

3-6 | January 4

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

Today's 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

1. Opening Activity

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for being a God who wants to know us and to be known. Ask God to build a foundation of curiosity, to lead your few to seek answers to their questions, and never to stop searching to know God more.

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Explain that you're going to play a whispering game called "Telephone."
- Model for the kids how to whisper into your hand or into the ear of the kid next to you.
- Start by whispering the phrase, "God is good," to the kid on your right.
- Instruct that kid to whisper the same thing to the kid on their right.
- Encourage the kids to whisper the statement around the circle until it reaches the last kid.
- Invite the last kid to say the message out loud.
- When the last kid shares the message they think they heard, share the original message.
- Play a few more rounds with other simple phrases like, "Jesus loves me," or "God is strong."

What You Say:

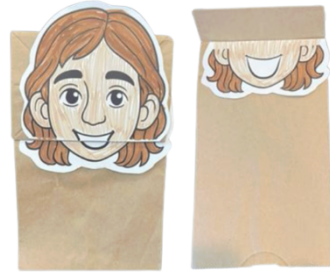
"That was fun! Was the message the same at the end as it was at the beginning? We shared some short, true statements about God! We practiced talking about God! **[Transition]** That's what our true story from the Bible is about today. Let's go hear it!"

[Lead group to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Young Jesus Puppet

What You Need:

- ☐ “Young Jesus Puppet” Activity Page
- ☐ “Young Jesus Puppet Label” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- ☐ Paper lunch bags
- ☐ Crayons or washable markers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Young Jesus Puppet” on cardstock and cut one set per child. Copy “Young Jesus Puppet Label” on label paper, one label per child. Write each child’s name on their paper bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to glue the top part of Jesus’ head to the bottom flap of their lunch bag and Jesus’ body to their lunch bag. Have them color Jesus, then use the puppets to review the story.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today, we heard a story about when Jesus was twelve years old. That’s a little bit older than all of you.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a Jesus puppet. We can use our puppet to help us review our Bible Story. Start by finding the flap on your bag. *(Pause.)* Great. Now glue Jesus’ head to that part of your bag so His mouth lines up to the edge of the flap. *(Pause.)* Tuck Jesus’ body under the flap and glue it to the bag. *(Demonstrate.)* Now color your Jesus puppet. *(Pause.)* Super job! Add this label to the back of your puppet. It tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today’s Bible Story. Now slide your hand into the bag to make your puppet talk like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s use our puppets to help us review.”

After the Activity: “Jesus was twelve years old when He traveled with Mary and Joseph to a big celebration in the city of Jerusalem. It was so much fun! When the celebration was over, everyone went back home, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. While Mary and Joseph were walking back home, they realized Jesus wasn’t with them. Hide your Jesus puppet behind your back. *(Pause.)* When they couldn’t find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. *(Put your hand above your eyes.)* When they finally found Him, Jesus was sitting and talking

with important teachers about God. Use your puppets to talk to each other. *(Pause.)* The grown-ups were AMAZED at what Jesus said.

“Jesus was talking to the people about God, and we can talk to people about God, too! The Bible has God’s words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **What does the Bible teach you?** *[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things.”

3. Move If True

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out.
- Explain that you will say something about the Bible Story.
- If what you say is true, encourage the kids to do a fun action. If it’s not true, encourage the kids to sit down on the floor.
- Read the following statements and actions:
 - “Jesus and His family traveled a long way to go to a special party in Jerusalem. If this is true, march in place!” *(true)*
 - “When it was time to go home, Jesus got lost playing basketball. If this is true, pretend to play basketball.” *(false)*
 - “Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus for three whole days! If this is true, hold up three fingers and look around.” *(true)*
 - “Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple, listening and talking with the teachers. If this is true, point to your ears and then your mouth.” *(true)*
 - “The teachers were angry that Jesus was at the temple. If this is true, show me an angry face.” *(False—the teachers were amazed!)*

What You Say:

“Great job remembering our story! Jesus was young, but He was already talking to the teachers about God. The teachers at the temple knew about God, and Jesus talked to them about Him. He asked them questions. Even when we are young, we can *[Bottom Line]* practice talking about God too!”

Inclusive Pro-Tips

- For kids with mobility challenges, adapt the movements to be done while seated (e.g., “march” with their hands on their legs, “look around” by turning their head).

Use thumbs-up for true and thumbs-down for false as an alternative to standing and sitting.

4. Pray

Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can learn all about You. Thank You that we can talk to teachers, our parents, and friends about You. We can tell everyone about you! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."