

WEEK 2
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I believe God
can speak to me.

BIBLE

The Baptism Of Jesus:
Luke 3:2–3, 21–22; Psalm 29:3–9

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Out in the wild, there are all sorts of animal noises we might miss if we're not quietly listening for them. This week, we'll learn about how John baptized Jesus and how God spoke to Jesus. These stories will help us discover how to listen for God's voice while inviting us to say, "**I believe God can speak to me.**"

LARGE GROUP TIME

Good morning, campers! It's another beautiful day at *Camp Believe It*. I hope you enjoyed our first day out in the wilderness, learning about our "wild" friend, John the Baptist. Did you know that a lot of cool things in the Bible happened in the wilderness, too? We will discover some of them today, so I hope you are eager to jump right in.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | The Silent Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, have everyone in the group stand in a large circle. Play nature sounds in the background, but tell everyone to keep silent throughout the game. Have the group toss around a big beach ball. If anyone talks or giggles during the game, they are out and have to take a seat.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play nature sounds, and have one preteen or leader sit blindfolded in the middle of the play space surrounded by sticks, like craft sticks, chopsticks, or sticks from trees. Have preteens split into two teams where a player from each team must silently retrieve a stick for their team's pretend campfire without being caught. If the person in the middle hears a sound, they will point in the direction of the sound and that player must return to their team without a stick.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Play nature sounds while doing some fun but calming yoga poses with a camp theme. Some examples are [tent](#), [star](#), [moon](#), [tree](#), [rock](#), [fish](#), [snake](#). You could also weave the poses into a story like [this](#).*
- There are many noises out in the wild, but unless we are quiet, we might miss them. I do love the sweet sounds of nature, but absolutely nothing beats the sound of God's voice.
- There was a time in the Bible when the people did not hear from God for hundreds of years—not even prophets to give them messages from God. We will find out today just how God broke that silence—loud and clear.

ACTIVITY | Campfire Sing-Along

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On a phone or computer, prepare a playlist of songs most of the kids in your ministry would recognize. Attach headphones to your device. To play, have a volunteer come to the front and listen to one of the songs. Have them hum along with the song that is playing. Once they get what song it is, have kids hum along until a good number of them sing together. Repeat with a new volunteer and a new song.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Have kids lay down on pillows and sleeping bags while the different songs are being played. You can ask parents ahead of time for their kids' favorite songs. Let them have fun singing along with the songs.*
- One of the most memorable moments of camp is sitting by the fire, telling stories, or singing songs together.
- In today's Bible story, we'll learn more about our friend John the Baptist and a very memorable day when he was visited by his cousin and the savior of the world—Jesus! The people there that day heard some very important words that were spoken by a very important voice.

POLL | Camp Communications

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Poll your kids' responses to the following questions. You could ask them to respond by running to different areas of the room—a different area for every possible answer.*
- When you're at camp, you might not be able to talk to your parents, friends, or anyone else outside the camp as you normally would. So let's say you're given a chance to contact someone while at camp. After each communication method I call out, go to opposite sides of the room to indicate your answer. Find someone next to you and share why you think your choice is the best one.
- **Would you rather:**
 - **Make a phone call or do a FaceTime call?**
 - **Write a letter or write an email?**
 - **Send a text message or voice message?**
 - **Have a messenger hand-deliver your message or drop your note in a mailbox?**
 - **Send smoke signals or use carrier pigeons?**
- It's amazing how many ways there are to keep up with others. Speaking of birds with a message, in today's Bible story, we'll see how God let people know who Jesus was!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Luke 3:2–3, 21–22 (The Baptism Of Jesus)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dress up and set up your space like you did in Week 1. Have kids circle around you as you tell today's Bible story.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *You might want to provide some camp-themed stickers, fidgets, or sensory bins for kids to play with if kids are sitting for extended periods of time. Also add in breaks for kids to move around and get snacks if necessary.*
- Alright, campers, gather around the fire for a story. Don't worry, though—there will be no scary fireside tales today, but we will hear a really good one from the Bible.
- Last time, I told you about John the Baptist, a real wilderness guy. John the Baptist lived out in the wild, and his purpose from God was to prepare people for Jesus.
- **And how were people supposed to prepare? Let's read about it in Luke 3:2–3.**
 - Imagine hanging out in the wild like we are camping right now, and hearing God's voice speaking to you. That's what happened to John. And this is not the only time we're going to hear about God speaking in today's story.
 - God told John to prepare for Jesus by telling people to turn away from sin and be baptized. Sin

is making mistakes or harmful choices that hurt our relationship with God or others. Everyone has done this. I do, and you do. Everyone who ever existed makes mistakes and sins — except for Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God, never sinned, but look what happens.

- **Let's read Luke 3:21–22.**

- Jesus got baptized, too. Even though Jesus never sinned, he chose to be baptized along with all the people. This was Jesus' chance to let everyone know he was God's son. That way, they'd know to turn to him and trust his words.
- When Jesus got baptized, the voice of God came down from heaven and said to Jesus, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Then God's Spirit came down in the form of a dove. It must have been amazing to hear God speak that the man who came out of the water was God's own son.
- *Camp Believe It?* Believe it—it's all true!

BIG IDEA | I believe God can speak to me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up the Big Idea reveal similar to how you did it in Week 1. Write out the word "speak" using stickers or blacklight paint or reuse the "believe" poster from last week.*
- Here at *Camp Believe It*, we learn so many things from God that are true. This week's Big Idea is no exception. So, what did we learn today that we can believe? Let's take a look at the stars in our pretend night sky to give us a clue. **I believe God can speak to me.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of Bird Sounds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this video](#) of birds and their distinct calls. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- One popular outdoor activity is birding. That's when you go out and try to identify the different birds you encounter. When you can see the birds, you might be able to tell what kind they are, but what about when you can't see them clearly?
- Some people can recognize birds by the sounds they make.
 - **What are some sounds that birds make?** Some sounds are chirping, screeching, cawing, quacking, clucking, and even singing.
 - **How can you recognize a bird just by the sound it makes?** You have to be familiar enough with a bird's call to recognize it, so you can study bird calls and learn them.
 - **How might we learn to recognize when God speaks to us?** We can read the Bible and learn how God speaks to people. Sometimes it's through other people.
- Just like birds and their unique sounds, we are all uniquely different. But no matter how different we are, God still speaks to every one of us.
- And just like we can become familiar with the unique sounds of birds, the voice of God can become familiar to us when we make time to know God. We can do this by reading and memorizing Scripture, talking to God in prayer, quietly being with God, and thinking about what is true about God. The more time we spend with God, the more likely we are to know God's voice.
- **I believe God can speak to me.**

ACTIVITY | Park Ranger's Rules

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this variation of "Simon Says," the leader will play a Park Ranger and issue instructions like "Ranger says 'stand on one leg'" or "Ranger says 'touch the top of your head.'" The kids must do what the Ranger says, but if the Ranger doesn't say "Ranger" first, they should not move. If they do, they are out. The last one standing wins.*

- I don't know about you, but today's Bible story really made me wonder what God's voice sounds like and how I could hear it better because **I believe God can speak to me**. God speaks to us in different ways but the question is, are we listening?
- Let's play a game that will test our listening skills. At a campsite, you should follow the rules of the campground and do what the Park Ranger says, so listen carefully.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 29:3–9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read. Give each kid blank sheets of paper, pencils, crayons, or markers.
- Sometimes, God speaks in a quiet voice. But sometimes, God speaks in a voice so powerful that words can barely describe it.
- **What is the voice of God like according to this passage? Draw your answers on your paper.** There is such vivid imagery in this passage like "thunders over mighty waters," "powerful," "majestic," "breaks cedars," "strikes with lightning," "shakes the desert," "twists the oaks," and "strips the forests bare."
- **What does God's voice sound like to you?**
- **What are some ways you can try to listen for God's voice?**
- **Do you believe that God speaks to us even today?** I do. **I believe God can speak to me**—and to you, too.
I Camp Believe It!

VIDEO | Camp Believe It, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Campfire Chat

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the campfire setup from the Bible story or display a video of a campfire ([like this](#)) on a screen. Have kids take turns responding to each question in pairs or groups of three. Have time in between each question to allow kids who want to share with the whole group to do so. Afterward, invite kids to stand up and say the Big Idea together, earning their Week 2 "Big Idea Badge." You can prepare these badges by printing them on [one and a half inch labels](#) or on regular paper to insert into a [button badge kit](#). You could instead use a [button maker](#) if available.
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Look for ways you can relate the subject matter to preteens. Feel free to abandon the theme and focus more on different scenarios that might feel more real to their lived experience.
- At the end of a long camping day, some campers like to sit around and chat by the campfire. Let's gather around and talk about everything we experienced today.
 - **Why do you think Jesus went to John to be baptized?**
 - **How do you think John felt when Jesus came to him?**
 - **Why do you think God's Spirit came down like a dove?**
 - **If God spoke to you right now, what words might you hear?**
- Now it's time to collect our Big Idea badge of the day. **What's our Big Idea? I believe God can speak to me.**

RESPONSE | Camp Journal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [kraft paper sheet](#) or brown construction paper, a regular sheet of copy paper, a length of twine, and a writing utensil. Have kids fold the two papers in half so the copy paper is on the inside. Have them insert the twine along the fold and tie a knot along the outer spine to create a little booklet.

Have them decorate the cover with "My Camp Journal" and their own drawings or stickers. Have them write or draw their responses on any of the inside pages. To save time, you can create the booklets for the kids in advance. See a worked example [here](#).

- One way to remember our camping experience is to keep a journal. Logging all the fun things we did together is a good way to reflect on everything we've learned, including today's Big Idea: **I believe God can speak to me.**
 - **Write the Big Idea on the first page of your journal.**
 - **What are some things you can do to listen for God's voice every day?**
 - **What can you do to quiet the other noises in your life so you can hear God's voice more clearly and loudly?**
 - **What can you do to be more like Jesus this week?**
- Now let's decorate the cover of our journals. Feel free to add in details about some of the fun things you've been doing at *Camp Believe It*.

MEMORY VERSE | John 6:69 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- **"We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."**

PRAYER

- God, whether it's through a mighty thunderous voice or in gentle whispers, we believe that you can and do speak to us. Thank you for loving us that much. Help us to know and hear your voice and to learn to listen when you speak to us. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Where was John when God spoke to him?** *In the wilderness*
 - **After he received his call from God, what did John do next?** *John went into all the country, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*
 - **What did the voice of God say to Jesus after he was baptized?** *"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*
 - **Read Psalm 29:3–9. What are some words the psalmist uses to describe the voice of God?** *"Thunders over mighty waters," "powerful," "majestic," "breaks cedars," "strikes with lightning," "shakes the desert," "twists the oaks," and "strips the forests bare".*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What are some ways we can hear God's voice today?**
 - **How can you be sure God speaks to you?**
 - **What might God be saying to you?**

ACTIVITY | Dove Necklaces

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids make a dove charm out of Model Magic or air-dry clay using a [dove cookie cutter](#). Have them poke a hole near the top using a pencil, and carefully add in a paper clip or a thin [key ring](#) (they may have to stretch out the wire and press it back into shape afterward). Have them knot the pendant to the middle of a length of twine or yarn. Then add some pony beads on either side of the charm. They can then knot the

ends and proudly wear their camp necklaces! See a worked example [here](#).

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide each preteen with gimp or boondoggle laces, carabiners, safety scissors for them to create a lanyard like [this](#). You can also have them make a dove charm out of air-dry clay using a [dove cookie cutter](#) to add onto their carabiner using a key ring.

- When Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit came down in an interesting form. **What was it?** A dove! Let's make our own camp necklaces with a dove to help us remember that just like God spoke on that day, God speaks to us today. **I believe God can speak to me.**