



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’S JESUS?** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, 2 sets of “Where’s Jesus?” cards, “Where’s Jesus?” answer key

What You Do:

- Read “The Boy at the Temple” on pages 230-233 in the Spark Story Bible.
- Then, lead kids in a review game that’s a “puzzling” mash up of Concentration and Where’s Waldo?
- Shuffle and set out the 2 sets of “Where’s Jesus?” cards. Lead kids to set the cards face down in a grid.
- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time to find a match.
- Decrease competition by allowing kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.
- When kids match all the cards, lead them to assemble the puzzles. Use the answer key to help them if they need it.
- Use the completed puzzles to help kids 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)* Can you find Mary and Joseph?
 - Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? *(temple) Point to the temple*
 - Can you find Jesus? *(He is standing at the door of the temple)*
 - What was Jesus doing when his parents found him? *(talking with the teachers about God’s Word)*

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 he could learn was what God says. The same is true for you, too! Because out of everything you can learn, [Bottom Line] **what God says is the most important thing to know.**

“Why do you think that [Bottom Line] **what God says is the most important thing to know?** *(God loves us; everything God says is true; God’s Word tells us about Jesus)* So while you’re learning all the cool stuff that you’re learning right now—like how to read, how to count by fives, how to add, how to subtract—remember that [Bottom Line] **what God says is the most important thing to know.**”



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

What You Need: Spark Story Bible

What You Do:

• Challenge your group to find the following things in the Spark Story Bible. There will be multiple places these items can be found. If you want, you can try to find many of each item. You can either let kids take turns looking, or work together to find the items.

- Animals
- Stars or moons
- Men with beards
- Hats
- Flowers, trees, or plants
- Babies or children
- Numbers *(not counting page numbers)*

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.**”

●● **LAMP, LIGHT** *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bible, “Lamp, Light” cards, tape, iPhone flashlight *(optional)*

What You Do:

- Work together as a group to find Psalm 119:105 in the Bible. Read it aloud.
- Say the verse phrase by phrase as you post the “Lamp, Light” cards around your environment at the kids’ eye level. Encourage the kids to repeat the phrases after you.
- Cue kids to move to the first card when you shine your flashlight on it. If you don’t have a flashlight, you can just have the kids follow you from card to card. When every child is at the card, say the phrase together.
- Continue with the remaining cards, varying the pace as you progress through the verse.
- Repeat as time allows. Keep interest high by guiding kids to move in different ways. They can move like shooting stars, fireworks, lightning bugs, glow worms, or even glowing jellyfish. *(Yes, there are glow-in-the-dark jellyfish!)*

What You Say: “God gives each of us an AMAZING ability to learn and to know new things. And guess what? You just took a big step toward learning this month’s verse! You might even be able to say it with me. *(Say the verse, encouraging kids to say it with you.)* Great job!”

“How do lamps and lights help us? *(They help us see things; they help us find our way in the dark; they help us not be scared)* How is God’s Word like a light or lamp? *(It makes us happy like light makes us happy; it shows us the way to go; it tells us about God’s love; because people around the world love Jesus)*

“God’s Word is amazing and wonderful and true! So never stop learning God’s Word! Because **[Bottom Line] what God says is the most important thing to know!**”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

