



JANUARY THEME

THE BIG QUIZ
Show What You Know

BIBLE STORY

John 1:19-42; 3:22-36 (Matthew 3)
Take Me to the River | Jesus' Baptism
Spark Story Bible, pg. 234-239
John the Baptist **pg. 240-241** Jesus the
Word **pg. 242-245** Jesus' Baptism
pg. 246-247 The Lamb of God

BOTTOM LINE

If you want to know God, start with
Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge
and understanding come from
his mouth"
Proverbs 2:6, NIRV

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.

Key Question: How can knowing who Jesus is change your life? We talk a lot about knowing Jesus, but do our families understand that knowing Jesus can change their life in ways they might have never imagined? We want families to discover that when they put their trust in Jesus and take time to learn more about him, they can become the people God wants them to be.

In week two, we find Jesus at the Jordan River. In **John 1:19-42** and **John 3:22-36**, Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, is also at the Jordan River preparing the way for Jesus. When Jesus told John to baptize him, at first, John refused, feeling far too inferior to baptize Jesus. John knew enough about the Scriptures, and he understood enough about God's story that he responded to Jesus in a different way.

Bottom Line: If you want to know God, start with Jesus. The best way to know God is by taking time to find out more about Jesus. Jesus shows us what God is like. God loves us so much that God sent Jesus to make a forever relationship with God possible. We want every member of every family to know how wonderful it is to trust Jesus with their life.

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 group member by name. Pray that as kids learn more about Jesus, they'll grow closer to God and desire to follow God. Ask God to guide you as you encourage your group in their relationships with Jesus. Pray that you would be able to model discipleship for them in an authentic way.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Index cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid three index cards.
- Tell kids to think of a task, and tell them to write three steps they must do to complete the task on their index cards. Instruct them to write one step on each card. —For example: Laundry – wash clothes, dry clothes, fold/put away clothes.
- Collect the cards, shuffle them, and lay them down in the center of your small group table.
- Challenge the group to sort cards together by task.



- Then, guide the group to work together to put the steps in the correct order to complete each task.
- Remind them to consider what they need to start with before they can move on to the next step.

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

- Give each group member a piece of copy paper and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to tear their papers into six pieces.
- Tell the kids to write the following letters on one of their pieces of paper: H J N O.
- Encourage the kids to unscramble the word and write their answer on the back of that strip of paper.
- Repeat the steps above with the following scrambled words:

—L J H E I A

—H P R P O E T

—S U E J S

—A T P I B M S

—N E R W D A

- Let kids work together to solve the more challenging words. (*John, Elijah, prophet, Jesus, baptism, Andrew*).

What You Say: “Wow! I love how hard you worked to unscramble those words. **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard a Bible story involving all of those words.

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children’s Ministry 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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Talk about God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers, index cards

What You Do:

- Lay out a large piece of butcher paper on your small group table and set out the markers where everybody can share them.
- Ask: What are some things Jesus did?
—Encourage kids to think of the stories they’ve read in the Bible about Jesus or stories they have heard at church.
- Tell kids to write or draw their answers on the butcher paper.
—Examples could include: died on a cross, healed people, was baptized, obeyed God, preached the Good News, taught people, calmed the storms, walked on water, loved people, forgave Peter, ate with sinners, washed disciples’ feet, etc.

Note: This activity provides a way for you to evaluate what the kids in your group know about Jesus and his life.

- Ask: What do the things Jesus did tell us about who he is and what was important to him? What adjectives would describe Jesus?
- Encourage kids to write adjectives describing Jesus on index cards, one word per card.
—Encourage kids to explain why they chose the words they did. For example: Jesus was forgiving because Peter denied him and Jesus forgave him. Jesus was powerful because even nature obeyed him. Jesus was humble because he washed disciples’ feet, etc.



●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Masking tape, colored paper, bag of Skittles, Bible, index cards from the “Take a Snapshot” activity

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Create a three-foot by three-foot grid on your small group table using masking tape.
- Tell kids they are going to review the Bible story by playing Tic-Tac-Toe.
- To play:
 - Assign each team a color and give them paper matching the color you assigned them. The colored paper is the team’s “markers.”
 - Teams take turns tossing the bag of Skittles into one of the squares on the grid.
 - Once the bag lands in the square, the team must answer a review question correctly before they can place their “marker” (a torn piece of paper) in the square.
 - The first team to get three “markers” in a row wins.
- For Round 1, the team gives a fact about John the Baptist.
- For Round 2, do the following:
 - Lay out all the index cards describing Jesus.
 - Read a scenario below. **NOTE:** You can use a scenario more than once. Just direct kids to pick a different index card to complete the sentence.
 - After a team throws the bag of Skittles, direct them to select an index card to complete the sentence and then answer the question before putting a “marker” in a square.
 - ...When dealing with an annoying kid in class, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When your soccer team wins the championship game, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When you are afraid, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When you have to finish something you don’t want to do, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When someone is being mean to you, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When your friend is sad, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?
 - ...When your feelings are hurt, how does it help you knowing Jesus is [fill in with one of the index cards]?

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the following questions...
 - What do you know about Jesus?
 - How has knowing Jesus changed your life? [**Make It Personal**] (Answer this question for your group. Hearing how Jesus makes a real impact on somebody they know and respect will help kids understand that Jesus can and will impact their lives as well).
 - How does knowing Jesus change how you treat people?
 - How does knowing Jesus show you how much God loves you?

●● **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, pool noodle

