



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Contestants: one Small Group Leader and one kid per grade
- Game show host attire for the Host (*optional*)
- Starting line for each grade, taped on the floor at the back of the room
- *Optional*: Multicolored construction paper to create a pathway for each grade
- Answer cube for each grade from last week (see Week 1 “Getting Ready” for building instructions)
- Printed script for the Host (so he/she can read the game questions)
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat instrumental music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Knowledge Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Answer Cube Art (printable; if you need to make any more answer cubes for this week)
- “The Big Quiz: Battle of the Grades” Slide

What You Do:

- Just like in Week 1, tape a starting line for each grade in the back of the room. *Optional:* Lay out the construction paper to create a pathway for each grade, like a giant game board.
- *Note: Be sure to save your Answer Cubes, as you'll use them for the rest of the month!*

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Bible Story SFX (provided):
 - Heavenly music
 - Bug crunching sounds
 - Splashing sounds
 - Religious leaders muttering
 - Footsteps

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Illustrations #1-7

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Through It All
- Let Go

Take Me to the River

Bible Story: Take Me to the River (Jesus' Baptism) • *John 1:19-42; 3:22-36 (Supporting: 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.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters, wearing game show host attire (optional).

Opener

HOST: *(In your best game show host voice)* "Hello, everyone, and welcome once again to everyone's favorite game show: The Big Quiz! Today, it's another chance to guess some trivia questions . . . and show what we know!"

(Normal voice) "All month long we're talking about knowledge."

CG: Knowledge Slide

“Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

CG: Theme Slide

“If you want to be good at something, you need to know more about it. If you want to get to know GOD better, you need to know more about Him, too!

“It’s time for today’s edition of The Big Quiz: Battle of the Grades!

CG: “The Big Quiz: Battle of the Grades” Slide

“This will be just like last week, but with a different category of questions. Let’s get one Small Group Leader and one kid to represent each grade.

Choose one Leader per grade, and have that Leader bring up one kid from his/her group. (Ideally, choose a Leader and kid who didn’t play last week.) Have each pair of contestants stand behind the tapeline for their grade, at the back of the room. Give an answer cube to the pair representing each grade.

“Here are a few quick reminders about how we play this game. *(To contestants)* Contestants, you’ll use your answer cube to show your answer for each question. When every grade has an answer, I’ll reveal the correct answer and see who got it right. Every pair that got the correct answer will then get to move one step closer to the stage.

“Each grade has one lifeline, which is the question mark on your cube. If you choose the lifeline, then you’ll get to ask your grade and see if THEY know the answer. Whoever chooses the question mark first gets to use it, and we’ll do the lifeline AFTER all other contestants have chosen an answer. Whichever grade gets closest to the stage at the end of the game wins!

“All right, contestants. It’s time to show what you know. *(To audience)* Remember, audience, don’t shout out the answers. See if our contestants can guess—and be ready to help if they need a lifeline. Today’s topic is . . . animals! Let’s begin.

CG: Upbeat music (instrumental)

Ask the questions, and give the contestants a few seconds per question to hold out a letter on their answer cube.

Once all contestants have chosen an answer, use your answer cube to reveal the correct answer. Let those who got it correct take one step forward. (If you have “pathways” made from multicolored construction paper, they can step to the next square.)

If a contestant holds out the question mark on his/her answer cube, give the kids from that grade a chance to shout out the answer. (But wait until the other contestants have all chosen an answer first.) Give the Leader/kid pair from that grade a chance to choose the answer with their cube. Then reveal the answer to the question like usual.

Animal trivia questions:

1. What is a baby goat called?

- A. Calf
- B. Foal
- C. **Kid**
- D. Joey

2. What color is a male cardinal?

- A. Yellow

- B. Blue
- C. Gray
- D. **Red**

3. What do you call a group of lions?

- A. Pack
- B. **Pride**
- C. Den
- D. Flock

4. What is the largest animal in the world?

- A. Elephant
- B. Colossal squid
- C. Whale shark
- D. **Blue whale**

5. What food makes up most of a giant panda's diet?

- A. Bugs
- B. Berries
- C. **Bamboo**
- D. Bananas

6. How many legs does a spider have?

- A. Two
- B. Four
- C. Six
- D. **Eight**

7. What is the fastest land animal?

- A. **Cheetah**
- B. Pronghorn antelope
- C. Horse
- D. Jackrabbit

8. Which of these is NOT another name for a mountain lion?

- A. Puma
- B. Cougar
- C. Panther
- D. **Jaguar**

9. Which of these is a mammal that lays eggs?
- A. Bobcat
 - B. Sea otter
 - C. Opossum
 - D. **Duck-billed platypus**
10. Which bird has the largest wingspan?
- A. Bald eagle
 - B. **Wandering albatross**
 - C. Trumpeter swan
 - D. Great white pelican

*After _____ congratulate the Leader/kid pair that made it closest to the stage.
Collect the answer cubes and dismiss the contestants to their seats.*

“Well played, everyone! Once again, I’m simply amazed by your knowledge. Now it’s time for all of us to get on our feet and get ready to sing and worship God!”

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everyone! I’ve got a question for you. Have you ever met someone who had a nickname? Do any of YOU have a nickname? Raise your hand if you do. *(Pause.)* That’s cool!”

“Sometimes a nickname is just a shortened version of your name. Sometimes people get a nickname based on something they do—something that they’re famous for.

“Well, there was a guy who played an important part in God’s Big Story (*hold up Bible*) who had a pretty cool nickname: John the Baptist. How do you suppose he got that name? Well, let me tell you.

CG: Bible Story Illustration #1: Gabriel appearing to Zechariah

SFX: Heavenly music

“Before John was born, the angel Gabriel had appeared to his father, Zechariah. The angel told Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son—a boy who would be filled with God’s Spirit and prepare people’s hearts for God.

“Now, John was just six months older than Jesus. As an adult, he now lived in the desert. He wore clothing made from camel’s hair. He ate honey and bugs called locusts.

CG: Bible Story Illustration #2: John eating locusts and honey

SFX: Bug crunching sounds

“I know, that might sound a little strange. It certainly is . . . different. But here’s the important thing about John. People came from Jerusalem and all of Judea to see him! John would teach them about God. He spent his time baptizing people in the Jordan River.”

CG: Bible Story Illustration #3: John baptizing people

SFX: Splashing sounds

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

STORYTELLER: “But not everyone was happy about what John was doing.

CG: Bible Story Illustration #4: Angry religious leaders

SFX: Religious leaders muttering

“The religious leaders wanted people to only come to THEM to learn about God. So they sent priests and teachers to investigate John. They asked John if he was the One God had promised—the Savior. But John told them that he was just a messenger.

Open the Bible to John 1:26-27 (NirV) and read.

“I baptize people with water,” John replied. “But someone is standing among you whom you do not know. He is the one who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

“God had already told John that he would see the Spirit of God come down and rest on someone—and John would know that THAT person would be the Son of God.

“Well, someone VERY special came to see John out at the Jordan River. He asked John to baptize Him. It was Jesus!

“John baptized Jesus . . .

CG: Bible Story Illustration #5: John baptizing Jesus

SFX: Splashing sounds

“. . . and when Jesus came up out of the water, God sent His Spirit to rest on Jesus like a dove. God said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NirV) and read.

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”

“John remembered what God had told him. He knew that Jesus was God's chosen One.”

JESUS WALKS BY

STORYTELLER: “Later, John saw Jesus walking by.

CG: *Bible Story Illustration #6: John pointing to Jesus*

SFX: *Footsteps*

“He told Andrew and another man: *Look! The Lamb of God! (John 1:36 NIV)* The two men followed Jesus and spent the rest of the day with Him.

“After that time that they spent with Jesus, it was clear to Andrew that Jesus was in fact the Savior that God had promised. Andrew told his brother Simon Peter: *We have found the Messiah (John 1:41 NIV)*. He brought Simon Peter to Jesus.”

JESUS IS GREATER

STORYTELLER: “Later on, John was baptizing some more people, and Jesus was baptizing people, too.

CG: *Bible Story Illustration #7: Both John and Jesus baptizing people*

SFX: *Splashing sounds*

“By now, a lot of people had started following Jesus instead of John. People might have expected John to be upset about this, but he wasn't.

“John said:

Open the Bible to John 3:27-28, 30 (NirV) and read.

“A person can receive only what God gives them from heaven. . . . ‘I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him.’ . . . He must become more important. I must become less important.

“In other words, John told his followers that he wasn’t the Savior, but that Jesus was.

“In fact, John told them:

Open the Bible to John 3:36 (NirV) and read.

“Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “John had spent his life listening to God. He discovered the truth about Jesus and shared it with everyone he met. John understood something really, really important: that Jesus is God’s Son. As people heard what John and Jesus had to say, more and more of them chose to follow Jesus, too.

“It would have been easy for John to get his feelings hurt when people were leaving him to follow Jesus. But John knew that nothing could be more important than knowing Jesus. His job was to make sure that everyone else got the chance to know Jesus, too. He knew this:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “If you want to know God, start with Jesus.

“We can look to Jesus to learn more about God. Jesus showed us what God is like—how God loves us and forgives us . . . and how He’s there for us no matter what.

“Let’s pray and thank God right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could know You. Help us to learn more about Jesus so that we can know more about You. And God, please help us to live like John did. Please help us to share the good news about Jesus by sharing Your love with everyone we meet. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow! John the Baptist was a really important guy with a really important job. He knew that God wanted Him to prepare the way for Jesus. John knew that if we want to know more about God, the best place to begin is to get to know Jesus.

CG: Timeline

“When Adam and Eve broke God’s rule in the Garden of Eden, people had a problem connecting with God, because sin got in the way. The Law of Moses said animals like lambs had to be sacrificed to make things right

with God again. But a better way to connect with God was coming. That's where Jesus came in. Jesus is God's Son. He's the perfect representation of God.

CG: Today's Story Image

Optional: Place Today's Story Image on your timeline.

"John understood this. That's why he told everyone about Jesus.

"John called Jesus 'the Lamb of God,' because Jesus' sacrifice on the cross would make things right with God—for everyone who believes. Thanks to Jesus, our sin no longer has to get in the way. We can have a relationship with God that will last forever!

"Remember:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "If you want to know God, start with Jesus.

"Here's the really cool part. If you want to learn more about Jesus, you can go right to the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) If you read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John at the beginning of the New Testament, you can read about how Jesus lived, how He died for the sins of the world, and how He rose from the dead.

"As you learn more and more about Jesus, you'll discover more and more how **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what.**

"You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about that. Have fun!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide