important thing to know.** He was in the temple teaching others all about God so they could know God better. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids one of your favorite promises from the Bible.)** Sometimes we might have hard times, or bad things might happen, but we know that God is always with us and we can always discover what God says by reading the Bible and learning more about God from others who know God.”

•• **FIND IT FAST** (*application activity*)

What You Need: “Find It Fast” activity page, Bible

What You Do:

- Read number one on the “Find it Fast” activity page.
- When you say, “Go,” kids should work together to find the item in the Bible.
- When an item is found, ask for a volunteer to read the verse they found, if applicable.
- Continue down the list as time and interest allow.

What You Say: “The items on this list might seem insignificant, but they are all important because they are part of God’s Word. Nothing in the Bible is there by mistake. Everything God has told us in the Bible is important for us to know because **[Bottom Line] what God says is the most important thing to know.**”

•• **CAN YOU SEE IT?** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and ask them to write out Psalm 119:105 on it. The words “lamp” and “light” should be written as big as they can.
- Then, instruct kids to poke small holes through the paper with the tips of the pens to outline the words “lamp” and “light.”

What You Say: “If God’s Word is the lamp that shows us the way, we need to follow that lamp. If you are walking in the dark and you don’t follow the light, what could happen? (*Pause for responses.*) However, if you follow the light and go the way the light is directing you, you will get to where you’re going much easier. That’s why **[Bottom Line] what God says is the most important thing to know.** God’s Word is the light that shows us the way. Hang these papers on the window of your room this week so the light can shine through and remind you to follow God’s Word.”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids what they learned today that they didn’t know before.
- Have kids think of one subject they are struggling with in school.
- Give kids 30 seconds to pray silently about that thing and ask God to help them with it this week.
- Close with the prayer below.

