



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: "Knowledge" color sheet, crayons

What You Do:

• Invite the kids color in the word "Knowledge" and trace letters in the the definition as you talk about their favorite game to play. It could be a board game, a pen and paper game, a video game, a puzzle, a game they made up with friends or siblings—any kind of game at all. Who do they like to play it with? Who taught them how to play?

•• WHAT'S MISSING?

What You Need: "What's Missing?" cards

What You Do:

• Set out 4 "What's Missing?" cards where each kid can see them. Guide the kids to look carefully at the objects for 10 to 15 seconds.
• Instruct the kids to close their eyes. Then remove and hide one card.



- Lead kids to open their eyes and challenge them to say which card is missing. When the kids identify the missing card, return that card to the table.
- Continue play as time allows. For each additional round, give kids more cards and/or less time to study them before you remove a card.

What You Say: [Transition] “Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, you’ll meet/you met some people who find a missing piece. The missing piece they find isn’t a thing, but something true that makes everything else make sense.”

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

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.

●● LAMB OF GOD *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, “Jesus is Baptized” coloring page, “Lamb of God” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out coloring pages and crayons.
- As kids color, read Jesus’ Baptism (p. 242-245) and The Lamb of God (p. 246-247) in the Spark Story Bible.
- Guide kids to recall the story using the coloring pages as an aide.

What You Say: “It must have been pretty amazing to be one of the people by the Jordan River when John baptized Jesus. They actually heard God’s voice say: “This is my Son, whom I love” (*Matthew 3:17 NIV*). Wow!

“And the next day, when John was hanging out with Andrew and another friend who hadn’t heard God’s voice, John said: ‘Look! The Lamb of God!’ (*John 1:36 NIV*), which was a way of saying, ‘Look! The Messiah!’ (*Teach kids what the word Messiah means (someone who was promised to rescue or save someone else) and ask if anyone knows who our Savior is (Jesus)*). Andrew started following Jesus right away. And when Andrew told his brother, Peter, ‘We have found the Messiah!’ Peter wanted to see and follow Jesus, too!

“When John, Andrew, and Peter heard what God said, they were ready to make a change and start following 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.” So remember: **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus.**”

●● THE B-I-B-L-E *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say: “Psalm 119:105 says: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Let’s practice saying that together. Repeat after me: Your word (*Your word*) is a lamp for my feet, (*is a lamp for my feet,*) a light on my path (*a light on my path.*). How can God’s Word be like a light that guides us?” (*It helps us make the wise choice; it shows us what God wants us to do*)

What You Do:

- Explain to your group that the Bible is “Your word” that the memory verse is talking about. Teach your group the following song about the Bible. You can visit <http://www.songsforteaching.com/religious/biblesongs/davidandgoliath/theBIBLE.htm> to hear a sound clip if you’d like.



The B-I-B-L-E...

The B-I-B-L-E
Yes, that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E

What You Say: One of the most important things the Bible teaches us is that Jesus loves us. I know a song about that, too!

What You Do:

- Teach your group the song "Jesus loves me."

Jesus Loves Me...

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

If you have extra time, work together as a group to come up with motions or a fun dance for each of the songs!

•• **MIRROR, MIRROR** (*application activity*)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids in a slow-motion Follow the Leader style game.
- First, you act as the leader and have the kids follow you. Then, as they get comfortable with that, you might consider inviting each child to find a partner.
- Guide partners to stand facing each other and choose one child to be the "leader."
- The leader slowly moves her body while the other child mirrors her movements. The leader may put a finger on her nose and then a hand on her head, slowly segue to assume a ninja pose, and then stand on one foot and place her hands on her shoulders. The kids' creativity is the only limit!
- Let kids switch roles so the followers can be leaders, and vice versa.

What You Say: "Great job! You each focused on your leader and tried to do exactly what they did. Following Jesus is a little bit like that. Following Jesus means that you've discovered who Jesus is—God's Son—and that you want to be like him in how you love God and love others. And here's the cool thing: when you decide to follow Jesus, you don't have to do it on your own; God gives you God's Spirit to help you!"

[Make It Personal] (*In kid-friendly words, share about your faith in Jesus and how it helps to guide your decisions, words and actions.*)

"So remember: **[Bottom Line]** Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus."

