



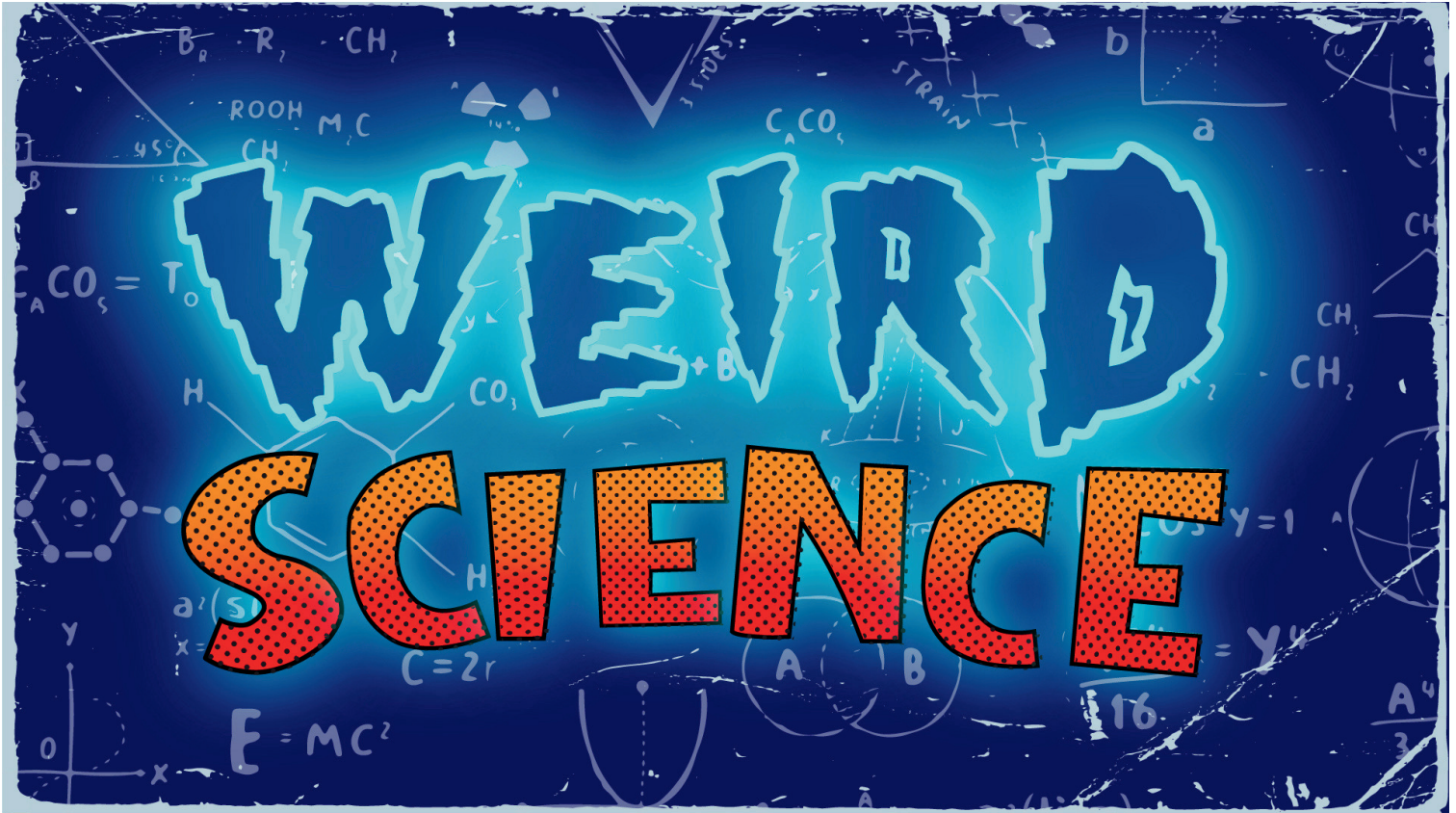
Kids Club

Leader Guide

Mar

Week 2

Mar. 8, 2026



Series Overview

Brace yourselves for the ultimate in Weird Science! In this series, we're taking Jesus' mind-blowing parables and turning them into the craziest, coolest experiments ever! Come along with us as we show kids how faith can be fun as we explore the teachings of Jesus.

Each session is a wild ride full of laughter, surprises, and 'Whoa, that's awesome!' moments. So, grab your curiosity and join us for a super cool journey where the Bible comes alive in the most unexpected, totally epic ways.

Lesson Overview

Lesson 2 explores new, exciting concepts! Within this lesson, we explore The Parable of the Lost Son in Luke 15:11-32. Children discover the science of buoyancy, chemical bonds, and changes in matter. These experiments point to the truth that we, who were once lost, can become found because of God's love. To tie it up, these totally fun experiments lead children to learn that despite our sin, God gives us everything we need, all because He loves us.

Lesson 2:

Lost, Found, and Loved – Luke 15:11-32, John 6:35

Bottom Line:

God gives us what we need.

Memory Verse (Series):

"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" John 6:35

Schedule

1. Welcome & Connection (10 minutes)

Kids check in, play together, and connect with leaders. Encourage older kids to include younger ones. Give prompts for questions the teacher can ask to build relationships. Lessons 2-4: review the previous lesson's take home challenge.

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 minutes)

Short lesson with Scripture and discussion. This should be very engaging, with lots of opportunity for movement and kids participating.

3. Review & Practice(10 minutes)

Practice engaging with Scripture from lesson and series memory verse.

4. Prayer & Worship Group Activity (15 minutes)

Reinforce the truth that God has a plan through creative, hands-on and meaningful discussion. Ideally kids are working in pairs or groups. Either a game, craft, or other activity. Incorporate a prayer or worship practice.

6. Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 minutes)

Review the main point, play together, and give a take-home challenge.

SUPPLIES

1. Welcome & Connection

- Items for structured free play
- Upbeat worship music (playlist or speaker)

2. Group Gather & Bible Focus

- At least 4 tangerines
- two clear containers with equal amounts of water
- two sheets of aluminum foil

3. Review & Practice

- index cards or cardstock
- Marker or printed clue card
- Painter's tape or removable tape for hiding cards
- Printed Bible verse phrases
- Scissors
- Tape

4. Prayer & Worship Activity

- Whiteboard or laminated poster paper
- Dry erase markers
- Damp cloth or wipes

Welcome & Connection (10 min)

As kids arrive, invite them into free play(coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.

Welcome, friends. I am so glad you are here today. Today we are in lesson 2 of our Weird Science series. Today Jesus tells a story about someone who got lost, came home, and discovered that he was still deeply loved.

Connection Prompts:

- Have you ever been lost before, even for a moment? What did that feel like?
- What helps you feel safe when you are worried or unsure?
- Who do you go to when you need help or feel stuck?
- Why do you think it matters when someone notices you?

Give a two minute warning before transition.

Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 min)

Prep Ahead of Time:

- Peel one tangerine completely and keep one unpeeled
- Fill two clear containers with equal amounts of water
- Tear two sheets of aluminum foil
- Keep all items nearby and hidden until used

**Test this activity
ahead of time!**



Gather kids into a seated large group where everyone can see you and the containers.

Hey Scientists! Today we are learning about a story Jesus told called the Parable of the Lost Son. When Jesus talks about someone being lost, He does not mean they cannot find their way home. He means they made choices that pulled them away from God.

Jesus tells us about a younger son who asked his father for his money, left home, and wasted everything he was given. At first, this son knew who he was and where he belonged.

Hold up a flat piece of foil and let kids see their reflection.

When we are living the way God designed us to live, we can clearly see who we are and where we belong.

Slowly crumple the foil, then try to smooth it back out.

After the son made selfish choices, his life became broken and confusing. Things were not the way they were supposed to be. Sin does that to us too. It distorts what God created to be good.

Eventually, the son realized he needed to go home. He expected punishment. Instead, his father ran to him, hugged him, and celebrated his return.

This is how God loves us. Even when we walk away, God is ready to welcome us back and give us what we need most.

Hold up the unpeeled tangerine and place it in the water so it floats.

This tangerine floats because it has everything it needs.

Place the peeled tangerine into the water and let it sink.

When the peel is gone, it sinks. It was not made to live this way.

When we walk away from God, life feels heavy. When we return to Him, we return to the way we were created to live. God gives us what we need because He loves us.

This experiment works because of buoyancy. The peel has tiny air pockets that help the tangerine float. God created it that way. In the same way, God created us to live connected to Him. When we return to God, we return to the life we were designed for.

Bottom Line: God gives us what we need.

Repeat this together 2-3 times.

Review & Practice (10 min)

Bible Detectives (part 2)

Divide kids into small groups (2–4 per group, mixed ages). Have each group sit in a circle.

You are about to become Bible Detectives. That means you will move, search, and work together. Around the room are clue cards. Each clue points to a verse that helps us understand today's truth. When your group finds a card, bring it back and we will talk about it together. There are clues on the front and back of each card.

Allow groups to search. Consider letting younger kids do the searching, and older kids lead their group to figure out the clues. After each card is found, pause and briefly discuss.

Clue #1: Luke 15:24

Look at your clue card front and back and look for the verse together. When you think you know it, write it on the card! In this verse, a father rejoices when his son returns home.

Walk around and help groups as needed. When all groups have found the verse, choose one older kid to read the verse aloud.

Clue #2 – John 6:35

Find the next verse that tells us that Jesus is the bread of life and meets our deepest needs

Help kids find the verse as needed. When all groups have found the verse, choose one older kid to read the verse aloud.

Clue 3 – Genesis 16:13

Look for a verse that reminds us that God sees us and knows us.

Help kids find the verse as needed. When all groups have found the verse, choose one older kid to read the verse aloud.

Hot Seat Memory Verse Challenge

Prep: Cut apart Memory Verse Cards. Tape cards under random chairs or other items in the classroom.

Keep kids in groups. Assign each group a color. (blue, purple, orange, or black).

Repeat the Memory Verse together several times:

Memory Verse: “Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35

Some of you are sitting in hot seats today. Do not worry. This is a good thing!

When I say “go,” your team will work together to find the cards in your color. There are 9 cards for each team.

Have kids search for their cards and return to their seats.

Now we are going to work together to put our verses together. Talk with each other and decide what order these words go in. There is no rush. Help each other. Encourage each other.

Walk around, helping groups as needed. Read the verse together again once assembled.

Great work! You helped each other and did not give up. That matters. Notice how we cannot do this alone. We need each person and each word. That is how following Jesus works too.

Prayer & Worship Activity (15 min)

Prayer Activity: Washed Clean Visual

Supplies: Whiteboard or laminated paper(1/kid), Dry erase markers, Damp cloth or wipes

Sometimes people feel lost because of choices they make. The Bible calls that sin. Sin can make us feel far from God, ashamed, or stuck.

Invite kids to name examples. Write simple, kid-appropriate words as they say them.

Examples you may guide toward:

- Lying
- Being unkind
- Disobeying
- Hurting others with words
- Choosing selfishness

These things can make us feel far away from God, but listen carefully. Jesus does not walk away from us when we mess up.

Slowly wipe the board clean.

When we come to Jesus, He forgives us. He washes us clean. We are never too lost for Him.

Let's take a quiet moment. You do not need to speak out loud. Think about something you want to give to Jesus today.

Pause briefly.

Jesus, thank You for loving us even when we mess up. Thank You for coming to find us when we feel lost. Help us trust You and follow You. Amen.

Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 min)

As kids arrive, invite them into free play(coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.

Today we learned something really important. Jesus came for everyone. No one is too lost, too messy, or too far away for Him.

God is like the father in today's story. Even when we have strayed far away from God, He will not hold our sins against us, just like the father didn't hold the son's sins against him. The father welcomed his son back with open arms, no matter what he had done.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Imagine you're the son who served his father and never left his side. How would you feel when you saw your father celebrating your sinful brother's return home? Would you be excited or jealous? Why do you think you would feel this way?
- Do you see any similarities between The Parable of the Lost Sheep and this story? What is similar about these stories? What are some differences?
- Why do you think Jesus told two stories about being "lost" and "found"?

Bottom Line Review:

Have kids say together: **We are never too lost for Jesus.**

Weekly Challenge:

This week, notice people who might feel left out. You can be kind. You can invite them in. You can remind them they matter. That is one way we follow Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank You for loving every person. Thank You that no one is too lost for You. Help us trust Jesus and show His love to others this week. Amen.

Optional Closing Game: Follow the Shepherd

Have kids stand in a circle or spread out around the room.

Jesus is our Shepherd, and shepherds lead their sheep. When we follow Jesus, we listen and move when He leads.

Explain the movements before starting:

- *If the leader raises one hand, kids take one step forward*
- *If the leader taps their heart, kids place a hand on their heart*
- *If the leader points upward, kids look up and say, "Jesus leads"*
- *If the leader opens both arms, kids stop and stand still*

Play several rounds, changing the order of movements.

Following Jesus means paying attention to Him and trusting where He leads. Even when we feel lost, He guides us.

Clue #1:

Look for a verse
where a father
rejoices when his son
returns home.

Clue #2:

This verse tells us
that Jesus is the
bread of life and
meets our deepest
needs.

Clue #3:

This verse reminds us
that God sees us and
knows us.

book hint:

third book of NT

Chapter:

20-5=

book hint:

starts with "J"

Chapter:

1 , 2, 3, 4, 5, ?, 7, 8

book hint:

*the very first of
them all*

Chapter:

15+1=

Jesus replied,

I am the

bread of life

Whoever comes
to me

will never be

hungry again

Whoever
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John 6:35

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