



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.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: "Penguin" and "Snowman" puzzles, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "Penguin" and "Snowman" puzzles. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- As kids complete the dot-to-dot puzzles, ask them:
 - How do you know where to start?
 - How would you solve the puzzles if you didn't know where to start?



●● **START!**

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

What You Need: “START” activity page

What You Do:

- Find an open area near your small group space.
- Set the “START” activity page on the floor in the center of your playing area.
- Guide each kid to place a foot on (or near) “START.”
- Guide kids to mingle around the playing area.
- They can move like race cars, snails, frogs, dinosaurs, inchworms—you name it!
- When you say “stop,” kids should quickly return to “START.”
- Play as time allows, varying the way kids move each time.

What You Say: “Last week we learned that knowing God is the most important thing. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to learn/we learned that if you want to know God, there’s one place you should start.”

[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.

●● **LIKE A DOVE** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, “Dove Template” and “Flying Dove Example” activity pages, crayons, pennies, clear tape

What You Do:

- Set out the crayons and give each child a “Dove Template.”
- Encourage kids to color their birds as they choose.
- As they work, read today’s Bible stories in the Spark Story Bible.
- After you read each story, ask the following questions...

John the Baptist: pg. 234-239 + Jesus the Word: pg. 240-241...

—What was John doing at the Jordan River? (*Teaching people about Jesus and baptizing them in the river*)

Jesus’ Baptism: pg. 242-245...

—What happened after John baptized Jesus? (*God sent the Holy Spirit to come down on Jesus like a dove; God said, “This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”*)

—What do you think it would’ve been like to see God’s Spirit rest on Jesus? (*Pause.*) How do you think you would’ve felt if you were there to see it happen? (*Pause.*)

The Lamb of God: pg. 246-247...

—Do you remember what John said about Jesus? (*“Jesus is the Lamb of God.”*)

- When kids finish coloring, give each child two pennies, and help them to tape the pennies at the tips of the dove’s wings.
- Using the “Flying Dove Example” activity page, show kids how to balance their doves on their fingers.



- Encourage kids to take their doves home as reminders that God said: “This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him” (*Matthew 3:17 NIV*).

What You Say: “John had spent his whole life listening to God—so when he saw Jesus, he knew who Jesus was. He knew that Jesus was God’s Son, and he knew that Jesus had come to help us know God. And since John knew who Jesus was, he told everyone that JESUS was the One to follow.

“Knowing Jesus changed John’s life, and it also changed the lives of everyone who followed Jesus. It changed what they did, how they thought, how they talked, and how they lived. Knowing Jesus can change your life, too. How do you think knowing Jesus can change your life? (*This question may be challenging for some—if not all—of your kids. That’s okay. Give them a minute to think, and then continue.*) **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell kids how knowing Jesus has changed your life.*) So, remember: **[Bottom Line]** if you want to know God, start with Jesus.”

•• **JORDAN RIVER** [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: “Memory Verse River” activity pages

What You Do:

- Lead your group to an open area near your small group space.
- Lay the “Memory Verse River” activity pages on the floor, in order, in a wavy-line pattern.
- Let kids take turns stepping on the papers as if they are walking along the Jordan River.
- Say the word(s) on each paper as they step on it.
- If you have time, let kids take another turn and encourage them to try to say the verse as they walk. Give lots of help as needed.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job walking along the Jordan River! This month’s Memory Verse, found in Proverbs 2, tells us that God is the One who gives wisdom. Do you know what wisdom is? Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it; it’s knowing how to make the wise choice; it’s knowing things that help you.

Can you think of times in life when we need wisdom? Maybe when we need to know what the wise choice is; when we need to know what we should do; when a friend is mad at us and we need to do something to make things better; when we’re sad or scared; actually it’s good to have wisdom all the time, isn’t it? According to our Memory Verse, when we need wisdom, who can give it to us? (*Pause.*) That’s right! God gives us wisdom! And if you want to know God, you can start by knowing Jesus. We say it this way: **[Bottom Line]** if you want to know God, start with Jesus.”

•• **THIS I KNOW** [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: “Jesus picture” activity page, index cards, crayons

- Set the “Jesus picture” activity page on the center of your small group table.
- Ask: “What are some things that you know about Jesus?”
—Kids can literally name ANYTHING they know about Jesus. Ask prompting questions to help get them thinking, like: Where was Jesus born? (*in a stable*), Who is Jesus? (*God’s Son*), What did he teach us? (*to love each other*) What did Jesus do while he was on earth? (*he healed people, he helped people*), How did he treat others? (*he was kind*), etc.
- As kids answer, write what they say on an index card—one idea per card.
- **[Make It Personal]** (*Write some things that you know about Jesus, too.*)
- As you go, lay the cards around the “Jesus” activity page.
- **HINT:** This activity is a great way to assess kids’ knowledge about Jesus. You can also use this as an opportunity to “fill in the blanks”

