

WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

The Bible shows us how to experience God.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue: Luke 4:14-21;
2 Timothy 3:14-17

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 | Static Station

- Hi, everyone! Are you excited to spend another day at a museum? I'm feeling quite *electric* about today's museum because it's a discovery museum!
- Our first exhibit for the day is sure to be a shock! It's the electricity exhibit. **Have you ever seen someone touch the static electricity orb at the discovery museum, and it made their hair stand up?** It's one of my favorites! Wanna try it together?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids [this image](#). Hand out balloons for kids to rub on their hair or a piece of shaggy fabric.

✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Follow these [instructions](#) to create electrical, jumping "fleas!"

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use an energy tube [like this](#). Have the kids sit in a circle. Briefly explain electricity and show them the tube. Have one person hold one end of the tube, and another person hold the other end. When two hands are touching, the tube should turn on. Pass the tube down so different pairs can try activating it.

ACTIVITY | Mystery Grab Bag Game

- Discovery museums let you experience science in a really cool way, but what makes it extra awesome is that you can get hands-on with a lot of things to see what they feel like!
- Let's get hands-on right now with a game in our touch and feel exhibit. There are identical objects inside each bag. You'll go head to head to see who can identify the mystery object first by only using your sense of touch! Hit the bell when you think you know what it is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a mystery grab bag game with two players each round. Recruit two extra leaders to help hold the bags for the players. Place the bell in the middle of the players. Without anyone seeing, place identical objects in each grab bag before each round.

❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** To make this more challenging, have each volunteer wear a blindfold.

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Create a book or wall of textures, [like this](#), for friends to feel instead.

- **Was it hard or easy to only use your sense of touch?**
- **How did you know what it was? What gave it away?**
- It's not always easy to just feel something and know what it is, but if you are familiar with the item, it makes it easier to identify it!

QUESTION | What is one way that we can experience God?

- We love discovery museums because of all the cool things we get to experience and touch. Do you think this is something we can apply to how we connect with God?
- **What is one way that we can experience God?**

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

BIBLE STORY | Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue

- Hey, friends! Welcome back to the Bible story exhibit where I get to guide you in discovering today's story.
- We've had different special features within the exhibit each week as we are exploring how we can experience God through our senses!
 - We've seen how John the Baptist prepared people to see Jesus.
 - We heard an amazing story of Jesus being baptized.
 - Then, we got a taste of God's power through Jesus turning water into wine.
- Let's see if we can get a feel for how else we can know God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dress up as a museum guide again as you tell the story from Luke 4:14–21. Prepare a giant scroll with verses 18–19 written on it. Ask a volunteer in advance to be the one to read from the scroll.

- Today's Bible story exhibit takes place in a synagogue. A synagogue was a place people would gather to study Scripture, worship God, and pray together. Kind of like what we do when we gather for church.
 - Let's imagine we are in that synagogue. **What kinds of things do you think you would be able to see, hear, or touch at a synagogue?**
- So let's pretend that while all those things are happening, who should show up but Jesus himself? But he doesn't just make an appearance. He actually teaches about God!
- *[Ask volunteer to unroll the large scroll and read Luke 4:18-19 out loud.]*
- The passage Jesus read was from the prophet Isaiah. The person Isaiah is talking about would do the following things:
 - Be filled with God's Spirit.
 - Give good news to the poor.
 - Free the prisoners.
 - Help the blind to see.
- After he read this passage, Jesus said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **What do you think that meant?**
- The person Isaiah was talking about all those years ago, even before Jesus came to earth, was actually about Jesus! I mean, the people in the room could literally touch the person that the Scripture was talking about!
- They had no idea that they would experience God in this way through the reading of that scripture.

BIG IDEA | The Bible shows us how to experience God.

- **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.*
- One sure way to experience God is through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we get a feel for God's character and a deeper understanding of who God is. So, it's no wonder that **the Bible shows us how to experience God!**

VIDEO | A Day at the Museum, Episode 4

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

STORY | You Had to be There

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story about a time you saw something cool at a museum or in nature. Over-exaggerate your emotions, and laugh at your own jokes.*
- No matter how energetically I tell you about my experience, it will never be the same as you actually experiencing it. When Jesus was here on earth, Jesus didn't want people just to know things about God. Jesus wanted people to experience God for themselves.
- We get to do that through Jesus and **the Bible because the Bible shows us how to experience God!**
- **Have you ever had a you-just-had-to-be-there experience?** Share it with us!

ACTIVITY | Kid Teacher

- Jesus started teaching in the synagogues when he was pretty young. **Have you ever tried teaching someone a subject or how to do something?**
- In this exhibit, YOU get to be the teacher! Let's see how well you can teach something you may or may not be familiar with!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Kids will come to the front to teach a subject to the group. Let them choose a teacher prop if they want some additional fun. Have them reach into the box and pick a subject at random. They can use the dry erase board if they would like. Remind kids that it's for fun, and they don't have to be worried about getting it wrong! See your Shop & Prep List for sample subjects kids could "teach."*
 - ❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Partner kids up, having one be the teacher that is speaking while the other is acting out what is being said. Come up with a list of random topics for kids to choose from. Here are some [suggestions](#).*
 - ❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Spontaneous communication will be difficult for many kids with special needs. They may need just a few minutes of extra time to think about what they want to share. They also may need someone to whisper to them what to say, but beware this may make them feel self-conscious.*
- Some of those subjects were really hard! It's definitely not easy to teach something you're not very familiar with. You would have to plan out and practice what you teach over and over until you get a good feel for the subject.
- That's how it is with the Bible, too. We need to become familiar with the Bible because **the Bible shows us how to experience God.** The Bible is such an important part of experiencing God, and we would be missing out big time if we didn't take the time to read it and hear about it!

BIBLE | II Timothy 3:14–17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Timothy 3:14–17 aloud for the kids.*
- **What do these verses say about the Bible?**
- Because the Bible is God-breathed, it is actually described as a book that has life. We can experience God through the Bible because God has given it life.
- What does that mean?
- You may be having a hard day, and God will give you encouragement and hope through a verse. You may be in a tough spot, and there will be something in the Bible that speaks to your situation. You may be struggling with forgiving someone who hurt you, and you might come across a story in the Bible that shows how God forgives us. The Bible tells us more than we could ever know.
- It really is true that **the Bible shows us how to experience God.**

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

REFLECTION | The Bible Tells Me So

- **Can you think of one thing you know for sure that the Bible says?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids a minute or two to think about something they know the Bible says. Ask a few volunteers to share their responses.
- The Bible is definitely a big book. It's not even one book . . . it's made up of a lot of books. Sometimes when we come across a book with too many chapters and pages, we might get intimidated. And unless we're getting graded on it, we might not even want to read it.
- But the Bible is not just any other book! If it's true that **the Bible shows us how to experience God** (and, for the record, it is true), then spending time in God's word is so important for our relationship with God. However, this only works if you really want to get to know God more and experience God on the daily.
- This week, ask God to increase your excitement to read the Bible so you can experience more of God!

ACTIVITY | Bible Experience

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a Bible to each kid. Invite a few volunteers to look up the following verses: Matthew 6:9–13, Acts 2:44–45, James 1:17, John 3:16, and Philippians 4:6–7. Have them read their verse(s) when the time comes. *Optional: If the kids cannot read yet, read the passages for them.*
- We are able to use our sense of touch when we feel the cover of our Bible, flip its pages, and use our finger to keep our place as we read God's words. But, as we read the Bible, God touches our lives in a huge way!
- **The Bible shows us how to experience God.** It shows us God's character and who God is.
 - It tells us how we can pray to God. Check out Matthew 6:9–13.
 - It shows us stories of generosity to experience God's own generous heart. We can see this in places like the words of Acts 2:44–45 and James 1:17.
 - It reminds us how much God loves us. For example, in John 3:16.
 - It gives us God's peace, like in Philippians 4:6–7.
- God communicates with us through the wisdom, encouragement, stories, and help that are found in its pages. There will never be a day when there is nothing new to experience. God's Spirit helps us to experience God when we read the Bible.

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Scroll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the memory verse in large print on butcher paper with about 2 to 4 words per line. Have the kids read the verse a couple of times, then roll the scroll from the top down to cover the first line of the verse. Continue practicing the verse and rolling the scroll to cover lines until they can recite the whole verse!
- ❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use Powerpoint to create slides with the memory verse on them. For each slide, take out one word of the verse, inserting blanks. Challenge kids to go through the entire Powerpoint "scroll" until they are saying the verse from memory.

PRAYER

- Dear God, we know that reading the Bible can sometimes feel like a difficult task, but we know that it is the key to knowing you better. Thank you for giving us this wonderful way to experience you! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Jesus do at the synagogue?**
- **How did the people react after Jesus read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah?**
- **Who did Jesus say the scroll was talking about?**
- **According to II Timothy 3:16, what is the Bible useful for? Why is this important?**
- **What are some ways you can experience God through the Bible?**
- **Name one way you can build reading the Bible into your daily routine.**
- **What is one thing you've learned from the Bible that you can teach someone else about?**

ACTIVITY | Magnet Souvenir

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid clear shrink film and a Magnet Souvenir printable. Kids will trace the design onto the film, color it, and cut it out.. Have a toaster oven ready to bake the film, following the instructions listed for the shrink film you use (e.g., 350 for 2 to 3 minutes). If you see the film curling and crinkling, don't panic! Turn the heat off, and wait for the film to naturally fall flat again. After it falls flat, wait about 30 seconds before taking it out of the oven. You may want to quickly place them between two pieces of paper and use a flat object to press them flat before they set. Once it cools, stick a piece of adhesive magnet on the back. (Note: Place the oven on a counter out of kids' reach. Only an adult should work the oven.)
- **✖ SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of using shrink film, print the printable on regular paper scaled at 50%. Allow kids to color it in, then laminate it for them. Attach the magnet to the back of the final product.
- Let's see what souvenir we get to take home from the gift shop today! It's a fridge magnet!
- The refrigerator door is always a great place to put reminders for ourselves! Whenever you see your magnet on the fridge, let it help you remember that **the Bible shows us how to experience God.**

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.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**