

WEEK 4 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came so the world could know God.

THE BIBLE

Jesus at the Temple: Luke 2:41-52;
Colossians 3:12-17

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!](#)*
 - "Good News" (Mandisa)
 - "Joy" (For King & Country)
 - "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" (Go Fish)
 - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Paul Baloche)

ACTIVITY | Pretend Pen Pal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Download this [free printable](#) from Making Mondays and have kids fill it out. Take this activity further by signing up your kids (with parent consent) to find a global pen pal through a trusted site (check out [this list!](#))*
- A pen pal is a friend you get to know by writing letters to each other. Most pen pals live in different countries and speak different languages than each other.
- Let's pick a pretend pen pal.
 - **In what country does your pen pal live?**
 - **How old do you think they are?**
 - **What are some things they might like to know about you?**
 - **What are some things you would want to know about them?**

- Let's fill out this pen pal letter to tell our pretend pal a little about ourselves!

ACTIVITY | Who am I?

- **How could you get your friends to know someone they've never met?** Introduce them? Describe what they look like? Tell about the things they've done?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Form two teams to play this variation of "[Catchphrase](#)." Have a representative from each team draw a name and try to describe the person to their team without saying the name.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** In addition to names of famous people, add the names of your pastors and small group leaders into the mix as well. It's always fun to utilize and celebrate your leaders!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prepare a "Guess Who" board game for kids to play instead.

POLL | Select the Language

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to respond to each of the questions by holding up one finger for option 1 and two fingers for option 2. The correct answer has been underlined. To add a visual component, feel free to use a map to indicate each country as you ask kids each question.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Split preteens into two teams. Give them three minutes to jot down as many languages they can think of. After time's up, have each team take turns naming a language from their list, crossing out anything the other team says on their turn. The team that doesn't run out of languages first wins!
- **Which language, do you think, is the most spoken or official language in . . .**
 - **Brazil:** 1) Spanish or 2) Portuguese?
 - **Netherlands:** 1) Dutch or 2) French?
 - **Madagascar:** 1) French or 2) Swahili?
 - **Israel:** 1) Greek or 2) Hebrew?
 - **Czech Republic:** 1) Greek or 2) Russian?
 - **Canada:** 1) French or 2) English?
 - **Venezuela:** 1) Italian or 2) Spanish?
 - **Taiwan:** 1) Thai or 2) Mandarin?
 - **Egypt:** 1) Hindi or 2) Arabic?
 - **India:** 1) Hindi or 2) Arabic?
- That was kind of tricky, huh? Let me ask you one more question. **How many languages do you think exist in the world today?**
- Great guesses! The correct answer is 7,000. That's right, 7,000! Even though people are separated by language, not to mention geographical, barriers, the whole world can still know God!

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

BIBLE STORY | Jesus at the Temple

- **Have you ever been lost and couldn't find your family member?** It must have been a little scary!

- **Can you imagine if this happened to you when you went on a family trip?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids [this video clip](#) from the movie, "Home Alone 2" as you tell today's story from Luke 2:41–52.
- Today's Bible story tell us that this exact thing happened to Jesus when he was twelve years old. Well, there was no airport or anything. But this is what happened.
- Jesus and his parents, Joseph and Mary, had gone to Jerusalem for a festival with a big group of friends and relatives. After it was over, the group started going home. This trip took days! Remember, they didn't have planes, trains, or even cars then!
- After a day of traveling, Jesus's parents noticed that Jesus wasn't with them. They looked for him in their group, but he wasn't with any of them! (Kind of like how Kevin's family didn't notice he was gone in that video we just saw.)
- Joseph and Mary rushed back to Jerusalem and frantically looked for Jesus. They didn't find him for three whole days!
 - **How do you think they felt for these three days?**
 - They finally found Jesus sitting in the temple courts, listening to the teachers and asking questions. Everyone there was amazed that a 12-year-old understood the Bible as well as, or maybe even better, than the experts and teachers who were there.
 - **Why do you think Jesus knew the Bible so well?**
 - His parents finally found him at the temple.
 - **How do you think they felt when they found him?**
 - "Why did you do this to us?" asked his mother. "Your father and I have been looking all over for you!"
 - Jesus answered, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
 - But Joseph and Mary didn't understand what he was saying.
 - **What do you think Jesus meant? Which Father was he talking about?**
 - Jesus was talking about God. Of course, Jesus loved and obeyed his parents, Mary and Joseph. The Bible tells us he was a good son and he grew up strong and wise.
 - But this happening at the temple shows us that Jesus wanted to be with, learn more about, and talk to people about God all the time. Because he loved God so much, he wanted everyone to do the same!

BIG IDEA | Jesus came so the world could know God

- It's time for the Big Idea! This week, let's say it in Spanish, which is the official language for more than 20 countries around the world!
- Are you ready? "¡Es hora de la Gran Idea!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a native speaker to record this on a simple video, or play this sound clip [on Google Translate](#) for kids to copy. Afterward, pass out the Big Idea passport printable to each kid and have them write today's Big Idea in box #4. Let them take their passports home to remind them of this month's Big Ideas!
- ¡Bien hecho, amigos! That means, "Well done, friends!"
- Today's Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came so the world could know God!**

VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 4

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

IMAGE | "The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple"

- People travel the world for different reasons. There is so much to see and experience out there and one place you can definitely see that is at international museums.
- Famous museums like the *Musée du Louvre* in France, the *Uffizi Gallery* in Italy, the *Metropolitan Museum of Art* in New York, the *Museo Nacional Del Prado* in Madrid, and so many more carry both historical and modern masterpieces for people to enjoy.
- Let's imagine we are in one of these galleries right now, and we came across this work of art in an exhibit. This 1860 painting is titled, "The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Display [this painting](#) and discuss with the group.*
- **How would you describe this painting?**
- **What do you think Mary and Joseph are saying to Jesus?**
- **What might the people sitting there be thinking?**
- **Do you have any theories about what's happening in the background?**
- Did you know that the artist, William Holman Hunt, traveled to Jerusalem to do research for six whole years? He studied what the people from that region looked like and what their customs were. He wanted to get as much information as possible to make his painting represent what happened in that story as accurately as possible.
- When we decide to know something or know about someone, it's important that we learn as much as we can about them instead of making snap judgments or assumptions.
- **Jesus came so the world could know God** and his life on earth was dedicated to letting people know as much about God as possible.

ACTIVITY | Tell the World

- **What words would you describe God to someone who doesn't know God?** Let's write some of these down and see if we can practice sharing them with different parts of the world.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put a large piece of poster paper in seven different areas in the room and in the middle of each poster, write one of the seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America. Make sure these areas are spaced out from each other significantly. Give each pair of kids seven sticky notes, and have them come up with seven different words that they would use to describe God. You can use [a list like this](#) to help them out. Challenge kids to not put too many of the same words in the same place so that each poster has a wide variety of words.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *After this activity, talk to preteens about how we can know and trust God because of God's faithfulness to us in the past. Share a story or two that lets you know that God is real and loves us.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Give kids a stack of words that describe God to choose from instead of having to come up with their own.*
- **Jesus came so the world could know God.** And we can continue to do the work Jesus started by sharing what we know about God with others!

BIBLE | Colossians 3:12–17

- **Have you ever wondered what traditional clothing looks like in different parts of the world?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show some or all of this [video](#) to show kids what traditional clothing around the world might look like. Then read Colossians 3:12–17 to the group, or have volunteers each read a verse.
- This Bible passage tells us to “clothe ourselves” with something completely different than what we’re used to. And it’s not even one of the traditional clothes we just saw.
- Instead, we should wear these fabulous garments called compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- **What do each of these words mean?**
- **Could you provide an example when someone showed one of these to you?**
- **Jesus came so the world could know God**, and everyone knew exactly how much he loved God because of everything he did. We can be like Jesus and live the way God wants us to, so that people can know God through us, too!

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

RESPONSE | Sweater Yourself

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids images of “ugly Christmas sweaters” ([like these](#)) or bring in your own! Afterward, distribute a sweater printable and have kids design their own Christmas sweater with one or more words from Colossians 3:12.
- In the United States, a lot of people observe the tradition of wearing “ugly Christmas sweaters,” which are Christmas-themed sweaters that are outrageously wacky!
- Some of you might really love this tradition and some of you would be embarrassed to ever be seen in a sweater like that. But something that looks good on *everyone* is what Colossians 3:12 tells us to clothe ourselves with: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
- **Decorate your own Christmas sweater with one or more of these words!**
- You might not be wearing an actual sweater but when you clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, you are doing your part in helping people know God.
- After all, that’s why **Jesus came — so the world could know God!**

ACTIVITY | Hello World!

- Telling the world about Jesus often starts with a simple, “Hello!”
- **Do you think you can find out how to say hello in these different parts of the world?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out two copies of both pages of the printable. On one end of the room, place all the country cards (page 1) face up on the left side and the language cards (page 2) on the right side. Repeat the set up on the other side of the room. Have one leader supervise each end of the room. Split the group into two teams, and have everyone stand in the middle of the room facing their cards. On your mark, have one person from each team try to find a country and language pair. If correct, they can hold onto it and tag the next player. If incorrect, they return the cards, then tag the next player. The first team to get all the matching pairs correctly wins!

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** To scaffold this activity for kids with special needs, consider printing each pair on the same colored paper or using matching stickers so that they are easier to spot. For kids that do not wish to participate, print out the pages using the 2-on-1 page printer feature and have kids learn how to say hello in the different languages. You could also help them locate where each country is on a map or globe.

MEMORY VERSE | Fill in the Blanks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write Luke 2:14 on the board and have kids recite the verse together. Erase one or two words at a time with each repetition until the group can say the entire verse from memory with nothing on the board.
- **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for making yourself known through Jesus. We not only know so much about you, but we can know you like we know our family and friends. Help us live in a way that helps other people get to know you, too! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did it take a while for Jesus’s parents to notice he wasn’t with them?**
- **What was Jesus doing when his parents found him?**
- **What reason did Jesus give his parents for staying behind in Jerusalem?**
- **Read Luke 2:48-49. Which “father” is Mary talking about? Who is Jesus talking about?**
- **What are ways you can spend time with God to know God better?**
- **How might others tell if you know God?**
- **What is one way you could help others know God?**

ACTIVITY | Luggage Tag Bookmark

- We had a lot of fun learning about Jesus and learning a little bit more about different parts of the world – and we didn’t even need to pack a suitcase. But if you do get to travel someday, don’t forget your luggage tags!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hand out printable for kids to fill out and cut. Have them loop some string around the hole to use each as a luggage tag or bookmark.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prepare small labels that kids could peel and stick to their luggage tags. You could even include icons to go along with each missing word, such as: a newspaper for “good news,” a smiley face for “joy,” a dove or “V” sign emoji for “peace,” and a Bible for “know God.”
- Fill in the blanks on your luggage tags with key words from all of our Big Ideas this month. Then, stick these tags on some of your belongings or use them as bookmarks to remember what Jesus has done for the world!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Luke2-14.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**