Book Fair | Week 1 | January 04, 2026
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Dec. 2025

BOOK FAIR

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Young Jesus • Luke 2:41-52
I can talk about God to others.

MEMORY VERSE: "*Your word is truth." (John 17:17 NIrV)*

KEY QUESTION: What does the Bible teach you?

BOTTOM LINE: The Bible teaches me the best things.

OPENING ACTIVITY: We Can Do ...

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Memory Verse with Motions

CRAFT: Young Jesus in the Temple

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Ways to Talk

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OPENING ACTIVITY | We Can Do ...

What You Need: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
***Before the Activity*:**

- Make sure you have an open space where children can move freely.

- "Friends, come over here and let's have fun moving together."

During the Activity:

- Ask children if we can do a specific movement and encourage children to repeat the movement.

- "There are so many things that we can do. Let's see... we can jump up and down? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, we can! Everybody, jump up and down. *(Pause.)* Freeze. Can we spin around? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, we can! Everybody, spin around! *(Pause.)* Freeze. What about touching our toes? Can you touch your toes? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, we can! Everybody, touch your toes. *(Pause.)* Freeze. *(Continue with different movements.)* Great job friends!"

After the Activity:

- "We can do so many things! Today we are going to hear what the Bible teaches us we can do!"

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MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: Velcro dots, scissors

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
***Before the Activity*:**

- Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

- "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17." *(Open hands like a book.)*

During the Activity:

- "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Your' *(point up).* Point one finger up in the air like this *(pointer finger up to the sky)* and say, 'Your.' *(Repeat with children.)* Great job!

- "The next part of our verse says: 'Word' *(open hands like a book).* Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book like this *(open hands like a book)* and say, 'word.' *(Pause.)* Now let's put that together. 'Your *(point up)* word' *(open hands like a book).* Great job!

- "The next part of our verse says: 'Is truth' *(move index finger forward from mouth).* Put your pointer finger up to your mouth like you are saying shh like this *(pointer finger to lips), then move your finger forward from your mouth (move finger forward from mouth)* and say 'is truth.' *(Repeat with children.)* Nice job! Now let's put that together. Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth' *(move index finger forward from mouth.)* Super!

- "Now the last part is: John 17:17. *(Open hands like a book.)* Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book *(open hands like a book)* and say: 'John 17:17.' *(Repeat with children.)* Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17" *(open hands like a book).* Nice job. Let's do it again!" *(Repeat several times.)*

After the Activity:

- "The Bible teaches us so many wonderful things like how God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. ***[Bottom Line]*** **The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **The Bible teaches me the best things."**

CRAFT | Young Jesus in the Temple

What You Need:

- ☐ "Young Jesus in the Temple" Activity Page
- ☐ "Temple Crowd" Activity
- ☐ Crayons or washable markers
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Scissors

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- "Hey friends, come sit at the table and let's make a story picture to help us remember today's Bible Story."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color their "Temple Crowd" picture, then help position their picture over Jesus. Place a piece of tape along the left-hand side. Then press down over the picture of Jesus.

- "Look, there's Jesus talking at the temple and wow look at this picture of the crowd! Color the picture of the crowd at the temple. *(Pause.)* Great! Take your people picture and place it on top of your picture of Jesus. *(Pause.)* And I'll add a piece of tape on this side of your picture. *(Pause.)* Mary and Joseph looked over here, and over there, behind these people, around those people, until they finally found Jesus. Look at your paper and gently lift the crowd to look behind it. There's Jesus. We found Him! Yay!"

After the Activity:

- "When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He was talking to a lot of grown-ups about God, and they were listening! They were amazed by what He said because He was only 12 years old. The Bible teaches us that we can talk about God with our friends, our family, and our neighbors! We can talk about God at home, at a party, and at church! We can talk about God just like Jesus did! The Bible has God's words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! ***[Bottom Line]*** **The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **The Bible teaches me the best things."**

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BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I have a question for you. What do you do to celebrate? *(Listen.)* Do you shout, 'Hooray'? *(Listen.)* Let's shout 'Hooray' together. Ready?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Hooray! Hooray!"

LEADER: "Do you eat special food like cupcakes or some other special treat? *(Listen.)* Let's pretend to eat some yummy cupcakes or your favorite treat. *(Pretend to eat a cupcake.)*

"Mmm, cupcakes are so yummy. Do you ever have cupcakes or some other special treat at birthday parties? *(Listen.)* I love birthday parties because you get to celebrate someone special.

"And in today's true story from the Bible, God's people are celebrating someone VERY special—God! If you are ready for a true story from the Bible, say: 'Yay, God!'"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Yay, God!"

LEADER: "Today's true story from the Bible begins with a special party. God's people were celebrating how God had helped them. And there was a very special kid there—Jesus!

"In today's story, Jesus is 12 years old. Jesus is a kid! Young Jesus was traveling with His parents, Mary and Joseph.

"They were part of God's people, and they were on their way to a big celebration in the city of Jerusalem. But they were not traveling alone. There were lots of people! God's people came from all over to celebrate God together. It was a very special celebration! And when the party was over, they all went home.

"While Mary and Joseph were walking back home, they realized Jesus wasn't with them. *(Look around like you are looking for Jesus.)*

"They started asking their friends and family, 'Where is Jesus?' Say that with me."

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Where is Jesus?"

LEADER: "When Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus, they started walking back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

"Let's pretend to look for Jesus with Mary and Joseph. Stand up and follow me. *(Lead children around the room as you pretend to look for Jesus.)*

(Calling.) "Jesus! Jesus! Where are you, Jesus? *(To children.)* Can you say that with me?

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus! Jesus! Where are you, Jesus?"

LEADER: "Where do you think a 12-year-old kid would go? *(Listen.)* Maybe he went to see the animals! Let's go look by the animals. *(Lead children to the other side of the room.)*

"Baa! Baa! Can you baa like a sheep?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Baa! Baa!"

LEADER: "Oh, you sound like good little sheep, but Jesus wasn't by the animals! Maybe Jesus got hungry and went to find some food. Let's go look by the food. *(Lead children back to their seats, but don't sit down yet.)*

"Now let's pretend to eat a yummy apple. Take a big bite with me! *(Pretend to take a bite of an apple.)*

"Good job! But Mary and Joseph didn't find Jesus next to the food either. Let's sit down and find out where Jesus was.

"When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He was talking with some very important teachers. They were talking about God! Everyone was so amazed at what young Jesus understood because He was only 12 years old!

"When Mary and Joseph asked Jesus why He stayed behind, Jesus said:

"Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49 NIV).

"Jesus was talking to the people about God, and we can talk to people about God too!

"The Bible has God's words in it, and the Bible teaches us that we can talk about God with our friends, our family, and our neighbors! We can talk about God when we are at home, at a party, and at church! ***[Bottom Line]*** **The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you?"**

CHILDREN and LEADER: ***[Bottom Line]*** **"The Bible teaches me the best things."**

LEADER: "Yes, ***[Bottom Line]*** **the Bible teaches me the best things. (**Pick up and close Bible.)

"Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER - Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible. Help us to learn more about You so we can tell others about You. You are the best, God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Ways to Talk

What You Need: (any of these options will do)

- ☐ Walkie-talkies
- ☐ Toy phones
- ☐ Megaphone
- ☐ Toy microphone

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Spread all the items on the table.

- "Wow-wee! Friends, come look at all the cool things here on the table!"

During the Activity:

- Invite children to select an item and "talk" to someone. Remind children not to aim their megaphones near another friend if they choose to raise their voice.

- "Do you know what we use them for? *(Pause.)* You're right! We can use them to talk to people. There are *(point to each as you identify them)* microphones, telephones, megaphones, and walkie-talkies. I want you to choose one and pretend to talk to someone with it. (Pause.) Super fun! Everyone, put your item on the table and choose a different one to explore. (*Repeat as desired.)* That was fun! Some of these help us talk louder, like the microphone and megaphone, and we can use the phone and walkie-talkies to talk to people close by or far away. But all of these things help us talk to others."

After the Activity:

- "Let's go hear our Bible Story and learn more about how we can talk about God to others!"