

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: Jesus at the Temple • *Luke 2:41-52*

Conversion Starter: Who can you talk to about God?

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

LEADER: "Happy New Year, everybody! Welcome back, we made it to 2026! I'm so pumped you're here today, because this month we're starting a brand-new theme called Game Plan: Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day."

"Here's the idea: just like athletes and teams need a game plan to train, grow, and win, we've got a game plan that helps us grow stronger every day in our faith. And we're going to see what that looks like all month long!"

"This month, we're going to look at four parts of a game plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. Today we're going to look at the first part of that game plan! Talking about God!"

And today we'll see how Jesus, even when He was your age, made time to talk about God. That's our Bottom Line for today: **[Bottom Line] Practice talking about God.**"

WORSHIP

LEADER: We're giving God the first moments of this new year. He's the One who helps us, and we can look to Him always. Let's stand together and kick this off with a song that's all about God's way is always best and we should listen to his way.' Sing it loud and mean every word!

Video: "Your Ways Better" Dance Moves Video- by Forrest Frank

"Wow! You all can worship! Keep worshipping God all throughout this week!"

"So here's why our theme is called Game Plan. Athletes train their bodies, but God invites us to train our hearts. The Bible says that training to be godly helps us *now* and *forever*—that's a Game Plan worth following. When we worship, listen, and talk about God, we're building real strength on the inside. This month's Memory Verse, that's the verse we're going to try to get into our hearts and heads, is 1 Timothy 4:8!"

"I'll read the Memory Verse once by myself. Then we'll all say it with different movements.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)"*

"Let's run in place. (*Run in place.*) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)"*

LEADER: "Great! It's time for some jumping jacks. (*Do some jumping jacks at a controlled pace.*) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)"*

LEADER: "You guys are so good at this! Let's get those knees up, if you can. (*Do some high knees to demonstrate.*) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)"*

LEADER: "Woohoo! Nice work, everybody! That's what our goal should be: training to become godly and follow Jesus. One way of doing that is by practicing talking about God."

VIDEO: So and So Show

LEADER: "When you think about your week, picture this story. Picture Jesus in the temple, talking about God. That's our picture too. We show up. We listen well. We talk about God with humility and courage. We grow.

"Let's talk about the word *practice* in a way that makes sense for us.

"Let's lean in. (*Make sure everyone is leaning in.*)

SLIDE: "Practice Means"

"Practice means:

- You do it again and again so you get better.
- You show up on purpose, even when you don't feel like it.
- You learn from mistakes, then try again.
- You take small steps and celebrate small wins.
- You keep going when it is boring or hard.

Share a short, real story of something you practiced until you improved. Share two or three sentences, then land it by saying: "I got better because I kept practicing."

"Jesus set the example for us. He was a young Kid in the temple talking about God. He didn't wait until He was older. He just did it.

"So what can you start doing to talk about God?

"Here is a very easy step: Practice. The best way to get better at something is to practice.

"There are people in your life who know about God. Talk to them. Ask them your questions about Him. Ask them where you can find some answers in the Bible. You'll find that the people in your life who are His friends can help you get to know Him more too.

"The way we can apply today's true story from the Bible is simple. **[Bottom Line] Practice talking about God.** We watched 12-year-old Jesus in the temple. He showed up, listened, asked, and spoke about God. He didn't wait until He was older. This week, picture one real moment in your life where you can do the same. As you think about a moment, ask yourself this:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "Who can you talk to about God?"

"Carry this question to Small Group. You can practice talking about God with someone you know who knows about Him. It might be awkward to talk about God at first, but it can help you get to know Him better!

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take a moment and talk to God right now. Would you bow your head and close your eyes?"

"God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that even as a Kid, Jesus showed us how important it is to talk about You. Help us to practice this week. Help us to find the people in our lives who know You so we can learn more about You. We want to know You more. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop