



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### **BIG IDEA**

Jesus is God.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus is Baptized:** Matthew 3:11-17  
(Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:4)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Underwater Relay
- **ACTIVITY** | Floatacious
- **STORY** | Share a Baptism Story
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 3:11-17
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is God.
- **VIDEO** | Baptism Videos
- **ACTIVITY** | Not Normal Writing
- **SCRIPTURE** | Acts 2:38-41
- **ACTIVITY** | Backwards Basketball
- **RESPONSE** | Draw the Scene
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - What did John say when Jesus wanted to be baptized by Him?
  - The Spirit of God descended on Jesus like what animal?
  - Why does it matter that Jesus is God, and not just human?
  - Why do you think being baptized was so important to Jesus?
  - Why do people get baptized?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Romans 6:4
- **ACTIVITY** | Floating Hearts
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

Jesus is God.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus is Baptized:** Matthew 3:11-17  
(Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:4)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### ACTIVITY | Underwater Relay

- Welcome to our second week of the Not Normal series! I hope you have had a great, not normal week! We're going to start with a relay, but it's not a normal relay!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide kids into two teams and have them line up. Have the first person on each team put on flippers, arm floaties, a floatation ring, and goggles, then run to the other side of the room and back. They will then give the swim gear to the next person in line who will run to the end and back. The first team to have everyone in their line participate, wins.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Let them choose which pool item they want to put on, or let them hold it during the relay race instead of wearing it.*
- Today's story doesn't involve goggles and floaties, but it involves people getting in water!

#### ACTIVITY | Floatacious

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a small tub of water. Set a plastic plate in the tub (make sure it floats!) and set out five empty soda cans. Choose four volunteers and tell them they each have one minute to try and build a tower of cans that floats by stacking the cans on top of each other and on top of the plastic plate. For younger kids, they only need to stack three cans. For older kids, challenge them to try and stack five cans. The tower has to stand for five seconds.*
- **This is a very not normal thing to do with soda cans and water, isn't it?** We're going to learn about a time Jesus was in the water, and something not normal happened!

**STORY | Share a Baptism Story**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a leader to share briefly about when they were baptized. They can share what they were feeling during the baptism, what made them choose to get baptized, how they felt afterwards, and how God changed their lives.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Take your preteens to a baptism at your church and talk with them about it afterwards.
- Baptism is something people do to show they are following Jesus. It is a symbol of what Jesus has done in their lives. Jesus set an example for us and then said His followers should also be baptized. Let's read from the Bible to find out what happened when Jesus was baptized!

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

**BIBLE STORY | Matthew 3:11-17**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Give them a toy person figurine and a bowl of water or blue shredded paper, and let them act out this story as it's being told.
- **What did Jesus want John to do?** He wanted John to baptize Him.
- **What happened after Jesus came up out of the water?** A special sign appeared in the form of a dove, and God's voice spoke from heaven and said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with whom I am well pleased." **What do you think everyone thought when they heard that? Do you think people were surprised?**
- John started off challenging Jesus about baptizing Him. John said Jesus should be the one baptizing him. But Jesus insisted that this was what needed to be done. It was important to Him to set this example and do the right thing to honor God.
- God revealed after the baptism that this was not a normal baptism. God was demonstrating why Jesus was so special and amazing.
- Jesus came to Earth and was born as a human, but He is not a normal human. He is God. Jesus came to Earth and was born as a human, but Jesus is also God.
- Jesus forgives our sins and invited us to follow Him, be His friend, and trust Him.
- That leads us to our Big Idea of the day, which is . . .

**THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is God.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus is God.**

**VIDEO | Baptism Videos**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show videos or pictures of people being baptized in your church. If you do not have any available, search YouTube to find videos of people being baptized in a way similar to the method your church practices.
- **What happens when someone gets baptized?**
- **How do you think people feel when they are getting baptized?**
- **Why do you think God wants people to get baptized?**
- We saw examples of people being baptized. Let's watch two videos of not-so-normal baptisms.
- Show [this video](#) and [this video](#).

**NOW WHAT? WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?**

**ACTIVITY | Not Normal Writing**

- **Jesus was a human just like us, but He wasn't normal. Why wasn't Jesus a normal human?** He is God! Let's write our Big Idea to help us remember it, but let's write it in a not normal way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Call three kids up to the front and have them sit in a chair. Put a piece of paper at the feet of each kid and lay some markers next to the paper. Tell them to write "Jesus is God" (or shorten it to Jesus = God) using only their toes to hold the markers! For younger kids, have them draw a heart instead. For older kids, use paint and paintbrushes instead of markers.

**SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:38-41**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What did Peter tell the people to do before they were baptized?**
- **What does repent mean?** It means turn away from something. God wants us to turn away from sin.
- We can repent, or turn away from our sins, and turn to God for forgiveness. We can believe in Jesus and trust in Him as our Savior.

**ACTIVITY | Backwards Basketball**

- Repenting means to choose to turn away from sin and turn toward God. It's when we agree with Jesus that our sin is wrong and we need to follow God. Repenting is more than just saying "sorry," it's going the other direction.
- Let's play a game where we do something backwards and turn the other way.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) video. Give two kids a basketball or bouncy ball and have them stand about ten feet away from a bin on the ground (or use a toy basketball set like [this](#)). Tell them to dribble backwards and, with the help of their teammates giving directions, shoot the basketball behind their backs and try to make it into the bin or the basket. Let two kids play at once, and the first one to make a basket wins. To make it a relay race, have the kids line up in teams, and when one kid makes a basket, they will run the ball back to the next person in line.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Let them help hold the basket, or let them play their own version of this game with a buddy on the other side of the room.
- How would the game be different if we played it facing the bin or the hoop? Would it be easier? Yes! Sometimes the devil makes sin look easier and better than living God's way, but we can follow the example of Jesus and turn from sin and temptation. We can live like Jesus.

**RESPONSE | Draw the Scene**

- Jesus' baptism was a very special time and God also used it as a hint for people to know that Jesus is God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a blank piece of paper and colored pencils. Tell them to draw a picture of what they imagined Jesus' baptism to look like. To make this a backwards activity, have them put their paper behind their backs to do the drawing. "Beneath the Waters" by Hillsong, "Come to the Water" by Kristian Stanfill, or "The Gospel Song" by Sovereign Grace Kids are songs that would be great to play during this activity.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Show them [this](#) video of someone drawing while teaching about baptism. Then give your preteens white boards and markers and let them draw while telling the story of Jesus' baptism.

**MEMORY VERSES | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

**SMALL GROUP TIME**

**DISCUSSION**

- **What did John say when Jesus wanted to be baptized by Him?** (*Jesus should baptize him instead.*)
- **The Spirit of God appeared to Jesus like what animal?** (*A dove.*)
- **Why does it matter that Jesus is God, and not just human?**
- **Why do you think being baptized was so important to Jesus?**
- **Why do people get baptized?**

**SCRIPTURE | Romans 6:4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Challenge preteens to use their knowledge of texting and technology to describe the Scripture. See your weekly instructions for details.
- **Why do you think it might be important to show everyone else what we believe?**
- **What would you tell a kid who was scared of being baptized?**

**ACTIVITY | Floating Hearts**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each group a white plastic plate and an unused black dry erase marker. Have the kids use the marker to draw hearts on the plate, pressing lightly as they draw. Right when they finish drawing, slowly pour some room temperature water onto the side of the plate (not directly on the drawings), and the letters will lift off of the plate and float in the water. As you pour the water, repeat the first part of Romans 6:4. As the marker drawings lift up and float around the dish, then say the second part of Romans 6:4.

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