



Extra Credit

Bible Story: Extra Credit (Boy Jesus at the temple) • *Luke 2:41-52*

Bottom Line: What God says is the most important thing to know.

Memory Verse: “Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.” *Psalms 119:105 (NirV)*

Life App: Knowledge—learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Pug-In: (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story. *Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your kids would start to grasp the power of God’s Word and that what He says is important and life giving. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw kids to the Word and engage them through it. Pray for kids to have opportunities to discover what God says by reading the Bible and talking to other believers about it.*

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: Offering container

What You Do:

- Welcome kids to the group and guide them to place their offering in the container.
- Play a round of a memory game.
 - Each player says, “I was packing for vacation, but I forgot _____.”
 - Then the next player must repeat the item the first one forgot and add another item.
 - The player after that has to remember the first two items and then add his own.
- Play continues until the list has gone around the circle, with you going last and repeating all of the “forgotten” items.
- Talk about how difficult it is when you forget to pack something for vacation.
- Ask if it would be worse to leave something at your vacation spot when you return home. What is one item they would regret leaving behind?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Connect Group (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Camel Bumper Sticker Bingo (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: “Camel Bumper Sticker Bingo cards” Activity Pages; one per kid, “Camel Bumper Sticker Bingo Tiles” Activity Pages, one set per small group, markers, (*Optional*) *small counters such as pennies, lima beans, pebbles, or beads*

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Camel Bumper Sticker Bingo card and a marker.
- Mix up the Camel Bumper Sticker Bingo Tiles. Draw a tile and call it out, making sure that you say what letter the bumper sticker begins with for pre-readers.
- Kids will mark their bingo cards with the markers as you call out the tiles. The first kid with five marked spaces in a row wins!
- If you’ve used the optional counters, kids can trade cards, you can re-mix the tiles, and you can play as many rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

These were pretty silly—I’ve never heard of a camel wearing a bumper sticker! We don’t know that Jesus’ family traveled to and from Jerusalem on camels anyway, but it was a fun idea. You had to look really carefully at the bumper stickers to make sure you marked the right one. There was a lot of other information going on: the words on the card, the pictures, the brightness of the room, other noises in our area, how my voice sounds, how your clothes feel, if you’re hungry, sleepy, itchy. From all of this information, you had to decide what was the most important thing to pay attention to in order to win the game. You all did it! You listened to my voice and carefully found the right bumper sticker.

“It’s easy in a game to make sure you pay attention to the directions, but in life you’ve got a lot of information coming at you. You have one set of rules at home, and another at school; you have friends and family to be kind to and soccer drills to practice. Maybe your teacher wants you to finish reading the chapter in your book by tomorrow but your mom says it’s time for bed. It’s hard to know what the most important thing to know is in that kind of situation. I’ve had that happen myself.

[Make it Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate situation where you were torn between two good things, like helping a friend move or keeping a commitment to your small group; or when you had to decide whom to obey, your parents or coach. Share how you resolved the situation and how you felt about it.) We can follow Jesus’ example though, and realize that ***[Bottom Line]*** **what God says is the most important thing to know.** We can learn what God says in tricky situations by reading the Bible, by praying, and by hearing what other people have learned. You just listened to my story about (*what you shared earlier*) and that can be something you add to your knowledge about what God says.”

*** 2. Kingdom of Knowledge (*application activity*)**

What You Need: “Kingdom of Knowledge Collection Cards” Activity Pages; one set per kid, “Kingdom of Knowledge Locations” Activity Pages; one set per small group, A pair of dice, Bible

What You Do:

- Put the “Kingdom of Knowledge Locations” signs up all around your small group area.
- Gather your group into a circle.
- Select 2 kids to go first.
- They will each roll a die and go to the location designated by that number.
- Once at the location, kids will complete the instructions and then return to the circle, where you’ll give them corresponding the “Kingdom of Knowledge” collection card for that location.

- Kids can roll the die while other players are at the locations, keeping the game moving fairly quickly.
- The game ends when a kid has all 6 cards. To save time, kids can skip locations that they've already been to when they roll a repeat number.
- Gather the group and reveal one more location: The Ultimate Knowledge Location (the Bible). *(Note: You can do this tongue-in-cheek if you feel like you can be funny and respectful at the same time. Older kids might kind of roll their eyes, like "Duh, the Bible is the ultimate location for knowledge;" let them think it's funny, then bring them back around to have a genuine conversation about the Bible and what God says.)*

What You Say:

"You collected a lot of knowledge in this game. There are a lot of good places to get knowledge and a lot of good skills we can learn. But like the end of our game, the ultimate knowledge is found in the Bible. **[Bottom Line] What God says is the most important thing to know.** God made our world and our hearts and minds; He designed our relationships and gave us good rules to help us treat each other with kindness. Of course He knows best how we should live and act. We can learn what God says about how to be kind to our family, and how to act when we feel frustrated or upset. What other things does God say about how we live? *(Allow for answers, and affirm the ones that align with Scripture. If a kid offers a suggestion that you're not sure about, tell them you'll check the Bible and get back to them on that next week.)* You have learned so much about the most important thing to know!"

Discussion questions:

- Does God say something in the Bible about every single thing in life? Why do you think that? Is there anything important that He doesn't say something about?
- When you don't know exactly what God says about something, what can you do? (Look up James 1:5 to give you an idea.)

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the group together and encourage them to be reverent. Direct them to respond when you point to them, saying, "I want to know what You say, God."
- Lead kids in a responsive prayer, as outlined below.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Word to guide us, and friends who know You to help us understand. Thank You for talking to us in prayer.

When I am about to make a big decision, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

When I think something's unfair, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

When I am confident that I know what's right, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

When I have no idea who to listen to, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

When I am focused on myself, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

When there are many voices surrounding me, *"I want to know what You say, God."*

I know that **[Bottom Line] what God says is the most important thing to know, so "I want to know what You say, God."**

Help us know what You say and to live the way You want us to, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, let kids choose a "Highlighter Art" paper to take home, and see if they can say the verse in order by using the words on the page and show their grown-ups their new knowledge!