



## BIG IDEA

We can love God with  
our actions.

## BIBLE

**The Boy Jesus at the Temple:**  
Luke 2:41-52

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Praise in the Park

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions 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!](#)
  - "Why He Came" (Lifeway Kids Worship)
  - "Seek First His Kingdom" (Seeds Family Worship)
  - "Follow On" (Orange Kids Music)
  - "I Want to Be Like Jesus" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I Wanna Do Right" (Jana Alayra)

### ACTIVITY | Amusement Park Freeze Dance

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play freeze dance using [amusement park theme music](#). When the music plays, encourage kids to do park-themed dance moves and then freeze when the music stops. For example, wave hands in the air like going on a rollercoaster ride, move up and down like a carousel ride, do big stomps to the next fun ride, or take big licks of ice cream. Show them these dance moves, and practice each one together before playing the game. You can call out which move to do while the music is playing.

✖ **TODDLER HACK:** Younger kids may need extra cues to freeze and stop their bodies.  
Try having them sit down when it's time to freeze instead.

- In today's story, Jesus is twelve years old. At that age, Jesus could definitely do a lot more things than when he was four years old!
- **Have you ever been to an amusement park with lots of big kid rides like roller coasters? Were you able to ride them? Why not?**
- Growing up sometimes means waiting until we're big enough to do some activities.
- We might not get to go on all the rides and eat all the food at amusement parks yet, so let's play a game to imagine what it would be like!

## ACTIVITY | How Would Jesus Play?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to think of a game they could play with a jump rope (using a long one so two kids or adults can hold the ends while the kids take turns jumping inside or lay it on the floor and jump over), a hula hoop (hop in and out, spin around waist, or pass the hoop), a balloon (play tennis, volleyball, how long can you keep it up, or how far can you kick it). Show kids each play thing one at a time. If your group is very large, consider forming smaller groups and assigning one play thing per group.
  - ❖ **TODDLER HACK:** Blow bubbles in your favorite way (classic blowing, waving a large wand, or bubble machine). Invite kids to pop as many of the bubbles as they can.
- During Jesus' time on earth, Jesus grew up as a kid like you and me! That means Jesus played games and had fun when he was young, too!
- **How do you like to have fun?**
- Let's see how much fun we can have with each of these play things!

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:41–52 (The Boy Jesus at the Temple)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a small house made out of blocks, which symbolizes Jesus' hometown, about two feet away from a small balloon, which symbolizes the festival party. Use three wooden peg dolls (or any other people props you have, such as LEGO people or pieces from a game like Candyland) to act out Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in this story found in Luke 2:41–52.
- Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover, which was a very big party. When Jesus was twelve years old, their family traveled to the festival like they always did.
- After the Passover party ended, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, left to travel home.
  - Mary and Joseph walked for an entire day before they realized someone wasn't with them.
  - **Can you guess who they couldn't find?** Yes – their son, Jesus! They couldn't find Jesus anywhere!
- So, Mary and Joseph turned around and walked all the way back to Jerusalem to find Jesus.
  - **Everyone bring your hands up to your face and say, "Uh oh."**
- It took Mary and Joseph THREE whole days to find Jesus.
  - **Everyone say it with me, "Three whole days?!"**
- **Do you know where Jesus was?** Jesus was in the temple, listening to teachers as they spoke about God. The teachers were really surprised that such a young person listened so carefully and understood everything! He asked great questions, too.
  - **Tap the side of your head with your finger two times.**
- When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, they were so happy to know he was safe.
  - **Everyone breathe a big sigh of relief and wipe your brow. Phew!**
- Mary said to Jesus, "Why did you stay behind? We've been so worried about you!"
- Jesus said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
  - **Everyone shrug your shoulders and say, "Huh?"**
  - Jesus was nowhere near his father's house! His father Joseph was running around town looking for him!
  - But Jesus was talking about his father in heaven . . . God! Jesus was at the temple because he wanted to be where he could be close to God.
- But after his parents found him, Jesus listened and went home with them. He loved and respected his parents very much, but Jesus showed that he loved God most of all.

**BIG IDEA | We can love God with our actions.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Assemble a carnival punch-out game board following [these instructions](#). To make it more reusable, you can use rubber bands to secure the tissue paper rather than using hot glue. Use raffle tickets and write one word of the Big Idea on each ticket. Without tearing them, fold them up and place them inside one of the cups before placing the tissue paper to cover the opening of the cup. Kids can take turns punching holes in the cups until the winning ticket is found!
- You found the winning ticket! Today's Big Idea is . . . **We can love God with our actions.**

**VIDEO | Measure Up, Episode 2**

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

**ACTIVITY | Take Action**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make your own die with a square box. Write one action on each side of the die: high five, hug, high ten, fist bump, hand shake, and wild (kid's choice). Have kids take turns rolling the die, read the action out loud, then have kids spend a few moments giving as many of that action to other kids as they can.
  - ❖ **TODDLER HACK:** Print one pair of handprints on many pieces of paper. Tape the handprints to the wall(s) at various heights that younger kids can reach. Encourage kids to reach up high and go down low to give high tens to all the handprints on the wall(s).
- These actions can be ways we show others that we love them!
- **We can love God with our actions**, too. Jesus loved God with his actions by choosing to spend time with God in the temple. Loving God with our actions could look like talking with God in prayer, reading the Bible, singing songs to God, and so many more other actions!

**PRAYER**

- God, we love you, and we thank you for loving us! Help us to remember to love you more with our actions. Amen.

**SHARING TIME**
**SNACK | Berry Cones**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Scoop fresh berries into an ice cream cone and top it with a small amount of whipped cream.
- **What would you do if you were twelve years old for a day?**

**ACTIVITY | Circle Time**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place five water bottles in the middle of the circle to create ring toss posts. Pass a ring to the person who will answer a question. After they answer, have them toss the ring onto a post. Feel free to repeat questions so everyone has a chance to toss a ring.
- **Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?**
- **What was Jesus doing in the temple?**
- **How can you show God that you love him?**

## ACTIVITY | Where Is Jesus Lift-the-Flap

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Guide kids in creating a lift-the-flap scene to reveal Jesus in the temple. Help kids cut out the temple gate. Kids can glue the temple gate onto the space indicated within the temple outline so Jesus can be revealed when the flap is lifted. Encourage kids to color or decorate their scenes with foam stickers (See a worked example [here](#).)  
**✖ TODDLER HACK:** Use a marker to place dots on the paper to serve as targets for where younger kids can add glue.
- Jesus loved spending time with God at a young age. Jesus took action to be in God's temple, listening, and talking with others about God. This can help us remember our Big Idea: **We can love God with our actions.**

## MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids learn the second part of the memory verse to the tune of “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” by singing “and all these things will be given to you as well,” to the first line of the song, “The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.” If you have time, you can actually fit the entire verse twice in the length of the full song.
- Today, let’s learn the second part of our memory verse in Matthew 6:33. We are going to sing it to the tune of “The Itsy Bitsy Spider!”

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today’s Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

### ACTIVITY | The Search for Jesus

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out a tray of cornmeal along with wooden peg dolls, blocks, horse or donkey figurines, and tree figurines. Encourage kids to reenact the Bible story.

### ACTIVITY | I Spy the Boy Jesus

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a bin with shredded paper. Have kids take turns hiding the Boy Jesus cutout(s) in the bin for other kids to find.