

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 kids about some things they would do to learn something new. For example:  
What are things you could do to learn to drive a car or a plane? What are things you  
could do to learn hip-hop or a new dance move?

•• **WHAT DO YOU KNOW?**

**What You Need:** Copy paper, pens

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids about a topic.
- Kids can work as a group to list what they know about each topic. Examples of topics  
are listed below, but kids can provide topics too.

- Snow White's dwarves
- Winter sports
- Foods beginning with the letter "P"
- Superheroes
- Musicians/bands
- Shoes
- Soft drinks

**What You Say:** "You sure do know a lot about many different topics. [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we'll hear/we heard about the most important thing you should know."

[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.

### •• TAKE ONE! ACTION! *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** Bible, name tags, 2 pieces of copy paper, markers, "Jesus at the Temple" activity page, "Notecards" activity pages

**What You Do:**

- Set the scene. Ask kids: in our Bible story today, where did Jesus and his family live? (*Nazareth*)
- Write "Nazareth" on a piece of paper and set it on the floor.
- Ask kids where Jesus and his family were traveling to and why were they going there. Where did Jesus and his family go to worship and learn about God? (*They went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. They worshiped in the temple.*)
- Write "Jerusalem/Temple" on a piece of paper and place the paper some distance from the "Nazareth" sign.
- Assign each kid someone from the Bible story to portray: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, friends, teachers, and people being amazed.
- Once they have their role, instruct kids to make a nametag indicating who they are pretending to be in the story.
- Using the "Jesus at the Temple" activity page, narrate a review of the story for kids to act out. When prompted in the narration, hand the appropriate kid the notecard indicated and instruct him/her to read it.

**What You Say:** "The Bible doesn't tell us what Joseph and Mary said as they were looking for Jesus or what exactly Jesus said to the teachers in the temple that was so amazing. What we do know is what Jesus said when his parents found him. He said: "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (*Luke 2:49, NIV*). Jesus knew he needed to spend time in the temple—in God's house—to learn. Jesus asked the teachers questions, and he listened to their answers. Even as a kid, Jesus knew the most important thing he could learn was what God says. And the same is true for you and me! We need to keep learning and discovering what God says because [Bottom Line] **what God says is the most important thing to know.**"

### •• PRIORITY PYRAMID *(application activity)*

**What You Need:** "Pyramid" activity page, pen

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a pyramid activity page and a pen.
- As a group, brainstorm ideas of things we learn. Examples could include: God's Word, baking, sports, music, crafts, reading and

writing, tying your shoes, walking, doing a somersault, riding a bike, any subject in school, etc. Encourage them to also talk about things they enjoy learning. Help them think outside of the “school” box.

- Then instruct kids to write 10 ideas in their “word banks.” They should do this separately, writing down their own ideas or whichever brainstormed ideas pertain to them the most. (*Note: One of the ideas in each kid’s list must relate to learning God’s Word.*)

- **[Make It Personal] (Do this entire activity along with the kids.)**

- Talk about some of the ideas. What type of things do you learn about music? Answers could include: playing an instrument, reading music, learning about bands or lyrics to popular songs, etc.

- Once each kid has his/her 10 ideas, kids will put the words into the rectangles in the pyramid. Guide kids to rank their ideas in order of importance, starting with the bottom (*or what is least important to know*). The bottom row of the pyramid contains the four items they think are the least important things to know. The second row contains three things they would rank more important to learn, the third row should have the next two most important things, and the top row will be the most important.

- When all the pyramids are complete, compare pyramids. Guide kids to notice the differences and the similarities and to share what they notice.

**What You Say:** “There are a lot of things for us to learn, and you came up with some great ideas. The bottom rows of our pyramids might look different because we are unique and have different interests. I love music and reading books. Maybe you enjoy learning about sports or how to bake new creations. But no matter what we find interesting, the tops of all our pyramids should look the same. What is the most important thing for you to know? (*What God says*) That is right! **[Bottom Line] What God says is the most important thing to know** and should be at the top of all our pyramids.”

**[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when what God says was not at the top of your pyramid. Maybe you were so focused on what your friends thought and you forgot to spend time discovering what God says. You could redesign your pyramid replacing God at the top with what you were focused on instead. Using age-appropriate examples, share some of the consequences when God’s Word was not your top priority. Maybe you spent a lot of time worrying, maybe you struggled to make wise choices, maybe you missed opportunities to show God’s love, maybe your friendships faltered, etc.)**

#### •• 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.”

**Discussion questions:**

- We know what God says is the most important thing to know, but how much time do you think you should spend learning about God? Encourage kids to give example of what they do to learn about God.

- Why do you think what God says is the most important thing to know? How can God’s Word affect your day at school? On the soccer field? While playing with your friends?

- What about you? **[Make It Personal] (How is your day different when you remember what God’s Word says? What about when you don’t remember God’s Word? Give a couple personal examples as a way to encourage kids to share their own stories.)**



-- NOTES --

**PRAY AND SEND**

**What You Need:** Bibles, pens, the pyramids kids created in "Priority Pyramid"

**What You Do:**

- Look up Psalm 119. Explain to kids that the psalms have been translated into our language so we can read them. However, in the original text, each section of Psalm 119 corresponds to a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse in the section begins with the same letter.
- Encourage kids to write a prayer where every sentence begins with the same letter. They can write on the back of the pyramid activity page.
- Encourage kids to share their prayers.

—An example:

I love you, God!

Instruct me each day with your Word.

Insights from thinking about your Word guide me.

Instill a desire to learn more about you.

Important is everything you say.

**[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.**

Encourage kids to take their Priority Pyramids home to share with their parents/guardians about what their priorities are.