



JANUARY THEME

ILLUMINATE  
YOUR BRAIN

BIBLE STORY

John 1:19-42

The Big Dipper | Jesus' Baptism & John calls Jesus Lamb of God  
**Spark Story Bible** | Jesus' Baptism (p. 242-245) The Lamb of God (p. 246-247)

BOTTOM LINE

Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."  
Psalm 119:105, NIV

LIFE APP

**Knowledge** | learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **KNOWLEDGE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story

**This WEEK:** In **John 1:19-42**, we read John's account of Jesus' baptism. Jesus was about to start his public ministry. He shows up on the banks of the Jordan River where his cousin, John the Baptist, was baptizing people. John the Baptist recognized Jesus, not just as his cousin, but as God's promised Savior. John understood God's story and called out to the crowd, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!" (*John 1:29, NIV*) That day, he pointed out to everyone who Jesus was and why they should know Jesus and start to follow him.

**Bottom Line:** **Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus.** The more we read God's Word, the more we understand about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. God's Word gives us clarity for what it means to believe in Jesus and follow him with our lives.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

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 as kids learn more about Jesus, they'll be drawn to a relationship with him and have a desire to follow him. Ask God to guide you as you encourage your few in their relationships with Jesus. Pray that you would be able to model this for them in a real, authentic way.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids:
  - Have you ever seen someone get baptized?
  - What are some of the things you notice when people are baptised?

•• ME TOO!

**What You Need:** "Me Too! Grid" activity page, pens

**What You Do:**

- Hand out activity pages and pens.
- Tell kids that when you say "go!", they will need to fill in words in each category that start with the letter at the top of the column (*i.e. under "J," "Names," they could write "John"*).
- Let kids fill in words, encouraging them to be creative. Tell them they'll only get to



count an answer if they're the only person who wrote that answer.

- After about five minutes, say "stop!" and have one kid go through one category on his grid and tell the others what he has written in each square.
- The other kids should cross out any answers on their own papers that are duplicates.
- Move on to the next category and choose another volunteer to read her answers.
- When all categories have been read through once, go around the circle and let each kid read answers that are not already crossed out. Keep going until you've confirmed that the only answers left on the kids' pages are ones that no one else has.
- Each kid will be responsible for scoring their own sheet and awarding themselves one point for every answer no one else wrote down.

**What You Say:** "Even though most people only have one first name, there can be many ways to say that name. For instance, Joseph could also be Joe or Joey. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we are going to hear/we heard about another name for Jesus you might not have heard before.**"

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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

●● **4X4** (application activity/review the Bible story)

**What You Need:** "4x4" cards, markers

**What You Do:**

- Divide kids into two teams.
- Give each team a different colored marker.
- Lay the "4x4" cards face down on the table in a grid.
- Choose a kid from Team 1 to go first.
- He should pick a card, turn it over in its place and read the question on that card.
- He can confer with his team for a few seconds to get their final answer to the question on the card.
- If the team answers the card correctly, leave the card face up and draw an X on it using the teams colored marker.
- If the team answers incorrectly, they should turn the card back over.
- After Team 1 has gone, choose a kid from Team 2 and repeat.
- Encourage kids choose cards that will make rows, provided they answer the questions correctly.
- The first team to get four Xs in a row wins.

**What You Say:** "You guys did a great job of remembering all the details from the story! It's great to know stories from the Bible well because **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus.** Following Jesus means that you've discovered who Jesus truly is—God's Son—and that you want your life to be more and more like Jesus in how you love God and love others. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids how your faith in Jesus helps to direct your decisions, words and actions.)**

●● **MOVIN' RIGHT ALONG** (application activity)

**What You Need:** "Movin' Right Along" activity cards, "Movin' Right Along" game board, beads



**What You Do:**

- Give everyone in your group a different colored bead.
- Set the game board and activity cards in the center of the table.
- Each kid will choose a card from the top of the pile and follow the instructions on the card, moving from number 1 to number 20 on the game board.
- For the “negative” cards (*i.e., cards where kids have to move backwards*), give the kid who picked that card a chance to flip the situation around. If he does this, let him move forward one space (*after he has moved back the correct amount of spaces*).
- The winner is whoever reaches the end of the game board first (*or whoever is the furthest along when you run out of cards*).

**What You Say:** “That was a really fun game! Those situations were sometimes funny or unrealistic, but they all were either something that would help us be more like Jesus or less like Jesus. In God’s Word, God tells us how to be more like Jesus, because God knows that acting like Jesus is always the wise choice. If we aren’t sure what Jesus would do, all we have to do is learn more about Him from the Bible. Everything God has told us in the Bible is important for us to know because **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus.**”

•• **COLOR ME BRIGHT** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** “Color by Verse” activity pages, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid an activity page and set out the crayons.
- Read the verse together and then let kids color the activity page based on the color key.

**What You Say:** “When you guys were coloring the pictures you easily could have colored it a different way. You could have used blue where the instructions told you to use yellow. Or you could have used green when they told you to use orange. But your picture wouldn’t have turned out as the artist intended. This is just like in our lives—we can do things differently than the Bible instructs us to, but we won’t be living the way God intended.

“God has a plan for our lives and God wants only what’s best for us. If we follow God’s path and do as God asks, our lives will be as God intended them to be. And one of the things God wants most for us is to know and have a relationship with God’s Son, Jesus. **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus**, so one of the ways you can follow Jesus is by reading God’s Word and talking to friends and family who already follow him!”

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## PRAY AND SEND

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Say:** “God, thank you for caring so much about us that you listen to our prayers. Thank you that we can talk to you about anything. We love you because you gave us your Son and you gave us your Holy Spirit. Please guide us through the Holy Spirit this week to remember to read our Bibles and learn more about you through what we read.”

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids have their lamp pictures. Encourage them to share with their parents about what would have happened if they hadn’t colored the verse using the color key.

**[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.**