

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2026, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Young Jesus • Luke 2:41-52
I can talk about God to others.

Key Question: What does the Bible teach you?

Bottom Line: The Bible teaches me the best things.

Memory Verse: *"Your word is truth" (John 17:17 NIV).*

Supplies NOT Included in Activity Bags:

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Jesus in Temple Sensory Bin

- Kinetic sand
- Sensory bin
- Jesus in Temple sensory bin supplies

Jesus in Temple Playdoh Mat (not at Walkertown)

Lesson Activities

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review- Bible Memory Match

Application Activity- Run to the Book

Craft- Young Jesus in the Temple

- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

Journal and Prayer

STORY SUMMARY

Young Jesus

The Bible teaches us that we can talk about God with others, and young Jesus at the temple is a great example of it! When Mary and Joseph realized that young Jesus was not with them, they hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Him. Meanwhile, Jesus was right where He knew He should be, in His Father's house talking with important teachers. The Bible teaches us that everyone who heard Jesus was amazed. Jesus talked about God to others, and we can talk about God to others, too.

Social Activities Before Large Group Time

Sensory Bin

Supplies Needed:

- Kinetic Sand
- Jesus in Temple sensory bin supplies
- Sensory bin

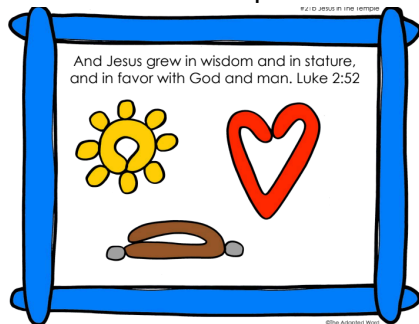
Talk ABOUT:

- Talk about the pictures in the strip of pictures.
- Do you go on trips with your family?
- Have you ever been separated from your family?
- Describe some of the feelings you and your family might have if you're separated from each other.
- How did you feel when you found each other?
- Talk about a time when you were lost.
- Ask the child if there was a time he/she needed to be found.

Play Doh Mat (not Walkertown)

Supplies Needed:

- Playdoh
- Jesus in Temple Mats



Talk ABOUT:

Every year, Jesus went with his family and others to the Feast of the Passover. Jesus and his family walked. When Jesus was 12 years old, he did not walk with the others back home. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was walking with his friends. After a whole day of walking, they looked for Jesus and couldn't find him. Mary and Joseph started searching for Jesus. They looked for him for 3 days! Jesus was at the temple. He was teaching the teachers!

Would You Rather:

- Walk or ride in a car for a whole day?
- Walk with your parents or with your friends?
- Be part of the crowd listening to Jesus or part of the crowd walking home?
- Be a traveler in the crowd or a teacher in the temple?
- Search for Jesus or keep walking home?
- Be in the church or be walking home?

Lesson Activities

1. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

1. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.
2. Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth,' (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17" (*open hands like a book*).

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Your. (*Point up.*) Point one finger up in the air like this (*pointer finger up to the sky*) and say, 'Your.' (*Repeat with children.*) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Word. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book like this (*open hands like a book*) and say, 'word.' (*Pause.*) Now let's put that together. 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*). Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Is truth.' (*Move index finger forward from mouth.*) Put your pointer finger up to your mouth like you are saying shh like this (*pointer finger to lips*), then move your finger forward from your mouth (*move finger forward from mouth*) and say 'is truth.' (*Repeat with children.*) Nice job! Now let's put that together. Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth' (*move index finger forward from mouth*). Super!

"Now the last part is: John 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: John 17:17. (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth,' (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17" (*open hands like a book*). Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us so many wonderful things like how God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**

2. Bible Story Review- Bible Memory Match

What You Need:

- ☐ “Bible Memory Match” Activity Page

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place cards face down on the table.

During the Activity: Encourage children to help find the matching cards and talk about each picture. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me at the table and let’s play a super fun matching game together.”

During the Activity: “Let’s take a look at some pictures. *(Hold up the picture of the Bible.)* This is a picture of the Bible. The Bible teaches us the best things! *(Hold up the picture of Jesus.)* This is a picture of Jesus. The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! *(Hold up the picture of the heart.)* This is a picture of a heart. The Bible teaches us that God loves us so much! *(Hold up the picture of the children.)* And this is a picture of children just like you because the Bible teaches us that God made every one of us! *(Put all the pictures back on the table face down.)* Okay, I’m going to turn over one card at a time, and we’ll see if we can find the card that matches. *(Turn over the first card.)* Look, it’s Jesus. Let’s see if we can find the picture that matches this one. *(Turn over a second card. If it matches, celebrate. If it’s not the match, say, ‘Let’s try again.’ Repeat until all matches are found.)* Hooray! We did it! We found all the matching cards. Great job, friends!”

After the Activity: “The Bible teaches us so many things, like we saw in the pictures in our game! Our true story from the Bible today taught us that when Jesus was young, He taught other people about God. Just like Jesus, even when you are young, YOU can talk about God too! **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things! What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**”

EveryChild Tips:

- Reduce the number of cards you set out at one time. Add cards when appropriate.

3. Application Activity- Run to the Book

What You Need:

- ☐ Table
- ☐ Variety of children's books, including a children's Bible

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Stand the books up, spaced out on a table on one side of the activity area. Look at and talk about the books with the children, then go stand in the center of your area.

During the Activity: Ask one child or all of the children to go find a book that teaches about a certain subject. Continue with all the books and repeat as desired. If time allows, let children sit and look through all the books.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today! Come over here and look at all these cool books on the table. There is a book about the alphabet, a book about animals, a book about cars, *(continue with each of the books, editing what you say according to the books you are using)*, and a very special book called the Bible that's filled with God's words. Let's play a game using the books, but let's start over here in the middle of the room."

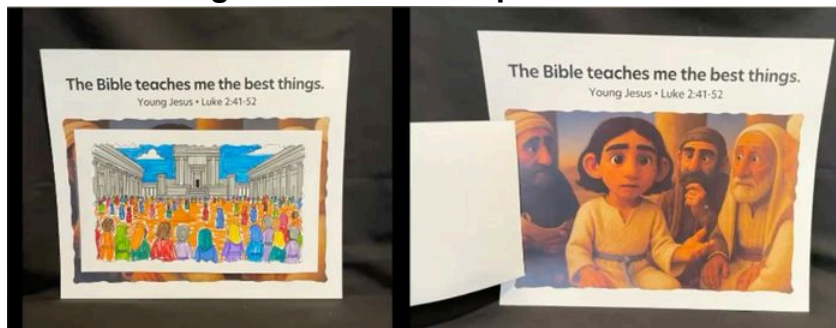
During the Activity: "Okay, I'm going to describe a book, and I want you to run to the table to find the book that you think I'm talking about. Ready? Run and find the book that teaches you about animals. *(Pause.)* Hooray! You found it! Come back to the middle. Ready to find another book? *(Pause.)* Great! Run and find the book that teaches you about cars! *(Pause.)* Fantastic! *(Continue with each of the books.)* Okay, run and find the most special book that teaches you about God! *(Pause.)* Woo-hoo! You found the Bible! Great job, everyone!"

After the Activity: "That was fun running to find the different books! Books teach us so many interesting things, but the Bible teaches us the best things. The Bible teaches us that we can talk about God with our friends and our family and our neighbors! We can talk about God at home, and at a party, and at church! Just like Jesus, we can talk about God! The Bible has God's words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**"

EveryChild Tips:

- Have children go in pairs for additional support.
- Bring the books to the children if needed.

4. Craft- Young Jesus in the Temple



What You Need:

- ☐ “Young Jesus in the Temple” Activity Page
- ☐ “Temple Crowd” Activity
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

1. Write each child’s name on their paper.
2. Encourage children to color their “Temple Crowd” picture, then help position their picture over Jesus. Place a piece of tape along the left-hand side. Then press down over the picture of Jesus.
3. Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey friends, come sit at the table and let’s make a story picture to help us remember today’s Bible Story.”

During the Activity: “Look, there’s Jesus talking at the temple and wow look at this picture of the crowd! Color the picture of the crowd at the temple. *(Pause.)* Great! Take your people picture and place it on top of your picture of Jesus. *(Pause.)* And I’ll add a piece of tape on this side of your picture. *(Pause.)* Mary and Joseph looked over here, and over there, behind these people, around those people, until they finally found Jesus. Look at your paper and gently lift the crowd to look behind it. There’s Jesus. We found Him! Yay!”

After the Activity: “When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He was talking to a lot of grown-ups about God, and they were listening! They were amazed by what He said because He was only 12 years old. The Bible teaches us that we can talk about God with our friends, our family, and our neighbors! We can talk about God at home, at a party, and at church! We can talk about God just like Jesus did! The Bible has God’s words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**”

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have a dance party as you walk with the children to your Small Group space. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Open your Bible to John 17:17. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they can talk about God with.

After the Activity: Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today we’re going to pretend we’re at a special party. Show me your best party dance moves. (*Dance as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Great dancing! Now we can sit down and talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story today, Jesus was a child, like you! He went to a special party with His family. When the party was over, and Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph, were walking home, they noticed Jesus was not with them! They looked and looked for Jesus. Do you remember where they found young Jesus? (*Pause.*) That’s right! Jesus was talking to some very important teachers. Jesus was telling them all about God. We can talk about God to other people, too! Let’s make a list together. When I say your name, I want you to tell me someone that you can talk to about God. Then, I will write their name down in our special journal.”

“We’re learning a Bible verse to help us remember that the Bible is true and the Bible teaches us the best things! It says: ‘Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth’ (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17 (*open hands like a book*). Let’s stand up and say that together. Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth’ (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17 (*open hands like a book*). I’m so glad we have the Bible to teach us the best things! **What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**”

After the Activity: “This is a great list of people! (*Hold up the journal.*) Thank you for making it with me. There are so many people we can talk to about God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can learn all about You. Thank You that we can talk to (*read the names listed in the journal*) about You. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”