



WEEK TWO – JANUARY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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.

PRE–SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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. Start!

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “START” label; music

What You Do:

- Gather around your carpet circle
- Set the “START” paper on or in it.
- Guide each kid to place a foot on (or near) the START.
- Play the music, guiding kids to mingle around the environment.
- They can move like race cars, snails, frogs, dinosaurs, inchworms—you name it!
- When you stop the music, kids 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] This week, we’ll learn that if you want to know God, there’s one place you should start. Let’s go learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

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.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Like a Dove

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Dove Template” and “Flying Dove Example” Activity Pages; crayons; scissors; 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, ask questions to help them remember the key points of the story and internalize its truths.
 - What was John doing at the Jordan River? (Baptizing people in the river)
 - What happened after John baptized Jesus? (God sent His 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.)
 - When people started following Jesus instead of John, what did John say? (“I am not the Messiah. He must become more important.”)
- When kids finish coloring, guide them to cut out their birds. Provide hand over hand assistance as necessary. (Don’t worry if kids’ cutting isn’t precise.)
- Give each child two pennies, and lead them to tape the pennies at the tips of the dove’s wings.
- 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 take away our sins. 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 Him. 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.”*

2. This I Know

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Jesus” Activity Page; index cards or sticky notes; markers

What You Do:

- Post the “Jesus” Activity Page on a focal wall or similar.
- Ask: “What are some things that you know about Jesus?”
 - Kids can literally name ANYTHING they know about Jesus: that He was born in a stable, that He’s God’s Son, that He healed people, that He was kind, that He was a good teacher, etc.
- Set out the index cards or sticky notes and guide kids to write or draw what they know about Jesus—one idea per card or note.
- Kids can write/draw as many as they wish.
- **[Make It Personal]** Write or draw things that you know about Jesus, too.
- Collect the cards.
- Read/describe each one and post it around the “Jesus” Activity Page (or let kids post them).
 - *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” with any essential truths about Him that kids may have missed.*

What You Say:

*“Wow! Jesus is amazing! No wonder we say that **[Bottom Line]** if you want to know God, start with Jesus. He is (name some truths the kids identified). Of everything you know about Jesus, what’s your favorite thing about Him? (He loves me; He came to be my Savior; He did cool stuff like healing people; etc.) **[Make It Personal]** I think my favorite thing about Jesus is _____ (tell kids your favorite thing).*

*“Since it’s important to know Jesus, how can you learn more about Him? (I can read my Bible; I can hear stories about Him; I can ask questions about Him; I can pray; etc.) Good thinking! I like your ideas. So remember, **[Bottom Line]** if you want to know God, start with Jesus.”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Jesus” picture from the “This I Know” activity

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather near the diagram, and then lead them in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Jesus is amazing! He was God, with eyes and ears and hands and feet and fingers and toes! He was God, with smiles and tears and laughter and hugs. He was God, with kindness and love and forgiveness and joy! In fact, Jesus said: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9 NIV). Wow! So **[Bottom Line]** if you want to know God, start with Jesus. Read about Him, ask questions about Him, sing worship songs to Him, and talk to Him. In fact, let’s talk to Him right now. Let’s pray.*

“Dear Jesus, thank You so much for coming and showing us who God is and what He’s like. Help us know You more every day. We love You, Lord. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to tell parents their favorite thing about Jesus.