



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Jesus is not normal.

THE BIBLE

Jesus at the Temple as a Boy: Luke 2:41-52
(Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:12)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | NOT NORMAL SHOWCASE
- **ACTIVITY** | SKITTLES SORTING
- **ACTIVITY** | NOSE DIVE
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 2:41-52
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is not normal.
- **ACTIVITY** | What's Not Normal?
- **VIDEO** | Breakfast at Ginger's
- **SCRIPTURE** | Romans 12:1-2
- **ACTIVITY** | Skittles Painting
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Conformed
- **ACTIVITY** | Backwards Races
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him?
 - What are some things that make Jesus not normal?
 - What do you think is challenging about living a not normal life when following Jesus?
 - What is not normal about our lives when we follow Jesus and live His way?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Colossians 3:12
- **ACTIVITY** | Stand Up Challenge
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus is not normal.

THE BIBLE

Jesus at the Temple as a Boy: Luke 2:41-52
(Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:12)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Not Normal Showcase

- Welcome! We're starting a new series called Not Normal! Do you have any not-so-normal talents? While you're thinking about it, let's try out a few talents that are unique, but common.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Select a card from the Not Normal Showcase printables and read the not-so-normal talents, and ask if anyone can do any of them. Try to make sure everyone participates in some way. Then give the kids an opportunity to demonstrate any unique talents they have that were not on your list.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Choose specific cards or actions that will include your kids with special needs. Ask them or their parents ahead of time what actions would be inclusive for them in this activity.*
- Even if you can't do any of these hidden talents, there's probably something about you that makes you special and different from everyone else, even if you haven't discovered it yet! This month, we're learning about Jesus' life and how He was not-so-normal.

ACTIVITY | Skittles Sorting

- We need to sort these Skittles into individual cups with one color per cup, but we're going to do it in a not normal way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out a big bag of Skittles for each small group, and have the kids spread the Skittles on the floor. Set out five cups per small group (more if your Skittles have different colors than the original five colors). Give each kid a straw to use as a mouth vacuum to sort the Skittles into*

the different colored cups. Make sure the opening of the straw is smaller than the skittle to prevent a choking hazard. When they have sorted all their Skittles, pour a little water on top of each cup (just enough to cover the Skittles). You're going to use these later in the service for a Skittles painting activity. *Note: To make the paint thicker, use clear corn syrup instead of water. Stir the Skittles and let them sit for at least 15 minutes – the longer they sit, the deeper the color will be. Also, keep in mind the more liquid you pour into each cup, the more diluted the colors will be, so to keep the colors bright, only use a little water or corn syrup in each cup.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** If they are unable to pick up the Skittles using their straw, turn the cups sideways and let them use the straws like hockey sticks (or use craft sticks) and hit them to the correct cups.
- We're going to use these Skittles in another activity later today, so let's let them sit for a little while!

ACTIVITY | Nose Dive

- **What is the normal way we use our noses?** We use them to smell! But today, we're going to use our noses for something different and abnormal.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place cotton balls into two bowls, and put them on a table. Put a scoop of Vaseline on four paper plates and set them on the other end of the table. Choose four kids to play in two teams of two. Have them put a dab of Vaseline on their noses and take turns running to the other end of the table. The kids should use their noses to pick up as many cotton balls as they can. They will transfer the cotton balls to an empty plate without using their hands, then run back for more. Whoever has the most cotton balls on their plate wins. You could also use double-sided tape on their noses instead of Vaseline.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Let them play a modified version of this game by holding their hands out straight while someone puts cotton balls on the tops of their hands. Then have them take the cotton balls to the bowl on the other side of the room.

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

STORY | Share about a time when you were lost.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a leader share at time their parents left them someplace as a kid.
- Today, we're going to hear about a time when Jesus' parents accidentally left him someplace without realizing it when He was 12 years old. Let's read about it from the Bible.

BIBLE STORY | Luke 2:41-52

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Bring the Bible story to life by having the preteens act it out. See your weekly instructions for details.
- Jesus' family had been in Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When it was time to go home, they thought He was with them, and their whole community group traveled together toward home. After a day of traveling, Jesus' parents realized Jesus wasn't with them. **How do you think they felt? Do you think they were scared or anxious?**
- They hurried back to Jerusalem and looked all over the city for Jesus for three days. **Where did they finally find him?** They found Jesus in the temple teaching. **Do you remember how everyone**

reacted to His teaching? The Bible says the people listening to Him were amazed and astonished. Jesus was not a normal twelve year old. He was filled with wisdom that could only come from God.

- **What kinds of things do you think most twelve-year-old kids do?** They might play with friends or do physical activities. Instead of doing those things, Jesus was talking with temple leaders and having incredible conversations about God.
- Even as a twelve year old, Jesus was not normal. He was living life differently than everyone else because He was God and He was living God’s purposes on Earth.
- Jesus lived life God’s way. God wants us to live not normal lives, too.
- **What are some ways we can live for God that would be considered not so normal, or different from how the rest of the world lives?**
- **What would be the hardest part of living a “not normal” life for God?**
- A person who follows God might do not normal things, like talking about God to others, doing the right thing, choosing not to sin, and putting God and others first.
- This brings us to our Big Idea of the day, which is . . .

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is not normal.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - *Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
 - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)*
 - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
 - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week’s Big Idea: **Jesus is not normal.**

ACTIVITY | What’s Not Normal?

- Jesus’ family went several days without noticing that something wasn’t normal. Jesus wasn’t with them. Let’s test how well you observe what’s happening around you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose a kid to step outside of the room or close their eyes. Change one thing in the room. When they come back, see if they can identify what is not normal in the room. If they need help, the rest of the kids can say “hot” or “cold” to indicate if they are moving closer or farther away from the thing that has changed.*

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

VIDEO | Breakfast at Ginger’s

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this](#) video.*
- **What are some normal things dogs do?** This is a video of a dog doing some very not normal things!
- In the story we heard, Jesus was doing something unexpected and different. **What was Jesus doing that was not normal for a boy His age?** He was teaching in the temple! Jesus was filled with wisdom, even at an early age. We can be thankful for Jesus, His wisdom, and His help every day.

SCRIPTURE | Romans 12:1-2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the passage in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What do you think it means to “conform to the world”?**
- When a person conforms, they copy what other people do. They change how they normally act to try to be like everyone else. This verse tells us not to be just like the world around us. It tells us God will give us a new way to think and live.
- **What are some ways you see others try to conform or be like other people?**
- **How can copying what we see others do cause us to live differently than God wants us to live?**
- Verse two tells us instead of conforming, Jesus wants to completely change our thinking. He wants us to be transformed.

ACTIVITY | Skittles Painting

- Let’s paint pictures that remind us Jesus is not normal! But we’re not going to paint a normal way! **Remember our Skittles cups from earlier?** Let’s use Skittles to paint!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids paintbrushes and canvases or thick paper. Let them dip their paintbrushes in the Skittles cups and paint pictures that say “Jesus is not normal.”*

OBJECT LESSON | Conformed

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the class three different shaped glasses or vases, the more varied the better. Pour water from a pitcher into one vase and show the kids how the water fits into the shape of the vase. Then pour the same water into the other vases, demonstrating how the water conforms to the shape of the vase or glass.*
- **What do you notice about these three glasses/vases? How are they the same, and how are they different?**
- **What happened I poured the water into the other vases? Did the water stay in the shape of the first vase, or did it change?**
- Each time the water conformed to the shape of the container. Whatever the vase told it to do, the water did. This same thing happens to us sometimes. The world tells us how to act. Maybe friends tell us it is cool to be mean and sassy, so we start talking to people that way so we can fit in. Maybe people say if you dress or act a certain way, you will be cool. If you did those things just for the other people, you would be conforming, or trying to fit what someone else told you to be.
- Even as a twelve year old, Jesus didn’t conform to what those around Him thought He should be doing. He did what He knew God wanted Him to do.

ACTIVITY | Backwards Races

- Jesus made choices that didn’t seem normal to those around Him. In the same way, many times, our choices will not seem normal to those around us because He tells us not to copy the world.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split kids into teams and have them stand on one side of the room. For each round, the teams will choose one player to participate in a backwards race to the other side of the room. Call out the racing style before they choose their player, then let the kids race. Station some spotters around the perimeter of your racing area to help guide the kids and make sure they don’t run into anything. You can use the following racing styles:*

- Walk backwards
- Crabwalk backwards
- Skip backwards
- Backwards wheelbarrow races (two players needed)
- Jump backwards
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Modify this game for preteens to remind them the importance of listening to the voice of God. See your weekly instructions for details.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Let them play this game with a buddy helping them, or allow them to stand on the sidelines as a spotter if they are unable to participate.
- **Was it hard to play the game this way? Why?**
- We may not have to walk backwards, but we might experience people telling us to do things that don't line up with what God wants. We might look and act different than people who don't follow Jesus. God wants us to be different. We can be not normal together!

MEMORY VERSES | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Jesus do in this story that was not so normal?** (He went back to the temple.)
- **What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him?** (Teaching in the Temple.)
- **What are some things that make Jesus not normal?**
- **What's the hard part about living a not normal life when following Jesus?**
- **What is not normal about our lives when we follow Jesus and live His way?**

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 3:12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- One of the greatest ways we can live not normal lives is by loving people like God wants us to.
- **What does this verse say about how God feels about us?**
- **What does this verse tell us about how to treat others?**
- **What is one way you can be "not normal" this week in how you treat others?**

ACTIVITY | Stand Up Challenge

- We're going to do a challenge that seems simple, but you will need the help of a partner! All you have to do is sit down on the floor, then stand up! But . . . there's a catch!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have each kid choose a partner who is about the same height as them. Then have them sit all sit down on the floor with their legs out in front of them. Tell them to try to stand up without using their hands at all. After they all try (and fail!), tell them to sit back-to-back with their partner and link arms. They can lean on each other and push up against each other to get up at the same time.

- Just like we used each other for support in this challenge, Jesus is there as a support to us every day.
- When we need strength, we can lean on Jesus.

MEMORY VERSES | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.