

## CITY SG – January 3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**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

### **PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** No supplies

#### **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.
- 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."

**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! **That's what our true story from the Bible is about today.**"

### **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **1. Move If True**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- 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.
- 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!*)
- **Say:** “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 **practice talking about God** too!”

## 2. Flip the Plate: Where's Jesus?

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Paper plates (16 per group), Pens, index cards (one per kid)

#### **What You Do:**

- Before the activity, draw a simple stick person Jesus on the underside of one of the paper plates.
- Line up all sixteen plates face-up, so the drawing of Jesus can't be seen.
- Instruct the kids, one at a time, to point to the plate they think Jesus is under.
- Flip the plate to see if they were right.
- Celebrate when they find Jesus.
- Mix up the plates and play again.
- **Say:** “You will spend your whole life getting to know who God is, and the people around you who know Him can help you. A lot of people you know have been friends with God longer than you have, and they can teach you about Him. So ask them questions about God. Talk to them about Him.”
- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Encourage them to think of and write down the name of someone (or draw someone) in their life who is a friend of God, who they can talk to about God.
- Encourage them to hang this card at home to remember to talk to that person about God!

## 3. Memory Verse with Motions

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page (a few per bin)

#### **What You Do:**

- Show the kids the “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page and teach them the motions to the Memory Verse.
  - “*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)
- Say the whole verse with the motions together several times.

## AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- “Dear God, thank You so much that You want us to know You. We all want to know You better. Help us see the people in our lives who are Your friends, and give us the courage to talk about You. And bring more people in our lives who are Your friends so we can all grow together and get to know You better. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one person they can tell about God this week.