



## WEEK TWO – JANUARY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Take Me to the River* ▪ John 1:19–42; 3:22–36 (suppt. Matthew 3)

**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.*

**Summary:** 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.

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## PRE–SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Puzzles; pencils

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Invite kids to choose a dot-to-dot, maze, or other puzzle to complete.
- Ask kids:
  - How do you know where to start?
  - What would happen if you didn't know where to start?
  - How would you solve the puzzle?

### 2. Straw Building

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Plastic straws; safety scissors

**What You Do:**

- Place a pile of straws in the center of your area.
- Encourage the kids to grab a few straws to build a vertical structure. (In other words, they can't just lay the straws flat on the floor.)
- Give the kids a few minutes of trial and error, and then show them how to pinch one end of a straw together, in order to push it into the end of another straw.
- After a few more minutes, kids may become frustrated that they can only build one long straw or circle.
- Show the kids how to fold the straw in the middle and use the scissors to cut a slit vertically across the folded edge.
- When they open up the straw, they should see a slit all the way through the straw.
- This will allow them to run another straw through the slit or hole to create their own vertical structure.
- To make this easier for little hands, make sure you snip the edge so that the slit is at least a half-inch long.
- Give kids several minutes to build then share their creations.

**What You Say:**

*“Wow! I love how your creativity shines through! At first, you weren’t sure how to build a vertical structure with a bunch of straws. You needed some direction on where to start in order to create something cool. [Transition] When it comes to following God, there is one place to start. Come on! Let’s go find out what it is!”*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**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 He sent Jesus to make a forever relationship with Him possible. We want every kid to know how important it is to trust Jesus with their life.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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**1. Unscramble This! Review****[Bible Story Review]**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Paper, pencils, white board, dry-erase marker

**What You Do:**

- Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to tear their papers into six pieces.
- Write the following scrambled word on the white board: H J N O.
- Encourage the kids to unscramble the word and write their answer on one of the strips of paper.
- Tell kids to hold up their papers as they finish.
- Repeat the steps above with the following scrambled words:
  - L J H E I A – Elijah
  - H P R P O E T – Prophet
  - S U E J S – Jesus
  - A T P I B M S – Baptism
  - N E R W D A – Andrew
- Once all answers have been revealed, erase or cross out all the scrambled words and write them correctly on the board (John, Elijah, prophet, Jesus, baptism, Andrew).

- Then review Bible story using the key points below, pointing to the words on the board and having the kids hold up the names/words as they come up.
- As you review the story, try to let kids say what they remember from the story about each name. then use the info below to fill in any gaps.
- Key Points:
  - John: Jesus' cousin, sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus; many people gathered to hear him teach and be baptized; a lot of people asked John, "Who are you?"
  - Elijah: The people asked John, "Are you Elijah?" John answered, "I am not"; he was a prophet from the Old Testament and the people thought maybe God had sent him back with a special message
  - Prophet: Others asked John, "Are you the prophet sent from God?" John again answered, "I am not"; when they asked John again who he was, he said, "I'm the messenger, calling out in the desert, 'Make way for the Lord'"; John was the one preparing the people for Jesus
  - Jesus: When Jesus arrived, John said, "Behold, the lamb of God!"; John continued to point people to Jesus, the true Messiah, the one sent by God.
  - Baptism: Jesus asked John to baptize him; John tried to stop him, saying Jesus should baptize him but Jesus insisted; John baptized Jesus
  - Andrew: Andrew heard John say that Jesus was the Messiah; he also told his brother Simon Peter, and both men believed and followed Jesus; John continued to tell people that Jesus was the Messiah, NOT him; some believed him, others did not.

### What You Say:

*"Why do you think the people kept asking John who he was? (Because he was preaching and teaching) John recognized that Jesus was the one they'd been waiting for, the lamb of God who had come to make a way for us to have a relationship with God. John understood that in order to truly know God, you had to start with Jesus. John wasn't the Messiah, and he was careful to always point people to the real Savior, who was sent by God. Jesus, God's only Son, was the only one who could make a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to have a relationship with God. That's why **[Bottom Line] if you want to know God, start with Jesus.**"*

## 2. Look to Jesus

### [Application Activity]

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play*

**What You Need:** "What Jesus Said / Did" Activity Pages, Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

**What You Do:**

- Divide kids into four groups. Give each group a Bible.
- Ask a volunteer to look up John 14:6–7 and read it to the group. Explain that Jesus came to show us who God is.
- Give each group one of the Activity Pages.
- Instruct the groups to look at the picture on their Activity Page and look up the verse listed on the page.
- As they look up the verse, ask them to think about the following questions:
  - What did Jesus do or say in these verses?
  - What does that tell me about God?
- Write these two questions on the whiteboard for reference.
- Encourage groups to write their answers on the Activity Page and then share them with the rest of the group.

### What You Say:

**[Bottom Line]** *“If you want to know God, start with Jesus. We can know who God is and what is important to Him when we look to Jesus. How did Jesus serve? (Pause for answers.) Yes! He showed the importance of putting others first when He got down on His hands and knees and washed His friends’ stinky feet! Why did Jesus take care of dinner? (Pause.) That’s right. Jesus fed a huge crowd with one small lunch to show how much He cared. What did Jesus say is the most important thing we could do? (Pause for answers.) Yes, to love! First to love God and then to love everyone around us. And finally, what did Jesus say about how we should talk to God? (Pause.) Exactly! Jesus said we don’t need to worry about using big words; we can just talk to God like He’s standing right in front of us. And Jesus said that we should pray on our own—not worrying about putting on a show for others but simply talking to God.*

*“Jesus taught us how to treat others. He taught us how to love and serve and pray. God sent Jesus to show us who He is and to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him now and forever. **[Bottom Line]** If you want to know God, start with Jesus.”*

**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell the kids about how knowing Jesus has helped you know God. Talk about how you trusted Jesus as your Savior and how that started your faith journey and your desire to grow in knowledge of living the way Jesus wants believers to live. Maybe you have a favorite story about Jesus or a life principle He shared that you try to live by.)*

### 3. Pray and Dismiss

#### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Ask the kids to think about what they know about Jesus and His life on earth.
- Encourage kids to identify one way this week that they want to follow Jesus and know God more.
- Maybe they want to serve or care for others in a specific way.
- Maybe they want to focus on showing love to everyone at home, even if they're not getting along with them at the moment.
- Give the kids a few minutes to pray on their own. Then close out in prayer.

**What You Say:**

*“Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for sending Your only Son to earth so that we could know You. Help us to follow Him and to serve and care and love others as He did. We love You, God. Thanks for loving us. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one thing they learned about Jesus today because [Bottom Line] if you want to know God, start with Jesus.***