

# City SG - January 11-12, 2020

**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)

## 1. Straw Building

**What You Need:** Plastic straws (5 per child), safety scissors

### What You Do:

- Place a pile of straws in the center of your area.
- Encourage the kids to grab 5 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.
  - **NOTE: Be sure to collect the straw scraps to be disposed of at the end of your time together!**

### 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. JESUS!"**

## 2. Unscramble This! Review

**What You Need:** Paper (1 per child), pens, white board, marker & eraser (1 set per group)

### What You Do:

- Give each child a piece of paper and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to write number 1 through 6 on their paper.
- Write the following scrambled word on the white board: H J N O. (John is the ANSWER)
- Encourage the kids to unscramble the word and write their answers on the 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. That's why **[Bottom Line] if you want to know God, start with Jesus.**"

### 3. Look to Jesus

**What You Need:** "What Jesus Said / Did" Sheets (1 set of 4 pages per group), Bibles, whiteboard and dry-erase marker (1 set per group)

### 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.
  - **NOTE: If leading a younger group, you may have to read the verse yourself to your group.**
- Give each group one of the 4 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! 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.)

#### 4. Who Said That?

**What You Need:** Stuffed Animal (1 per group), Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Look up Proverbs 2:6 and review it together.
- Tell kids to circle up.
- Select one kid to be “It” and stand in the center of the circle.
- Give “It” the stuffed animal and ask him to close his eyes—NO peeking!
- Instruct the kids in the circle to walk around clockwise until “It” says, “STOP!” and holds out the stuffed animal.
- The kid nearest the stuffed animal will grab it and say the verse. (Help prompt the kids if they struggle with remembering the verse.)
- If “It” correctly identifies the child who said the verse, the speaker becomes the new “It.”
- If “It” fails to guess the correct name, he remains in the center for the next round.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to say the verse.

**What You Say:**

“Where does knowledge and understanding come from? *(Pause.)* Yes! They come from God. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to earth as a man—a human just like you and me. Jesus came to show us how to live and love others. He showed us how to make wise choices and made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever by dying on the cross for us and rising again on the third day. I’m so glad Jesus left heaven to come to earth. Jesus didn’t have to, but He did so that we could know Him. **[Bottom Line] If you want to know God, start with Jesus.**”

#### 5. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**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.”

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”**

**HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

**IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!**