

City SG—January 15th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: New Attitude (Jesus' Baptism) • *John 1:19-42; 3:22-36 (Matthew 3)*

Today's Bottom Line: When you discover something new, it can change you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.* Proverbs 2:6 (NirV)

1. Land, Water, Air

What You Need: Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Mark a line on the floor with tape, long enough for kids to stand shoulder to shoulder on it.
- Guide kids to line up shoulder to shoulder behind the line.
- Tell kids that where they're standing is "land," in front of the line is "water," and jumping up is "air."
- Call out "land," "water," and "air" in random order and with a varied pace.
- Based on your command, kids should either jump forward, backward, up, or stand in place.
 - After playing a couple of rounds, stop and ask one of the Bible Story Review questions.

Continue playing Land, Air, Water stopping every couple of minutes to ask another review question.

Play until all questions are answered.

Review Questions:

- What is the name of Jesus' cousin? (*John*)
- Why did God send John? (*as a messenger, to prepare the way for Jesus*)
- What was John doing at the Jordan River? (*baptizing people as a sign that their lives would be different from that point on*)
- What did Jesus want John to do? (*baptize Him*)
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water? (*The Spirit of God came down on Him like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."*)
- Several people, including Simon Peter and Andrew, began to follow Jesus instead of John. How did this make John feel? (*He wasn't upset because John knew he was not the Messiah, the one sent to save people from their sin. He knew Jesus is the Messiah.*)

What You Say:

"Good listening! When you heard me call out a NEW place, you CHANGED where you were or what you did. Today we learned that the love of Jesus can change us forever. No matter where we are, we can see God change us for the better. God can use us to change our World!"

2. God Is Love

What You Need: Bibles, paper, and markers

What You Do:

- Give each child a Bible, a piece of paper, and markers.
- **IF THEY ARE ABLE**, Ask them to look up John 3:16, and have someone read it out loud. **IF NOT**, the leader can look it up and read it.
- Ask, "According to this verse, who does God love?" (*everyone which includes all of us in the room*)
- On one side of the paper, have the kids write John 3:16 on the top of the page (younger kids will need help). Then Have them draw a quick self-portrait (stick figures are fine) underneath John 3:16. Then draw a heart nearby and write "God Loves Me" inside the heart.

- Remind kids that Jesus is God's Son and God sent Jesus to save us and show us how much God loves us. That's why John was so excited to tell everyone and prepare the way for Jesus!
- **IF THEY ARE ABLE**, Ask them to look up 1 John 4:8 and have someone read it out loud. **IF NOT**, the leader can look it up and read it.
- Ask, "When we know God loves us, what does this verse say we should do?" (*love others*)
- Have kids write 1 John 4:8 on the other side of the paper. and write "LOVE OTHERS" inside it. They can color the heart, too.
- Under 1 John 4:8 have them draw a big heart and write LOVE OTHERS inside it.
- Remind kids that when we know God loves us, it should cause us to love others. And the opposite is true, when we don't love others, what does this verse say? (*We don't know God.*)
- Encourage them to hang this picture somewhere at home to remind them how much God loves them and wants them to show that love to others.

What You Say:

(*Point to John 3:16*) "God's own Son was sent to show us how much God loves us. Maybe you've never really heard or read that verse before. Maybe you've had it memorized for a long, long time, but knowing should always be connected to doing! **[Bottom Line] When you discover something new, it can change you.** When you understand how much God loves you, always, no matter what, it should change how you treat others AND how you view yourself!

"What does 1 John 4:8 say we should do if we know God? (*Pause.*) Love others! That's right! God IS love. And God is perfect, which means God loves you perfectly. When you understand the perfect love God has for you, your response should be to share that love with the people around you. And maybe the way you choose to love could show that person something new! Maybe they could begin to understand how much God loves them, too."

3. Change

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Guide kids in a slow motion "Follow the Leader" style game.

- Help each kid find a partner.
- Guide pairs to stand facing each other.
- Pick one kid from each pair to be the "leader."
- At your signal, the leaders *slowly* move their bodies while their partners mirror their movements.
- The leader may put a finger on their nose then a hand on their head, slowly segue to a ninja pose, stand on one foot, and make a silly face. There is no limit for what the kids can do!
- Guide kids to switch roles so that followers can be leaders, and *vice versa*.

What You Say:

"Great job! You focused on the leader and did what they did. When they changed, you changed! How is following Jesus like our game? (*We can do what Jesus did; change and do what He wants.*) Yes! Following Jesus means that you want to be like Him. You want to CHANGE and treat others the way Jesus did. And here's the cool thing. When you decide to follow Jesus, you don't have to do it on your own! God gives you the Holy Spirit to help you!

[Make it Personal] (In kid-friendly words, briefly tell how you came to discover who Jesus is and how learning who Jesus is has changed you. You might share a change in how you speak, think, or act.)

"So, remember that **[Bottom Line] when you discover something new, it can change you.**"

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask the kids to think about something new they've learned about God today.
- Make sure the kids know that even as an adult, you're still learning new things about God and how to follow Jesus because ***[Bottom Line]*** when you discover something new, it can change you.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, we love You. Thank You for loving us because that's who You are. Help us this week to love others around us because WE are loved. Thank You for sending Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."