

#1 Let's Get Going! (Kids Can Know the Way)

Overall Theme of Kids Can Know the Way: How did Jesus actually live and treat his friends? What do we discover about who God is from Jesus? How does that shape how we live?

Theme of Today's Story: We can learn about God, just like Jesus did. (In fact, the Bible tells us Jesus shows us what God is like!)

Parents Connect (more conversation & fun at home):

- Look at [a map like this one](#) of Jesus's travel to Jerusalem from Nazareth. Compare it to walks you make with your child sometimes. How many times would you have to walk that path for it to add up to 120 miles?
 - What's something that's worth it to you to walk that far to get it or experience it? How about for your child? Share answers with each other. That's how Jesus and his family felt about connecting with God in Jerusalem - it was that important to them!
 - You could also read [Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#) together. It's one of the first Scriptures Jesus would have learned as a child! If you were to write the whole passage with no words, only pictures, what would you draw? Try it!
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Kids Play (Playground optional activity - kids may just want free play!)

- "Where is Jesus?"
 - Invite the kids to find signs hidden on the playground (you'll need to pre-hide them!) with the names of 4 places Jesus visited! Each will have a number, 1-4.
 - When they find one, they can come back and tell you the number. Help them find the place on the printed map we give you and read them something that Jesus did or said there. (Final page of this doc.)
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I Prepare (Story and Craft Station)

- I read through the storytime plan one more time and think about any tweaks I may want to make, esp. for younger v. older kids.

- I set up the space before the kids arrive - I hide any distractions to help the kids focus & make good choices, and lay out my supplies, so I feel ready!

Kids Gather (Connecting & getting a few wiggles out):

- Greet kids by name, with special attention to anyone new, helping them feel welcome.
- Tell the kids that our story today is about traveling a long way, so we're going to start out marching in place while we talk! March, march, march...
- As they do, ask them how they got to church today. By foot, car, bike, bus? Was it by themselves or with someone? Was it a long way or short?
- Ask them to think about how Jesus would have gotten places, living more than 2000 years ago, especially if it was far. Would he have had a car or bike? Nope, probably more like a donkey when he was lucky, but his feet most of the time!
- "Today our story is about a big trip that Jesus and his family made every year. They would walk 120 miles to Jerusalem! Do you know how far that is?... About as far as it is from Long Beach to Joshua Tree or to Tijuana in Mexico! Would you like to walk that far?"
- "Whew, I'm tired. Let's sit down now and listen to our story about Jesus."

Kids Hear and Wonder (Storytime):

- The story today is from the Whirl Bible, "Young Jesus in the Temple," p. 158. With older kids (or on your own), you might read the story from the actual Bible, Luke 2:39-52.
- Take your time reading it, showing the pictures and asking the kids some questions as you go, like:
 - How did Jesus's parents react to Jesus staying behind?
 - How would your parents react?
 - What did the leaders, the teachers in the temple, seem to think?
 - Why do you think Jesus stayed behind? Why was it so important to him?
- At the end, ask the kids what else they noticed or wondered from the story. What do they think the story says about who God is?
- **One possibility to draw out (but there are no right or wrong answers!):** God is really important and worth spending time with. God is worth learning about.

Kids Create (Craft):

- MAKE AN IMPRINT

- Have the kids work in pairs to trace the other person's foot on a piece of paper. It'll work best on a hard surface.
- Then each child can cut out their footprint, paste the memory verse on it, and decorate the whole thing.
- "Show me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths." - Psalm 25:4
- They can take it home to remind them of the journey we're going on with Jesus for the next few months!
- Supplies
 - Paper, markers, scissors, glue
 - Memory verse slips

Ideas if You Have Extra Time

[Kids Remember... Connect... Pray...](#)

I Send with a Blessing:

- "Friends of Jesus, may you learn more about him and his deep love for you and the world as we journey together on the path of Jesus."

** We're using kids curriculum from MennoMedia as a base, because we appreciate its simplicity and their focus on Jesus, justice and peacemaking.*

#1 Nazareth - Jesus's First Hometown

Luke 4: Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

#2 Capernaum - Jesus' Chosen Home after Nazareth

Matthew 9: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

#3 Bethany

Matthew 26: While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table...[Jesus said] “She has done a beautiful thing to me.”

#4 Emmaus

Jesus, who has died and come back to life, joins up with his friends as they walk in Emmaus, but they don't recognize him! They are too sad and confused, because they're not sure what has happened to him.

Luke 24: When he was at the table with them [that night], he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”