

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I believe God
can speak to me.

BIBLE

The Baptism of Jesus:
Luke 3:2–3, 21–22

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.**"

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Silent Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have everyone in the group stand in a large circle. Toss a big beach ball to one of them. Have them toss it to each other without making a sound. The goal is to keep silent throughout the game. If anyone talks or giggles during the game, they are out and take a seat. Have nature sounds playing in the background.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember to greet each toddler animatedly as they arrive and help them feel welcome and secure. Prepare fun toys and other attention grabbers to ease the separation from their grown-ups. Parents and caregivers will feel more assured leaving their little ones, and it will help toddlers connect with you much more quickly.
- It's tough staying silent for a long time, right? It's nice to be able to talk to each other and laugh!
- **Did you know that God speaks to us?** It might not sound like how our friend or parent or teacher speaks to us, but God does speak!
- I do love the sweet sounds of nature, but I really love when God speaks!

ACTIVITY | Parachute Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, use a parachute, sheet, or large towel to play together as a group.
- This parachute reminds me of what a tent feels like. Cool!
- It also reminds me of something that happens in today's Bible story. It's about the time Jesus got baptized in the river.
- **Do you know what happens when someone gets baptized?** They go under the water and come back up again. We are going to try to run under this parachute, just like Jesus went under the water. Here we go!

STORY TIME

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible

storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Set up a campfire circle with an [inflatable campfire](#). The storyteller should dress like they've been camping.

- Hey, campers! My favorite part of camping is telling stories around the campfire! Come join me around the fire to hear an amazing story about John the Baptist and Jesus.
- A long, long time ago, there was a man named John. God gave him a special purpose.
- **Does anyone remember it?** That's right, it was to prepare the way for Jesus.
- John prepared the way for Jesus by helping people prepare their hearts. Many of them got baptized in the river. This meant they were ready to leave their old life behind and start a new life with God.
- **Where did John baptize people?** In the river! **Let's move our hands like a flowing river.** *Dip your hands up and down.*
- One day, Jesus came to see John. Jesus was God's son. He was perfect and had no sin because he obeyed God. But he got baptized to show his love for God.
- So, John baptized Jesus! He helped Jesus into the water and then lifted him back up. As soon as Jesus came up from the water, something amazing happened. The sky opened up, and God's Spirit came down in the form of a dove.
- **Let's put our thumbs together and move our hands down from up high, like a bird.**
- But that's not all. A kind voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved son; with you, I am very, very happy!" God spoke, and everyone who heard God's voice knew that Jesus was God's son.
- From that day, Jesus started teaching people all about God's love and kindness. He did many special things to help others. It was a special day when God spoke from heaven, and it was the beginning of something wonderful.

BIG IDEA | I believe God can speak to me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide each of the words of the Big Idea taped to a random camping-related item in a backpack, such as a water bottle, flashlight, or camp snack. Invite one kid at a time to pull out an item revealing the word. Then, have a leader put the words in order. Have kids repeat back the Big Idea using the hand motions listed below.
- Wow! What a special moment. Can you believe God spoke to Jesus? You can hear all sorts of sounds when you're out in nature. I wonder if I have something in my camping bag to help us listen. Let's see!
- Hold on. Let's put these words in order and form today's Big Idea.
 - **I believe** (*fist pump in the air*)
 - **God can** (*point to the sky*)
 - **speak** (*use your hand to make a talking mouth*)
 - **to me.** (*point to yourself*)

VIDEO | Camp Believe It, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Ranger Says

- **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 says" first, they should not move. If they do, they are out. The last one standing wins.
- A park ranger keeps the campgrounds safe. When we're at a campsite, you should follow the park ranger's rules and do what the ranger says, just like we did in this game.
- Like we should pay attention to important rules, we can pay attention and listen to God's voice. God speaks through our teachers at church or family members at home when they teach us about God. God speaks to us every time we hear God's words in the Bible.
- That's why you can say with all your heart: **I believe God can speak to me.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, I believe you speak to me. Help me to hear your voice. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Baptism Bowls

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids bowls with blue Jello cups, vanilla pudding with blue food coloring, or blueberries. Provide Teddy Grahams. Kids can dunk into the “water.”
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** If using blueberries, you may want to cut them into quarters for toddlers. You could also add a drop of blue food coloring into milk (or a lactose-free alternative) for them to enjoy with their cookies.
- Today, we heard an amazing story about John baptizing Jesus and God speaking to the people. You can pretend to baptize your bears in the “water.”
- **What is your favorite sound to hear?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around a bottle of water to remind them of Jesus being baptized as you review these questions together.
- **Who was the man in the story who baptized people?** John the Baptist.
- **Who did John baptize in our story today?** Jesus
- **What did God’s Spirit look like when it came down from the sky?** A dove.
- **Who spoke when Jesus was baptized?** God
- **Can God speak to you?** Yes!
- Let’s say our Big Idea together: **I believe God can speak to me.**

ACTIVITY | Heavenly Dove

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the [printable](#) on blank copy paper and help kids cut out the dove. Then, trace one hand of each kid on white paper, cut it out, and glue it on the dove’s back as the wings. Glue the completed dove onto blue construction paper. Alternatively, print the printable on cardstock and allow kids to stamp their hands on the worksheet using large ink pads or washable paint. See worked example [here](#).
- Today in our Bible story, we heard an amazing story about John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, God spoke. God can speak to you!
- Let’s make a dove picture to remind yourself: **I believe God can speak to me.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 6:69 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month’s memory verse by setting the words (including the Scripture reference) to the tune of “Rain, Rain, Go Away.” You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **“We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today’s Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | River Sensory Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using a shallow container or tub and fill it with water and water beads to create a river sensory box. For a dry option, you can line the container with blue cellophane, colored paper, tape, or fill with uncooked rice dyed with blue food coloring. Use small toy figurines (to represent John the Baptist, Jesus, and others), small plastic or rubber ducks (to represent the dove), clear or light blue marbles (to represent the water), and small plastic cups or bowls (for scooping and pouring). You could also add a toy microphone to emphasize the voice from heaven.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of the sensory bin, offer a fun water play alternative with a gallon-sized zip-top bag with water and sequins inside to poke and squish. Be sure to seal the bag with duct tape and supervise closely.

ACTIVITY | Dove Whistle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide bird whistles (a new one for each kid) for kids to play with and take home. Talk about how these birds remind us of the dove in today's Bible story.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** As toddlers may not be able to blow the whistles just yet, invite them over to a window and see if they can spot any birds flying by or hear their calls. Even if you don't see any birds, it will be fun for toddlers to call out what they do see outside!