



Game Plan | WEEK 1 | January 4, 2026 | ELEMENTARY

Jesus at the Temple

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Bible Story: Jesus at the temple | Luke 2:41-52

Key Question: Who can you talk to about God?

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

Memory Verse: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are not living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM →
 - You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS →
 - A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group Starts
10:05/11:50

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

We start off the month meeting Jesus as a 12-year-old. As usual, Jesus traveled with his family to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. But on the way home, NOT as usual, Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was missing! They raced back to Jerusalem and, at last, discovered Jesus in the Temple, talking with the teachers and asking questions. Everyone was amazed at His understanding. And here's a little Easter egg for you: after Jesus went home with His parents, we read in Luke 2:52 that "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Hey Friends, I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

(SLIDE: Game Plan)

“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—Today is the first part of the plan: Practice talking about God.

(SLIDE: Bottom Line) Practice talking about God.
Let’s check out our memory verse for the month.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

“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! Let’s practice saying the verse and doing the motions together.

- “Training the body” (flex your muscles)
- “has some value.” (two thumbs-up)
- “But being godly” (point up)
- “has value in every way.” (stretch arms out wide)
- “It promises help for the life you are now living” (march in place)
- “and the life to come.” (point forward)
- “1 Timothy 4:8” (open your hands like a book)

“Great job, everyone. Today, we’re going to hear how Jesus, even as a kid, loved being in God’s house and talked about His Father, God. When we sing and when we say God’s Word, we’re learning to talk about God too. Before we get into our lesson let’s play a game together!”

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

Find Me!

(Blank Piece of Paper and Tape)

(SLIDE: FIND ME!)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Choose one student to be the seeker and have them step outside with two leaders.
- While they're out, secretly pick one person to tape a blank piece of paper to their back.
- Allow students to stand and move around the room. They can form groups but must stay in the room.
- When you say "freeze," everyone will stop moving.

(SLIDE: FIND ME! with upbeat music)

- Invite the seeker back into the room and start the timer.
- After 30 seconds, if the student with the paper is not found, end the round. If time allows, play another round.

"That was really fun! Now let's go ahead and focus on worshipping God! When we sing and when we say God's Word, we're learning to talk about God. Let's sing our worship songs."

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: O TASTE & SEE, THAT'S WHO I PRAISE)

(SLIDE: THE BOTTOM LINE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

"Okay, I've got a question for you all. Have you ever thought about what it means to practice?"

"We usually think of practicing for something like a sport, an instrument, or a game. You practice to get stronger, faster, or better at something. But there's something else we can practice that doesn't usually happen at practice or rehearsal. It's talking about God."

"That might sound easy, but when you actually try it, it can feel a little awkward. You might wonder, 'What do I even say?' or 'What if I get it wrong?'"

"This month, we're learning that getting closer to God doesn't just happen automatically. Some things happen quickly, but other things take practice, just like anything else we care about."

"There are all kinds of ways we can practice getting to know God better: talking about Him, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're starting with the first one—talking about God, because as we'll find out, the more we do it, the more we learn about Him."

"In our story, we'll see Jesus as a Kid, just 12 years old, right in the middle of grown-up conversations about faith. He didn't stay quiet or nervous. He showed what strength looks like at your age: showing up, listening well, asking questions, and daring to talk about God. He was with people who knew about God, and He talked to them about Him. Let's check out today's video to learn more!"

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4/6_MIN)

Wow. Today we saw something amazing. Jesus was only 12 years old, but He amazed everyone with how He talked about God.

“Jesus showed us what to do. We can start small and start now.

“He could have been playing or running around, but He chose to be in His Father’s house. He chose to practice talking about God. He chose to find people who knew about God and talk to them and ask them questions to learn about God. You can do the same thing, too!

“The people in your life who know God can help you get to know Him better. So, ask them questions about God. Ask them to show you in the Bible where to go for answers.

“Think about someone you know who knows Jesus. Maybe it’s your Small Group leader. Maybe it’s another friend. If you don’t know many people who know Jesus, ask God to put more people in your life who can help you know Him better. Practice talking about Him like Jesus did to other people. Make getting to know God an important part of your life, so ask people about Him!

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) Let’s not forget our Basic truth. **I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.**

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION – leave this slide up after you pray and kids go to small groups)

“Who can you talk to about God?”

“But before you do that, let’s pray.”

“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.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Bible Story: Jesus at the temple | Luke 2:41-52

Key Question: Who can you talk to about God?

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

Memory Verse: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are not living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Consider praying before you start small group to set the tone. It is just as important as the activities.

TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

Not every answer will be exactly right, but the goal is to guide the kids into good conversation and gently redirect them toward deeper, more biblical answers.

Key Question: Who can you talk to about God?

(Answers will vary)

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

(K-2nd People I Can Talk To Worksheet, 3rd-5th Blank Paper, Pencils, Markers, Colored Pencils, or Crayons)

What You Do (K-2nd)

- Give kids a person outline to decorate as themselves.
- Around the portrait, have them draw or write names of people they could talk to about God (e.g., friends, family, teammates).
- If writing is hard, let them say their ideas aloud and jot them down for them. Focus may be just on *who* they can talk to, not *what* to say.

What You Do (3rd-5th)

- Students draw their own portrait.
- Around it, write/draw names of people they could talk to about God.
- Next to each name, write/draw one thing they want to ask or share about God.
 - Example: "Grandma – What do you say when you talk to Jesus?"
 - Example: "Sam – What do you like about God?"
- Give kids a few minutes to work.
- Ask if anyone wants to share one person they listed and what they plan to say or do.

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

The leader will have one Bible and model for students.

Show students this month's verse page. (Have multiple copies of Bible verse page so students can have one per 2-3 students) to point out the reference on the verse. Explain that we can find that verse in the Bible. Model finding the book of the Bible in the table of contents and finding the start of the chapter. Then show students how to identify the chapter number and verse.

Ask the kids what the verse means to them. Remind them of what we said earlier:

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.

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Page, One Dice Per Group, One Say It Like A Page)

- Students will take turns rolling the dice to get a number. They will then say this month's verse in that type of voice. Students may use the memory verse page for help.

PRAYER

What You Say: "Great job! It's good to remember that being godly—like praying, reading the Bible, and serving others—has value that lasts forever. It helps us now and for the future."

Ask: How can we be praying for one another this week?

Would anyone like to close us in prayer? (Allow students to pray as they feel led.)

Prayer Guide:

"God, thank you for all the people in our lives who are getting to know you. Thank you that Jesus showed us it's important to talk about you and learn about you. Please give us the confidence to talk about you to the people we wrote about today. Help us to see the right time and find the right words to say. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."