

# WEEK 5

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

Following God makes us stand out.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Leaves His Hometown:** Luke 4:22-30;  
Psalm 71:1-6

### LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Echo" (Victory Kids Worship)
  - "O Taste and See" (Bethel Music Kids)
  - "Ask, Seek, Knock" (Hillsong Kids)
  - "You Change Me" (People of the Earth)
  - "You are My All in All" (Shout Praises Kids)

#### ACTIVITY | Zoo Animal Search

- Welcome to a day at the museum! Today, we'll be touring a zoo, but some of the zoo animals seem to be hiding in their habitats! Let's see how quickly we can spot all the zoo animals that are hiding.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have as many kids come to the front as there are hidden object search canisters (see your Shop & Prep List for details on how to prepare these). Call out an animal you're looking for on your checklist. The kid who finds it will show it to you, and then tag in another kid to take their place. Continue until all animals have been found and checked off your list. Play fun music and keep it fast paced! You may want to be strategic about the order of animals on the list and which animals are in which canister.

- ❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Stick a name tag for each kid with zoo animals written on them on the back of each preteen. (If you need some help, try one of [these](#).) Have kids go around asking yes or no questions to each other to try and guess what animal they are. Once someone guesses their animal correctly, have them sit down. Play until everyone knows their animal.
- ❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Ask kids to pick a zoo animal they would be and why they chose that one. You could also have kids find stuffed animals you've hidden around the room.

### ACTIVITY | What Do I Smell?

- One thing we can all agree on when it comes to zoos is that they can really smell! In this exhibit, we will see how sharp your sense of smell is.
- There are different scent stations around the exhibit. Visit each station, and take a whiff of the scent. You'll have to guess what you think it smells like, and write down your guess on the provided paper.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up four scent stations around the room. The idea is to have similar scents at all stations except for one. Supply each scent station with cups of the scent, a jar, paper, and pencils. Kids will write their guesses on the paper and put it in the jar. If kids do not know how to write, consider having a leader at each station to help. After a set time, gather the kids back together, and reveal the scents.
- ❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Be aware of kids who may have sensitivity to smells or essential oils. Consider showing the kids how to safely smell something by fanning their hand over the cup towards their nose rather than putting their nose directly over the cup.
- That was a really fun experience for our noses! **Did any of the smells stand out to you? Why or why not?**

### POLL | Unique Animals

- Zoos have all sorts of animals! However, there are some animals that we can't see at the usual zoo. But our day at the zoo is very special because we have a unique animal exhibit!
- Let's take a poll and see which of these animals you think is the most unique.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place the unique animal pictures around the room. Share a short description of the animals from [this site](#). Give each kid one animal sticker. Have kids walk around and take a look at all the animals, then place their animal sticker at the bottom of the picture that they think is the most unique animal.
- ❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give kids a piece of paper. Have them draw an animal on their paper, then cut the paper in half, so that the head is one piece and the body is another. Ask kids to switch one of their drawings with someone else in the room. Work together to tape the newly created animals on the walls around your space. As kids look at each new animal, vote on a name of each animal.
- **What does it mean to be unique?**
- **What do you think makes you unique?**
- **Would you rather be unique and stand out, or ordinary and common? Why?**

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### BIBLE STORY | Jesus Leaves His Hometown

- Welcome, museum goers! I have loved being your tour guide for the Bible story exhibits and exploring how we can experience God through our senses!
- Learning about God has never smelled sweeter.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For today's story from Luke 4:22–30, have kids listen for the clues in the verses on how to act (i.e., amazed or furious).*
- Today's Bible story is about what happened right after Jesus taught in the synagogue, which we talked about last week. Jesus had just finished telling people that who the old prophets had been talking about, this Savior that everyone was waiting for, was finally here. Because Jesus was here!
- But not everyone received this news well in the town of Nazareth, where Jesus was teaching all this. This town is actually where Jesus grew up. Many people had probably known Jesus since he was young.
- *[Read Luke 4:22–30 from your Bible. Pause after each verse and have kids act out how Jesus' audience might have reacted.]*
- Whoa! That escalated almost as fast as a cheetah going from zero to sixty in three seconds! The crowd got so angry at what Jesus was saying. If anger were a smell, you could probably smell it from miles away.
- **Why do you think they were so angry?**
- Maybe they thought they would be getting special treatment because they were from his hometown. After all, they had heard Jesus had done amazing things in other places, like Capernaum. Maybe they couldn't believe that Jesus was who he said he was because they had known him ever since he was very young.
- Whatever the case, Jesus told them they were missing the point. They were so caught up in their anger that they didn't realize the Savior was right in front of them. And sadly, Jesus left his hometown to continue his ministry in other towns.

### BIG IDEA | Following God makes us stand out.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite a volunteer to open the art tube and pull out the Big Idea butcher paper. Unroll and lay the paper on the floor. Let kids come up and paint the entire paper with watercolor paint to reveal the Big Idea.*
- The greatest part about following God is that God gives us a new identity. We get to live life for God, and not for anyone else or ourselves. This leads all our words and actions to point to God, and that makes us stand out for the best reason ever.
- If people could smell our actions, I would hope our scent stands out (in a good way) because **following God makes us stand out!**

### VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

## STORY | Kindness That Stands Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story about a time you, or someone you witnessed, were kind to someone who others were not kind to or who did not seem to deserve kindness. Tell the kids what was going through your mind, how it made you stand out, and bring it back to how Jesus calls us to show love to everyone.
- Jesus knew that God's love is for everyone, and Jesus was very open about that fact. Jesus stood out because Jesus chose to follow God's desire for all people to know God's love.
- **Following God makes us stand out.** God wants us to be open about showing love and kindness to those around us, even if it causes us to stand out.
- **Is there a time when you stood out because you showed kindness in an unexpected way?**

## OBJECT LESSON | Stand Out and Grow

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a *grow in water animal capsule* and a regular medicine capsule in their own glass or jar of water. Play music while waiting for the capsules to either grow or dissolve.
- We talked today about how **following God makes us stand out.** It's totally worth it to stand out for God, but not everyone is going to like that you are standing out from the crowd, and THAT STINKS! There are times where you might feel like melting under the pressure of what everyone else will think of you.
- *[Show container with regular pill that's dissolved.]* But, instead of shrinking away and fading into the background, you can choose to really lean on God during those times and stand out.
- *[Show container with capsule that expanded into an animal shape.]* When you realize that God is with you as you stand out from the crowd, you can grow as a follower of God! You grow closer to God as you learn to trust God in those moments.
- **Following God makes us stand out**, and your courage to stand out expands as you spend more time experiencing God in this way.

## BIBLE | Psalm 71:1–6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sniff the air as if you smell rain, then spray water mist over the kids, just for a couple of seconds. (Note: Make sure the spray bottle is set to mist and not squirt.) Read Psalm 71:1–6 aloud for the kids.
- This day at the zoo has been so fun! But . . . do you smell that? It smells like rain to me!
- Take a look around the room. **Where would you be able to go to keep dry from the rain?**
- **Following God makes us stand out**, and sometimes, things happen that make us feel like we're being rained on. Maybe you are teased for praying before eating your lunch at school. Maybe you invited a friend to church, but they said no. Maybe you keep praying for a family member who is sick, and they aren't getting better.
- When things like this happen, where can we go to "keep dry?" Let's read Psalm 71:1–6 and find out.
- **What do these verses say about where we can go or who we can turn to when we are feeling sad, embarrassed, worried, or helpless?**
- **Following God makes us stand out**, but we don't stand out alone. God is always with you. God is here for you, no matter what you're going through.

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | Smell Like God?

- **What are some things you smell at a zoo? Why does it smell this way? What smells stand out the most?**
- The zoo is full of smells that signal that you're close to an animal.
- Now, you're not an animal (well, you know what I mean). But, when you know Jesus, you get a new identity that causes you to stand out! It's like you have a special smell. No, not a real smell.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *II Corinthians 2:15* aloud for the kids.  
✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show [this video](#) of Yayoi Kusama's "Infinity Mirrors" exhibit. Talk about how it's easy to lose your identity when you choose being comfortable and blending in. Talk about ways they can stand out for Jesus and amplify those stands.
- **What could it look like for you to be the fragrance of Jesus to those around you? How can people "smell" God on you?**
- **Following God makes us stand out.** So, let's not be shy about our special smell that we get from knowing Jesus!

### ACTIVITY | Stand-Out Meme

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a Stand-Out Meme printable, and set out the supplies for decorating. Provide an animal combination example, such as "In a world of sheep, be a goat." Encourage kids to make their own animal combinations, then draw and decorate their page.
- In a world of blending in, be a stand-out! **Following God makes us stand out.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Stand Up and Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids take turns standing up and reading or reciting the memory verse. *Optional: Before they say the verse, call out a zoo animal that the person has to act like as they say the verse.*
- **Following God makes us stand out.** So let's all sit down and take turns standing up to say the memory verse. Be willing to stand out from the crowd!

### PRAYER

- Dear God, give us the courage to stand out from the crowd and follow you, even when it gets hard. Thank you for always being with us. Remind us that we're never alone when we stand out for you. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- What were the different ways people reacted to the things Jesus taught?
- Why do you think Jesus teaching in his hometown affected how people received him?
- Why did Jesus leave Nazareth?
- Read Psalm 71:5–6. How can these verses encourage you as you follow God and stand out for God?
- Can you describe a time when you might have been afraid of standing out?
- What is one way that you stand out because you are a follower of Jesus?
- Why is standing out for Jesus a good thing?

### ACTIVITY | Button Souvenir

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [button pin](#) and paper. Have kids trace the button backing circle onto the paper, then use the scissors to cut out the circle that they will decorate. For added fun, give each kid a [scratch-and-sniff sticker](#) while affirming an awesome quality you see in them and who God created them to be! (Note: Encourage safety when handling the pin backing. Adults may need to help kids assemble the button.)
- What souvenir are we getting from the gift shop today? They're buttons!
- You can draw a scene from the Bible story, or write out the Big Idea or the memory verse! You can even write a simple phrase like, "God loves you," that can act as a message to people who read it when you wear it!
- When people ask about your button and what it means, take the opportunity to tell them about God! Wear your buttons with pride as you remember that **following God makes us stand out!**

### MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-13](http://growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-13).
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."