



Series Overview: This month we will look at what the Gospels say about connection and belonging. The ability to “subscribe now” and “follow” with a single click on social media gives people the impression that connection is that easy, but in reality it takes a bit more effort than that– it takes time of being in relationship with, following and learning from those we want to know. Kids look for places of belonging, places where forgiveness exists, places where they can experience a genuine connection. In this month’s Bible stories, kids will learn that we can know God through Jesus, we can know forgiveness because of Jesus, that Jesus knows us and wants us to follow Him, and that the message of Jesus is powerful...and most certainly worth subscribing to!

Bible Story: Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11

Big Idea: We know forgiveness because of Jesus.

Series Memory Verse: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life...”
John 14:6

Lesson Guide:

1. Dance and sing with your child to one, two or all of these songs.

- Give Your Heart to Jesus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nILYcPuiNWU>
- Jesus Is My Best Friend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpAPEKt6Wvg>
- J.E.S.U.S.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_GcOMHkx9A

2. Teach the Bible story like this:

***Supplies = Bible**

- Open the Bible to Mark 1 to show your family where today's true story comes from.
- In our Bible story, John the Baptist finally meets Jesus! (Have your kids or you do it with your kid if it is just the two of you: say their names, shake hands and say, "nice to meet you")
- John the Baptist baptized people with water and taught about forgiveness. But the people kept making poor choices. (Have your kids make sad faces and put two thumbs down)
- **Have you ever tried your best to do something, but for some reason, you just could not make a good choice? Have you ever hurt someone even though you didn't mean to?**
- John the Baptist knew that no one was perfect. The people in the Bible story needed someone to save them and forgive them when they made poor choices, and so do we! And that person who saves and forgives is Jesus! (Teach your kids to say, "Jesus" in sign language...the same way we say it in this month's memory verse)
- **Show me on your face how you would feel if you met Jesus.**
- When John the Baptist met and baptized Jesus, the sky opened up and God spoke and said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- **Show me on your face how you would feel if you saw the sky open and heard God speak.**
- When that happened, the people knew that Jesus had come to save everyone. John was excited to tell people about Jesus.
- We know forgiveness because of Jesus.

3. Show this video to review the Bible story:

<https://vimeo.com/482715518/407879ba6b>

4. Bible Story Application Game

***Supplies = a bag filled with heavy things (that would be heavy for a little one, but not too heavy for them to lift or drag safely) or several bags without such heavy things**

- Show your kids a bag full of heavy things or several bags with one thing each.
- Talk to them about how our hearts are heavy and weighed down by sin before we receive God's forgiveness.
- Have them do a relay where each kid has to carry the bag or bags from one spot to another. You could put out some obstacles they have to go around. You might have them have to jump with the bag, as well.
- Then talk about how when we confess the wrong things that we do to God and receive Jesus' forgiveness, He cleans our hearts. We no longer carry the weight of sin.

- Take everything out of the bag or get rid of the bags all together and have the kids do the relay again.
- Talk about how much easier it was and how much lighter they felt the second time.

5. Memory Verse Practice:

***Supplies = Paper/ cardstock/ cardboard/ posterboard, crayons/ markers/ colored pencils/ paint... whatever you have and want to use to make a "One Way" sign with your little one(s)**

- Practice the memory verse with the motions in the following video:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/30mcu3daw1e5xn8/JanMemVersePreK.MOV?dl=0>
- Next try this craft...



- Make a "One Way" sign with your child. It can look like one from above, or be creative and make it your own way.
- Just be sure to write our January memory verse on it, and then hang it up somewhere in your house for all your family to see.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life..." John 14:6

6. Pray with your family.