



FOR PARENTS

OF ELEMENTARY-AGED KIDS

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Hey, parents! Here's a look at what we're covering with your kids this month so you can help your kids continue growing at home during the week. If you aren't comfortable joining us on Sunday mornings yet, the following pages will give some activities and discussion questions to help you

GROW AT HOME THIS MONTH

WEEK 1 – January 3

This week, kids follow the story of **why Jesus came to the world.**

- **THE BIBLE:** John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1:3-14
- **THE BIG IDEA:** We can know God through Jesus.

WEEK 2 – January 10

This week, kids follow the story of **Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist.**

- **THE BIBLE:** Mark 1:4-11; Acts 19:1-7
- **THE BIG IDEA:** We know forgiveness because of Jesus.

WEEK 3 – January 17

This week, kids follow the story of **Jesus calling Philip and Nathanael to be his disciples.**

- **THE BIBLE:** John 1:43-51, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- **THE BIG IDEA:** Jesus knows us.

WEEK 4 – January 24

This week, kids follow the story of **Jesus calling Andrew and Peter to be his disciples.**

- **THE BIBLE:** Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- **THE BIG IDEA:** Jesus wants us to follow him.

WEEK 5 – January 31

This week, kids follow the story of **Jesus helping a suffering man, who was tormented by an evil spirit.**

- **THE BIBLE:** Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 111
- **THE BIG IDEA:** The message of Jesus is powerful.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

SUBSCRIBE NOW – (ELEM)

WEEK 1 – January 3

This week, kids follow the story of why Jesus came to the world.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** We can know God through Jesus.
- **THE BIBLE:** John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1:3-14

Take some time to read these verses together, then take time to answer the questions that follow.

DISCUSS

- In John 1:2, who is the “He” John is talking about?
- In John 1:14, who is the “Word” that became flesh?
- Who was John the Baptist and what is his role?
- Read John 1:10. Why did the “world” not recognize Jesus? (Hint: how did Jesus come to earth?)
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is both God and human?
- What is the only way to know God?
- What are some ways we can know Jesus better?

FAMILY ACTIVITY | Hashtags

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look again at John 1:1-18. Read through the passage and find clues from the Bible verse that reveal Jesus was God.
- **Say:** A hashtag is when you put a pound symbol (#) before a key word or key phrase. It’s used on social media to help people see what everyone is talking about.
- Just like John the Baptist showed his excitement for Jesus’ arrival, we can show ours by creating a hashtag of words and/or phrases to share our excitement about Jesus coming to Earth!
- Here are some clues and hashtags that could go with them:
 - Verse 1: “In the beginning was the Word” #GodIsTheWord #TheWord
 - Verse 14: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” #JesusIsGod #JesusIsHuman
 - See if there are any more hashtags you can add!
- If you haven’t yet, take a time to plan your Christmas day as a family. What are you going to do that day? What needs to be done before that day? What are you looking forward to most?

PRAYER

End by praying as a family. Open up the prayer time to anyone who wants to, no matter how little. This is a good time to teach kids to talk to God and get more comfortable praying in a group.

MEMORY VERSE

John 14:6 (NLT) – Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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WEEK 2 – January 10

This week, kids follow the story of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist.

● **THE BIG IDEA:** *We know forgiveness because of Jesus*

● **THE BIBLE:** *Mark 1:4-11; Acts 19:1-7*

Read the verses together and then stop to talk about the questions.

DISCUSS

- Why did John baptize people with water?
- What happened when Jesus got baptized?
- What did God say about Jesus?
- Read Mark 1:8. John says that he baptizes with water, but how will Jesus baptize people?
- Is getting baptized by water enough to receive forgiveness?
- Describe a time when you needed to forgive someone. What about a time when you needed forgiveness?
- What does it mean to be forgiven?

FAMILY ACTIVITY | Reflect

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Talk about a time when someone hurt you or was unkind to you. Did you want to forgive them? How did you forgive them?*

● **Say:** *What about you? Was there ever a time when you didn't want to forgive someone because they were unkind to you?*

● *We all have been hurt by someone. It's not easy to forgive, but because Jesus forgives us, we can forgive others, too!*

● *As a family, discuss what we can do when it is hard to forgive someone. Write down your ideas as a group on a big piece of paper.*

● *Be sure to mention to the kids that it can be hard to forgive, and that if they are struggling, they should ask God for help.*

PRAYER

End by praying as a family. Open up the prayer time to anyone who wants to, no matter how little. This is a good time to teach kids to talk to God and get more comfortable praying in a group.

MEMORY VERSE

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WEEK 3 – January 17

This week, kids follow the story of Jesus calling Philip and Nathanael to be his disciples.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *Jesus knows us.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *John 1:43-51, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*

Read the verses above. Then pause so you can talk about the questions together.

DISCUSS

- Who invited Nathanael to meet Jesus?
- What did Philip tell Nathanael to do when he was suspicious about Jesus?
- Why was Nathanael amazed by Jesus?
- Read Psalm 139:2. What does this verse say about how much Jesus knows us?
- How does it make you feel knowing Jesus knows you so well?
- Can you trust God more knowing that God knows so much about you?
- Philip told Nathanael about Jesus. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

- Nowadays, you can find almost anything or anyone online. You can see what famous people are up to on their social media pages. You can find out any information you want to know with just a few keywords and mouse clicks. So the internet might be a “know-it-all” . . . but how much do YOU know?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Beforehand, list several different categories – such as types of animals, vegetables, etc. – on small sheets of paper. Place the paper inside a bowl. Take turns picking a category. Then, start a time for 20-30 seconds and take turns naming something from that category until the timer goes off. If something they say does not fit the category or they repeat a word, they lose!*
- **Say:** Great job showing us how much you know, everyone! But let me ask you this – **just because you know facts about someone, does that mean you actually know them?** Not always. We can know things about people without knowing them very well, or even at all.
- *Talk about what it means to really know someone and for someone to really know us!*

PRAYER

End by praying as a family. Open up the prayer time to anyone who wants to, no matter how little. This is a good time to teach kids to talk to God and get more comfortable praying in a group.

MEMORY VERSE

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WEEK 4 – January 24

This week, kids follow the story of Jesus calling Andrew and Peter to be his disciples.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *Jesus wants us to follow him.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

Read the verses above together and discuss the questions below.

DISCUSS

- What did Jesus say to Simon Peter as he got into the boat?
- What did Simon Peter say to that?
- When Simon Peter finally realized who Jesus was, what did Jesus ask of him?
- Read Mark 1:17. What did it mean when Jesus asked these men to follow Jesus and “fish for people?”
- How can we follow Jesus?
- What is different about your life because you follow Jesus?
- What is Jesus asking you to “let go of” in your life?

FAMILY ACTIVITY | Fishing for Followers

- Create your own “YouTube video” of today’s story (even if you don’t post it).
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids retell today’s story by acting, using props, animate the story, or get super creative. Encourage the kids to practice their story and video it when they are done.*

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MEMORY VERSE

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WEEK 5 – January 31

This week, kids follow the story of Jesus helping a suffering man, who was tormented by an evil spirit.

● **THE BIG IDEA:** *The message of Jesus is powerful.*

● **THE BIBLE:** *Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 111*

Read the verses above together and discuss the questions below.

DISCUSS

- Why was the crowd amazed by Jesus' teachings?
- Who did the suffering man say that Jesus is?
- Did Jesus become more or less popular after this event?
- Read Mark 1:27-28. Why is it important that the message of Jesus spreads?
- What are ways we can help share the powerful message of Jesus?
- Are there ways to share the message of Jesus without talking?
- Who in your life does not know Jesus and needs to hear this message?

FAMILY ACTIVITY | Color Milk Explosion

● *For this activity, we are going to make a colorful and powerful milk explosion!*

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pour milk into a dish. Let it settle for a moment. Scatter some drops of food coloring into the milk. Use a Q-tip to add a drop of dish soap to the center of the dish and watch what happens.*

● **Say:** *It really seemed like the dish soap gave the food coloring extra "power" to move around! How do you think this was like the message of Jesus spreading through the world?*

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