



## WEEK TWO – JANUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

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

**Key Question:** *How can knowing who Jesus is change your life?*

**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 ACTIVITY

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### 1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

**What You Need:** Blanket, “Clues Cards” Activity Pages

#### 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
- Tape a “Clue Card” to the blanket and place the blanket on the ground with the clue face down. Don’t let the kids see the clue.
- Direct kids to stand on the blanket.
- Explain there is a clue about the Bible story on the back of the blanket. To get the clue, kids need to work together to flip blanket while still standing on it.
- Encourage kids to solve the clue.
- If time, repeat with other clues.
- “Clue Card” Answers:
  - Water and a dove
  - Start with Jesus

#### What You Say:

*“Any guesses what the Bible story is about today? (Allow kids to answer) **[Transition]** Let’s head to Large Group to see if you are right.”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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### OVERVIEW:

**Key Question:** *How can knowing who Jesus is change your life? At church we talk a lot about knowing Jesus, but do our kids understand that knowing Jesus can change their life in ways they might have never imagined? We want our preteens 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.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Take a Snapshot

#### [Application Activity]

*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 the floor or hard surface and set out several markers.
- Gather kids around the paper.
- 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 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? What was important to Him? What adjectives would describe Jesus?
- Tell kids to write their answers on an index card, one answer per card.
- Encourage kids to explain their answers.
  - 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.

### 2. Discussion Questions

#### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

#### What You Do:

- What do you know about Jesus?
- How has knowing who Jesus is changed your life?
- How does knowing Jesus change how you treat people?

- How does knowing Jesus show you how much God loves you?

**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. Make It Personal with Prayer**

**[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Ask: What is one new thing you learned today?
- Close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

*“God, we know You are greater than we can ever imagine, and we know You want us to know You. When we learn about Jesus, we learn about Your love, Your compassion, and Your forgiveness. We thank You for sending Jesus to earth to show us who You are. We thank You for loving us so much that You gave us a way to be with You now and forever. Amen!”*