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WEEK 1

BIG IDEA

We can know God through Jesus.

BIBLE

Jesus Comes to the World: John 1:1-18; (Ephesians 1:3-14)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | YouTube Praise



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play worship songs that the kids can sing along to. Here are some we like:*
 - "[Jesus](#)" by Chris Tomlin
 - "[J.E.S.U.S.](#)" by Cool Worship Kids

ACTIVITY | Twitter Bird Updates



- Welcome, everyone! We are going to do a fun activity and make a Twitter origami bird!
- How do birds communicate with each other? They tweet. Have you heard of the word, "tweet," used in another way? That's right! Online! People use the social media platform, Twitter, to communicate to each other in short messages.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive. prepare copies of the origami*

instructions printable provided (also check out [this video](#)). Tell the kids to write one thing they are looking forward to today on the back part of the blue origami paper. Then, instruct the kids to follow the instructions to fold the paper into origami birds.

- It's time to "tweet" a friend! Exchange birds with someone else and read your friend's "Twitter update!"

ACTIVITY | I Spy Emoji



- Did you know that every day there are more than 18 million people who are searching online for God?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this [video](#) and tell the kids to raise their hand and say, "I spy!" when they find it.
- Just like we've been searching the video, people in the world are searching everywhere for God! Let's find out how we can know God!

QUESTION | Who's Your Favorite Celebrity?



- **Who is your favorite celebrity? Who would you like to meet?**
- **What would you do if your favorite celebrity was coming to town?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids this [video](#) of kids getting excited to meet their favorite famous person. You can choose to watch the entire video or show only a portion of it (i.e., 3:05 - 4:42). Optional: Bring in some mementos from your favorite sports team or icons!
- In today's Bible story, John the Baptist gets really excited and tells the world about who is coming to the world!

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | John 1:1-18



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Summarize the Bible Story in John 1:1-18.*
- For years and years, the people of Israel were waiting for someone to come save them. They knew that one day God, who can create life with words, would come to Earth and save them from their troubles. They did not want to miss it!
 - **Have you ever had to wait for a really long time for something you wanted?**
- Sometimes, it's not easy to recognize God. Even with all of the clues God gave Israel, the people didn't recognize Jesus when Jesus came.
 - **Have you ever looked for something all over and couldn't find it, only for it to be right in front of you the whole time?**
- John the Baptist was a very popular man at that time. Many thought John the Baptist was the Savior they were waiting for because he was baptizing people from all over the place! But John the Baptist made it clear that he was not God. With so much excitement, he shared that God was coming soon! And all he was doing was preparing the way as a messenger!
 - **Now, imagine what you would do if your favorite icon (like a celebrity or an influencer) came to meet you personally.**
- When John the Baptist met Jesus, "the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth," he told all the Israelites that Jesus was the one true God!

THE BIG IDEA | We can know God through Jesus. ▲



We can know God through Jesus.

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 1



Enter Video URL Here

Embed Video



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

ACTIVITY | #HashTagIt



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out John 1:1-18 (photocopy from your Bible or use an [online Bible](#)) and give one out to each kid, along with highlighters and pencils. Have kids read through the passage and underline the clues from the Bible verse that reveal Jesus was God.*
- A hashtag is when you put a pound symbol (#) before a keyword or key phrase. It's used on social media to help people see what everyone's 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!
- Let me give you some of the clues I found and the hashtags I thought would go with it:
 - Verse 1: "In the beginning was the Word" #GodIsTheWord #TheWord
 - Verse 14: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" #JesusIsGod #JesusIsHuman
- **What are some hashtags you'd like to add?**

ACTIVITY | Twitter Profile



- Let's create a Twitter profile for Jesus with Jesus' trendiest tweets and the hashtags we made up from the previous activity.
- **INSTRUCTION:** *Print out the Twitter profile printable, one for each kid, and have them fill it out.*
- Write all the facts you know about God!
- If Jesus had a Twitter account, Jesus would definitely have the most followers!

NOW WHAT?

RESPONSE | Chat with Jesus



- Do you want to know Jesus for yourself? The best way to find out more about Jesus is to talk with Jesus!
- Let's take some time to pray and talk with God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a copy of the Chat Prayer printable. Encourage the kids to write their prayers.*

PRAYER



- Dear God, we praise You because You have always been with us, from the beginning of creation to now. And how awesome is it that You want to be close to us! Thank You for giving us a way to get to know You through Jesus. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION



- 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 was 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?

ACTIVITY | Google Search Jesus



- Did you know that many of the top universities in the world started out as a place where people came to study about God?
- Just like the study of animals is called, "biology," or the study of stars is called, "astronomy," there are people who study the history and facts of Jesus, and that field is called, Christology!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, print the list of Jesus' names or Wikipedia facts about Jesus. Ask the kids to read and highlight facts about Jesus.*
- **Why is it important for us to know the facts about Jesus?**

