

## WEEK 2 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

We can hear God's voice if we listen.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus is Baptized:** Luke 3:15–17, 21–22;  
Psalm 29

## LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Echo" (Victory Kids Worship)
  - "O Taste and See" (Bethel Music Kids)
  - "Ask, Seek, Knock" (Hillsong Kids)
  - "You Change Me" (People of the Earth)
  - "You are My All in All" (Shout Praises Kids)

### ACTIVITY | Name that Shark

- Hello, everyone! It's another great day to spend a day at a museum! Today, we get to experience an aquatic life museum, also known as an aquarium. We'll also be exploring how else we can use our senses to experience God.
- **What is your favorite aquatic animal to see?**
- It's so cool to walk around and see all of the different kinds of aquatic animals. In fact, we just entered the shark exhibit! Let's have fun with a little shark trivia. **Can you name these sharks?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids pictures of different sharks one by one (see your Shop & Prep list for examples), and see if they can name the sharks. Consider writing out the names of the species on a board for kids to guess from.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of quizzing preteens on species of sharks, show photos or video clips of famous sharks from popular movies or pop culture references kids may know. (Bruce from Finding Nemo, Baby Shark, San Jose Sharks hockey team, etc.)

### ACTIVITY | Sea Mammal Sounds

- One thing I absolutely love about the aquarium is all the awesome and crazy sounds you hear from the water and the animals.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the [“Jaws” theme song](#) ready to play starting at approximately 0:35. Then, lead into the game using the [“Sea Mammals and their Sounds” video](#).
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** This “Jaws” theme song may cause anxiety for some kids. You may choose to skip it and move straight into the sea mammal sound effects.
- **Do you know what to do if you hear this sound?** [Play “Jaws” theme.] YOU RUN! Or swim as fast as you can, if you’re in the water! Because that means a shark is coming!! Dah-dun, dah-dun, dah-dun!
- Ok, so you won’t really hear that when you see a shark at the aquarium, but you may get to hear these sea mammal sounds here in our sea mammal exhibit!
- We are going to learn the sounds that some sea mammals make, so let’s put on our listening ears and see how many of the sounds we can guess correctly at the end.

### QUESTION | What is baptism?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a great time to discuss baptism in the context of your church and ministry. You could choose to show past photos or videos as well.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Some kids and families may have different views on baptism than your church does. Have resources ready for any kids who may be asking deeper questions or want more information.
- **What do you think baptism is, and why is it important?**
- Today’s Bible story is about the time when Jesus was baptized, what that meant for Jesus and the people who were there, and what it means for us today.

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

### BIBLE STORY | Jesus is Baptized

- Hey, there! What an exciting day it’s been at the museum! I just love being your tour guide.
- We’re about to head into the Bible story exhibit. Last week’s special feature included John the Baptist and how he helped prepare everyone to have the sight to see and experience God through Jesus.
- This week, we’ll get to hear about John’s amazing encounter with Jesus!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For today's story from Luke 3:15–17, 21-22, dress up like a guide or docent again. You could change it up and wear colors or patterns that match an aquarium (think Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*). Prepare a shoe or sandal, a basin filled with water, and a stuffed animal bird or an [image of a dove](#).
- [Show shoe or sandal.]
  - **Who knows what this is?** Back in Jesus' time, these were referred to as sandals.
  - John the Baptist was a very important person, but he told everyone that he was not as important as they thought. Even though he was baptizing people in water — which seems important — there was someone who was on their way, who would be far more important.
  - This is what he said about that someone. [Read Luke 3:15-16.]
  - He said that he wasn't even worthy to untie the straps of this person's sandals. He was trying to say that he would need to serve the Savior that was coming.
- [Start splashing water in a basin.]
  - John continued to baptize people though. Nearly every day, the sound of water splashing and the joyful shouts from the people getting baptized in the Jordan River could be heard.
  - But one day, who should come to the river, but the person he had been talking about all this time . . . Jesus!
  - John probably scrambled to make room for Jesus, but Jesus asked *John* to baptize *him*. That couldn't be right! But Jesus said this is how it had to be.
- [Show stuffed animal bird or image of dove.]
  - When Jesus came back up out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove.
  - What a sight that must have been! Now, perk up your listening ears because you won't want to miss this next part.
- [Read Luke 3:22b.]
  - God spoke and let anyone who was listening know who Jesus was. Jesus was truly God's son!

### BIG IDEA | We can hear God's voice if we listen.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea with white crayon on butcher paper and place in the art tube from last week. Unroll and lay the paper on the floor. Let kids come up and paint the entire paper with watercolor paint to reveal the Big Idea. Since today's lesson emphasizes hearing, try emphasizing the words "hear," "God's," and "listen" as you say the Big Idea. As you practice the Big Idea with the kids covering their ears, you might want to have fun with saying it using different tones, volumes, and silly voices.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids that may be hard of hearing, use physical motions such as clapping to cue them on the words you are trying to emphasize.
- What is today's Big Idea? **We can hear God's voice if we listen.**

### VIDEO | A Day at the Museum, Episode 2

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

### STORY | Hearing God's Voice

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about a time when you heard God speak to you while you were praying. Explain what you were praying about, what it was like to hear God, and how you knew it was God speaking to you.
- In today's Bible story, Jesus was seeking God out in prayer after being baptized. God chose to speak to Jesus at that moment, and **we can hear God's voice if we listen** and are seeking God out, too.
- **Have you ever heard God's voice? What was it like?**

### ACTIVITY | Listen Whale!

- Echolocation is a tool that animals like whales use to get around. They listen for their sound to bounce back so they know if there are any obstacles in their way.
- Humans don't use echolocation, but let's try being whales for just a moment.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before this activity, show [this clip](#) from Finding Nemo about "speaking whale." Then have kids partner up and stand on opposite sides of the room as each other. One partner is blindfolded. The one that is not has to call out their partner's name, but can only say it in "whale." Have multiple pairs go at once to make it more challenging!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Place different ocean giant shells around the room. Have kids take turns going to the different stations and putting the shell to their ear. They can hear the sound of the ocean if they are still and listen. You can use empty cups with pictures of shells attached to them if you cannot get a hold of seashells!
- Just like you had to make an effort to listen more closely for your partner's voice, we also need to make an effort to hear God's voice and listen to it. There will always be noise and distractions around us, but remember, **we can hear God's voice if we listen.**

### BIBLE | Psalm 29

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 29:3-9 aloud or ask a volunteer to read for you.
- In Psalm 29:3-9, David tells us about the voice of God. Let's listen for all the ways that David describes God's voice.
- From what you heard in these verses, **what is the voice of God like?**
- Here's the thing though . . . even though it's incredibly powerful, God's voice can be hard to hear.
- You might not hear a thundering voice calling you by name to do something. (Or you might — that's up to God!) But most likely, you will hear God's voice in small, everyday ways, like gentle reminders from loved ones or when you read the Bible.
- Remember, **we can hear God's voice if we listen.** That's why we need to know how to listen for God's voice. It might not be the most obvious way, but God definitely speaks to us today!

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

### REFLECTION | Tell Them You Care

- **Do you remember what God said about Jesus in today's Bible story?**

- Many people that were there that day got to hear God’s voice that day. They knew that Jesus was God’s son, and that Jesus was someone they should listen to. It was probably encouraging for Jesus to hear God’s voice saying he was doing what was right.
- **We can hear God’s voice if we listen**, and God wants us to share God’s voice with others.
- When God speaks to us in an encouraging way, we can share that same encouragement with others. It is an awesome way others can hear God’s voice through us. Every person benefits from hearing how much they’re loved and cared about.
- So look for chances to tell your friends and family out loud how much you care about them! You can do this anywhere, anytime. For example, when you are at home, when you are playing with friends, or when you are eating a meal.
- **What is one encouraging thing you can say to someone this week?**

### RESPONSE | Hear God’s Voice

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out the prayer cards and pens.*
- We can hear God’s voice in different ways and you can learn to recognize how God speaks to you. God’s voice may come to you as a nudge that guides you in the right direction, a thought that encourages or comforts you, or a Bible verse that comes to mind that speaks to what’s happening in your life.
- Let’s practice together. Journal your prayer on this prayer card by writing or drawing what you feel God is saying to you because **we can hear God’s voice if we listen**.

### MEMORY VERSE | Fishy Face

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Challenge the kids to say the verse while pressing their palms against their cheeks and forming fish lips. See who can say it the fastest!*

### PRAYER

- Dear God, we know we can hear your voice if we listen. Thank you for speaking to us! Help us listen for your voice and recognize the moments when you speak to us even in small, not-so-obvious ways. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **What did John mean when he said he was not worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals?**
- **Why do you think John was so shocked that Jesus wanted to be baptized by him?**
- **What did God say when Jesus came out of the water?**
- **Read Luke 3:21. Why do you think Jesus chose to get baptized even though he had no sin?**
- **What is some “noise” you can cancel out in your life so you can hear God’s voice better?**
- **Imagine God sitting with us right now. What do you think God would say to you?**
- **What are some things you know God is saying to you through the Bible or through others?**

### ACTIVITY | Pressed Penny Souvenir

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a printable, and set out the decorating supplies around the table. Have them draw a picture of today's Bible story or their favorite aquarium exhibit. You might want to have pictures of pressed pennies available for kids to see – or bring in your own collection – if they've never seen one before.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids arrange pennies to spell a word from today's Big Idea (i.e., "hear," "God," "voice," etc.). Have them place a piece of paper over and color it in with a crayon or colored pencil. Have them write in the remaining words from the Big Idea.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have kids rub a crayon or colored pencil on a piece of paper over a penny or other coin. If you have souvenir pennies, bring those in for kids to look at!
- **Have you ever gotten a pressed penny souvenir before?** It's an easy and fairly inexpensive way to remember a place you've visited.
- Listening for God's voice doesn't require that much from us. We could spend a little time reading the Bible without distractions to see what God wants to say through what we're reading. Or, God speaks to us in everyday opportunities. Keep this "penny" somewhere safe to remind yourself to pay attention because **we can hear God's voice if we listen.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-13](http://growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-13).
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**