

LATE ELEMENTARY

**LEADER GUIDE
SPRING 2024**

**GODS
WORD**

**FOR LIFE
kids**

GOD'S WORD



FOR LIFE

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Late Elementary Leader Guide

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LATE ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE
SPRING 2024

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ES* stands for Easter Sunday

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FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

Is there a Family devotional for Late Elementary students?

Family devotional activities are now included as part of the Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages. For each lesson, in addition to two pages of learning activities, this resource also includes two pages of daily devotions to be done at home as a family. Because each lesson now has four pages, this resource has increased to fifty-six pages. To promote discipleship in the home, send each student home with all four pages (two pages front and back) at the end of every lesson. Then encourage families to revisit the lesson throughout the week with these daily discussions.

How should I use this curriculum for a smaller church or a smaller class size?

Every option and idea can be tailored by you to fit your specific resources and teaching methods. If you only have a few students, some ideas intended for larger groups should not be considered for your lesson plan. Other ideas, though, even if written for a larger group, can be creatively adapted for use in smaller class sizes.

To filter out excess activities, consider using the Easy Lesson Planner [DR](#) to develop an outline focusing only on the options you plan to use. If you feel overwhelmed by the amount of material in the Leader Guide, consider buying the digital version and then working from the Microsoft Word documents provided. This allows you to edit and delete activities to specifically meet your classroom's needs.

For Bible stories calling for multiple actors, consider using dolls or action figures to act out the story. Assign certain figures to students and let them help you tell the story. After the Bible lesson, let students retell the story using the figures.

How should I use this curriculum if I have forty-five minutes or less to teach?

For teachers with shorter teaching times, here is an example of how to assemble an effective lesson plan.

- Be prepared. Do all prep work before class, including developing a lesson plan, allotting time to each section.
- *5 minutes*: Connect with students, get their attention, and go. Use an intro video, lesson-oriented discussion, or action song to engage students and to introduce the Truth about God (TAG). Have a helper take attendance and collect offering as a primary teacher engages students. This section should take no more than five minutes at the beginning of the teaching time.
- *10 minutes*: Once you have students' attention, immediately enter into an Opening Option. Choose one activity or meld the activities that will resonate with your students, but take only ten minutes or less. Your goal in this time is to further expound on the TAG while gaining momentum toward telling the Bible story.
- *15 minutes*: Keeping tight control of the discussion, use the Lesson Lead-In to transition to the Bible Lesson. Knowing you have limited time, these two parts of the lesson should be well rehearsed and take no longer than fifteen minutes.
- *12 minutes*: With the Bible story told, apply the lesson using an Application Option. Choose one activity or meld the activities. Your goal is to lead students into God's presence so they can evaluate how this Bible story should impact their lives moving forward.
- *3 minutes*: At the end of every teaching session, be intentional about helping students find time for personal reflection at an altar of prayer.

The Leader Guide intentionally provides a lot of options. You will not be able to do all the activities. Use the available possibilities to construct the best possible lesson with your students, resources, teaching methods, and teaching time in mind. To help you in this process, see the Easy Lesson Planner [DR](#).

What is a whole-church curriculum?

God's Word for Life is a discipleship program intended to lead the entire church from toddlers to adults into God's presence and His Word for lifelong transformation. The adult, youth, and children's levels all start from the same biblical text but then have different age-appropriate applications. Daily devotionals for every age level equip the church to study Scripture daily.

If your entire church has not bought in to the God's Word for Life program, this Late Elementary curriculum can still be used on its own.

LEGEND

DR Digital Resource in Resource Kit	RK Resource Kit
LG Leader Guide	QL Video Quick Links document
MW Memory Work	TAG Truth about God
	TML Truth for My Life

How do I purchase and download my digital resources?

The Leader Guide can be purchased in print or digital versions separately for \$9.99, or together for \$12.99. The digital version comes with a PDF of the guide, as well as a Microsoft Word document for each lesson.

The Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages can be purchased in a print or digital version for \$5.49. The digital version comes with a PDF of the resource.

For the Resource Kit (\$29.99), the kit's digital material **DR** is included with your purchase of the print version. It includes access to videos, songs, lyrics, sound effects, and many more resources. If you are not accessing the digital materials provided with your Resource Kit, you are missing out on a ton of valuable materials.

After purchasing your materials, download your digital resources using one of the following options:

- *Option 1:* If you purchase online, download your digital resources immediately from the order confirmation screen.
- *Option 2:* An email is sent to the purchaser with a link to the purchased digital content. This email can be forwarded to any teachers who will be using the purchased materials.
- *Option 3:* Provide teachers with access (email and password) to the purchaser's account on the PPH website. On the website, go to "Your Account" and click the appropriate links in the Order History.
- *Option 4:* To access the Resource Kit's digital resources, in addition to the three options above, a download code is provided on the kit's cover sheet. To use this code, visit <https://pentecostalpublishing.com/downloads> and follow the instructions.

How do I access the videos marked with a **QL** in the lesson?

In the lessons, a **QL** icon means a clickable hyperlink is provided in a Video Quick Links document for easy access. Please note that videos are not essential to the lessons but are provided as a fun way to interact with students. We understand some classrooms may not have the technology available to show videos. The Leader Guide provides plenty of content to teach a lesson without showing videos.

After purchasing a Resource Kit and then downloading the digital resources (see instructions above), one of the first files is the Video Quick Links PDF that is specific to the Late Elementary level. Simply open the Video Quick Links document, find the video referenced in the lesson, and click on the icon below the title. If you have internet access, your electronic device should take you to the appropriate web page.

Videos on **vimeo** are produced for God's Word for Life by Pentecostal Resources Group. If your classroom has internet access, Vimeo videos can be livestreamed without fear of commercial interference or uncomfortable video suggestions. Your purchase of the Resource Kit gives you rights to download this Vimeo material. If you prefer to download these videos:

1. Use the Video Quick Links document to go to the Vimeo page.
2. Select the title of the video you want to download.
3. An option to Download or Share the video should appear at the bottom of the screen.

When the Video Quick Links document sends you to websites other than Vimeo (e.g., YouTube, Pinterest), this material was not produced for God's Word for Life but could be fun or helpful in teaching the lesson. Given the transient nature of online publications, it is possible a web address may no longer be active or may have been altered since the print date of this publication. Teachers and leaders should review the terms of service of any website before using it.

FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

Does God's Word for Life have a Facebook group for teachers?

Yes, join our Facebook group:

God's Word for Life Kids Community

Interact with editors and over 5,000 teachers across all levels. Get decorating ideas, post pictures of your class, and share what God is doing in your church.

Facebook: *God's Word for Life Kids Community*



What resources do I need to teach Late Elementary level?

- *Leader Guide (LG)*: This 112-page guide provides the lesson content for leaders and teachers to present in Sunday school, home school, or any teaching environment. The LG is available in both print and digital formats.
- *Devotional and Activity Pages*: For each lesson, every student needs an activity page. Each lesson's two pages of activities can be done during class time or at home. In addition, each lesson has a two-page *God's Word for Families* devotional to send home with students. The Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages are available in both print and digital formats.
- *Resource Kit (RK)*: This packet provides essential supplements to make the lesson come alive. Some lessons require materials only found in the Resource Kit. It is also available in both print and digital formats.

What are the series songs for this quarter?

- *Series 1*: "Down from His Glory" by PPH Kids Music
- *Series 2*: "At the Name" by UPCI Music
- *Series 3*: "Forever I AM" by PPH Kids Music

The Resource Kit provides an MP3 [DR](#), lyrics [DR](#), and a lyric video [QL](#) for these songs.

How do I know which level of God's Word for Life to use for my students?

For children, God's Word for Life is broken down into five levels: Little Learners, Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids' church. While a recommended age is provided, each level is distinguished by the style of teaching. For children ages 5–12, the relevant levels include the following:

- **Kindergarten** is for children currently in preschool or kindergarten. These children have been introduced to a classroom setting, but they still require large amounts of playtime. This level's content is a mix of being student- and teacher-driven.
- **Early Elementary** is for children who have entered elementary school. Because these students' thinking skills are still largely concrete and literal, the Truth for My Life applications focus on the here and now, with some introduction to abstract thinking. The content is teacher-driven, with a focus on hands-on activities, games, and object lessons.
- **Late Elementary** is for older elementary students who will eventually be transitioning into youth level. As children mature, they develop the ability to think abstractly and comprehend deeper meanings. In this level, the content is teacher-driven, with a focus on discussion and hands-on application.
- **MOVE!** is written for classes containing a wide range of ages from 5–12. If your church places all children in one classroom or gymnasium, small or large, MOVE! is designed for you.

If your students are younger (grades 1–3), but they do not seem challenged by the material being covered in Early Elementary and are able to grasp deeper concepts, consider switching to Late Elementary. If your students are older (grades 4–6), but they do not seem to be grasping the deeper concepts of the Late Elementary material, consider switching to Early Elementary. If you have a wide range of ages, consider the MOVE! kids' church curriculum.

Does God’s Word for Life have classroom décor ideas?

Yes. This quarter provides ideas for a Train Depot theme. Look for a digital document in the Resource Kit called “Classroom Decor Ideas” **DR**. It provides ideas to decorate your classroom.

- On Facebook, search for and share your decorating ideas in our group: **God’s Word for Life Kids Community**.
- On Pinterest, go to www.pinterest.com/GodsWordforLife to find a page pinned with ideas, snacks, and activities to turn your classroom into a train depot.

Please note: If you decorate, look for creative ways to tie the theme to the lesson content. Because not all teachers decorate, decor ideas are not mentioned in the Leader Guide. At the end of the “Classroom Decor Ideas” **DR** document are suggestions to tie the theme to each lesson.

Every teaching situation is different. While some teaching teams entirely transform their classroom or teaching wing with each quarterly theme, others can only decorate a few bulletin boards, and others need decor that can be put up and taken back down each week. Every teacher has a different style, budget, and need. This curriculum is adaptable for every situation.

What does God’s Word for Life do to help teachers with students who have special needs?

In conjunction with ABLE Ministry, the digital resources of the Resource Kit for the Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids’ church levels provide a special needs supplement to the Leader Guide (LG). Teachers can use this document alongside the LG.

In addition, the digital resources of the Resource Kit provide a Spiritual IEP **DR** that has been developed by ABLE Ministry. By working with parents and caregivers to fill out this informational form, teachers can better understand some challenges their students face. This information helps ensure each child receives an appropriate amount of assistance and that the correct accommodations are in place in your classroom.

If you have questions regarding a specific disability or teaching challenge, join the ABLE Ministry UPCI Facebook page to network with Apostolic parents and teachers who specialize in ministering to children with special needs.



ABLE Ministry
on Facebook



What is Junior Bible Quizzing?

God’s Word for Life is pleased to partner with UPCI Children’s Ministries to present Junior Bible Quizzing options. The area of study for 2023–24 is the Book of Acts. The Resource Kit’s digital resources provides you with three JBQ documents:

- JBQ Games: This document provides Bible-quizzing game ideas to play with students.
- JBQ Quizzes: This document provides questions to ask during the games. Quiz 1 corresponds with the first set of verses. The content and format of these questions is provided by Terry Marshall, the JBQ Director.
- JBQ Verses: Select and print the JBQ Verses **DR** you want your students to study. Once you feel they have mastered the assigned verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses.

For more information on Junior Bible Quizzing, visit the website: www.najbq.com.

What does **DR** mean in the lesson?

A **DR** icon means this item is provided as a digital resource in the Resource Kit. To access this material, a Resource Kit must be purchased separately from the Leader Guide, and then the digital resources must be downloaded. The downloads come as zipped files that require a computer. (Smartphones [and some tablets] cannot open zipped folders without specialized apps.) To download the **DR** material, follow the instructions in the top area of page 3.

The digital resources **DR** include a variety of tools to help bring your lesson to life.

11

THE LAMB OF GOD

John 1:1, 14, 29–34

SERIES AIM

To study passages in John that reveal the purpose behind God's presence.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

John 1:12

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 1:29

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save us from sin.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will follow Jesus because He is God.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 1:1, 14, and 29–34. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

As a shadow of things to come, Jewish families in Exodus 12 marked their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificial lamb to spare them from God's judgment on Egypt. In John 1:33, John the Baptist revealed he was sent by God to baptize until the Messiah was revealed. When John saw the Spirit descend like a dove during Jesus' baptism, John knew the Lamb of God had arrived who would soon take away the sin of the world.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Recent scientific research has revealed that a lamb's blood has the power to overcome the venom of a rattlesnake's bite. Jesus, as God revealed in flesh, provided His sinless blood to save us from the deadly bite of sin. Thank God for the blood.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

It is human nature to follow influential people. Without realizing it, elementary students will likely imitate the actions and attitudes they see from sports stars, internet influencers, and celebrities. Show them the importance of following Jesus and the examples of godly people. Encourage them to look for Apostolic preachers, musicians, and artists to admire and emulate.

Looking to decorate your classroom with Train Depot ideas? See the Classroom Decor Ideas **DR** provided in your digital resources.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Live lamb, stuffed lamb, or Lamb visual **DR**
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, purchased stickers, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Josh the Baptist” **QL**
- “Sheep and Goats Can Be Super Funny, See for Yourself!” **QL**
- “Sheep Kids Videos, Baby Lamb Videos, Little Sheep, Lambs” **QL**

Opener

- Name and Symbol cards **RKDR**

Opening Option 1

- Sticky notes, pencils, whiteboard and marker

Opening Option 2

- *Per student:* Bible or Bible app, Scriptural Metaphors handout **RKDR**, pencil

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Helper (contestant) dressed in wild clothes, “Hooray for Hollywood” **QL**
- *Per student:* Passages about John the Baptist **RKDR**
- *Option:* Alternate Bible lesson 1.1 **DR**; John the Baptist costume, puppet, or doll with furry coat and items for locusts and honey; John the disciple costume, puppet, or doll with biblical robe, pen, and paper; Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- 10 pennies, 2 nickels, 1 dime, whiteboard and marker
- *Per student:* Passages about John the Baptist **RKDR** from the Bible lesson

Application Option 1

- Full-page pictures of famous people or characters

Application Option 2

- New Birth poster **RKDR**

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page
- Letters to families, Spiritual IEP **DR**, Student Information form **DR**, Series song MP3 **DR** and lyrics **DR**: “Down from His Glory” by PPH Kids Music

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Purchase stickers to use throughout the quarter to take attendance.
- For a memorable teaching moment, ask a local sheep farmer to bring in a lamb (with pastoral approval, of course). Since God’s Word for Life is a whole-church curriculum, other classes should be teaching on the Lamb of God this week as well.
- If a live lamb is not feasible, locate a stuffed lamb or print the Lamb visual **DR**.

Instruction

- As students enter, take attendance and collect offering.
- Introduce John 1:12 from the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**.
- Show the lamb (live or stuffed) or Lamb visual **DR**.
 - » Introduce the Truth about God (TAG): “Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save us from sin.”

Application: Jesus came to earth as a baby, soft and gentle like a baby lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God. He came to save us from our sins. With Jesus in our lives, we have power to follow Him and overcome sin.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing one of the following:
 - » Play the short video “Josh the Baptist” **QL** provided with the curriculum.
 - » To get students thinking about lambs, show a few minutes of “Sheep and Goats Can Be Super Funny, See for Yourself!” by Tiger Productions **QL**. For a shorter video, show “Sheep Kids Videos, Baby Lamb Videos, Little Sheep, Lambs” by Farm Animals **QL**.

Opener: Lamb as a Metaphor

Preparation

- Cut apart the Name and Symbol cards **RKDR**. Keep the Name cards separate from the Symbol cards.

Instruction

- *Say:* A metaphor is a word picture that represents or symbolizes something else. For example, Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper

Use the Connect section to spark students’ curiosity about the lesson.

If you are not accessing your digital resources, you are missing out. To learn how to download the digital resources **DR**, see page 3.

Truth about God: Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save us from sin.

than any twoedged sword.” God’s Word is not an actual sword, but it carries the qualities of a sword. Similarly, an emoji is a symbol used to represent a feeling. In this game, we will try to match the symbol or metaphor to the word it represents.

- Form teams.
- Shuffle the Symbol cards and place them face down.
- On a team’s turn, reveal a Name card. The team chooses one Symbol card to turn over.
 - » If the cards match, place them by the team to represent a point.
 - » If cards do not match, place the Symbol card face down again and place the Name card back in the stack.
- Continue until all cards are matched. The team with the most matches wins.
- *Answers:* LOVE (heart); SLEEP (Zzzzs); MUSIC (music notes); WRONG (thumbs-down); KING (crown); RAIN (umbrella); SWORD (Bible); CALVARY (cross); HOLY SPIRIT (dove); JESUS (lamb); DOCTOR (stethoscope); CORRECT (thumbs-up)

Application: Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save us from sin. Jesus is not an actual lamb, but the Lamb of God metaphor describes His sacrificial role.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 11:

- Option 1: Jesus’ Titles
- Option 2: Scriptural Metaphors

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- *Say:* Today’s Bible story contains two Johns—John the Baptist and John the disciple.
- *Ask:* What do we know about John the disciple?
 - » He was one of the twelve disciples. He was one of Jesus’ first disciples. He was a fisherman who followed Jesus for over three years. He wrote the Gospel according to John in the New Testament.
- *Ask:* What do we know about John the Baptist?
 - » He was a rugged outdoorsman who lived in the wilderness. People walked for miles just to hear him preach and to be baptized. He wore camel’s hair and ate locusts and wild honey. His ministry is described in all four Gospels.

Application: Today’s Bible story is from John 1, where John the disciple talked about John the Baptist.

Bible Lesson: The Lamb of God (Matthew 3; John 1)

Preparation

- Prior to class, ask a dramatic helper to be a contestant (dressed in wild clothes). Instruct the helper to be overly confident, while answering the questions wildly wrong and complaining about the questions.
- For each student, print the Passages about John the Baptist **RKDR** found on the back of the Scriptural Metaphors handout **RKDR**.

Instruction

- Distribute the Passages about John the Baptist **RKDR**.
- Start playing “Hooray for Hollywood” **QL**.

Truth for My Life: I will follow Jesus because He is God.

Welcome to the game show Big Brain Bible Bash. *With a lot of fanfare, introduce the contestant.* This game is designed to test your biblical knowledge. Today's subject is John the Baptist. *Contestant replies with a know-it-all attitude. Fade out the music.*

Here are the rules. I will ask a question. You will answer. Our judges (*motion toward students*) will look up the answer to determine if you are right. Each correct answer is worth ten dollars. *Assign a student to be the score keeper. Are you ready? Contestant nods. Judges, are you ready? Students respond.*

Question 1: In John 1:6, we read, "There was a man sent from God." What was his name? *Answer: John*

After the contestant answers incorrectly, the judges provide the correct answer. Between questions, ad-lib with the contestant.

Question 2: Hundreds of years before John was born, his job was foretold by the prophet Isaiah. According to Matthew 3:3, what was John's job? *Answer: To cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight*

Question 3: According to John 1:28, what was John doing at Bethabara near Jordan? *Answer: Baptizing people*

Question 4: John baptized people unto repentance, meaning he baptized people who confessed their sins to God and wanted to live a better life. In Matthew 3:13, however, John was reluctant to baptize one man who came to him. Who was the man? *Answer: Jesus*

Question 5: Jesus was sinless. He had never sinned, so He had nothing to repent of, which was the reason John baptized people. According to Matthew 3:15, why did Jesus ask John to baptize Him? *Answer: To fulfill all righteousness*

Jesus was demonstrating the need to be baptized as a means of following after God.

Question 6: According to John 1:33, John was looking for a sign from Heaven that would show him who the Messiah was. What sign was John looking for? *Answer: John would see the Spirit descend and remain on a person he was baptizing. This person would be the Messiah.*

Question 7: According to John 1:32-34, what did John see when he baptized Jesus? *Answer: The Spirit descending like a dove and resting on Jesus*

Question 8: John baptized people in water. According to John 1:33, how would the Messiah baptize people? *Answer: With the Holy Ghost*

Question 9: According to Matthew 3:16, how do we know Jesus was fully immersed (dipped under the water instead of sprinkled) when He was baptized? *Answer: It describes how Jesus came up "straightway out of the water."*

Question 10: After Jesus was baptized, John used a metaphor to describe Jesus to his disciples. According to John 1:29 (and again in verse 36), what was the metaphor John used? *Answer: The Lamb of God*

In Old Testament times, people took lambs to the Temple in Jerusalem and sacrificed them to take away the punishment for the sins of the people. Jesus came as the sinless Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. Because Jesus died on the cross, animal sacrifices are no longer needed for sins to be forgiven.

That wraps up our game. Scorekeeper, how many questions did our contestant get right? . . . Zero? Well, that's exactly how much money you win. *Play "Hooray for Hollywood" QL again.* But we're all winners because we have learned from the Word of God. *Thank the contestant for being a good sport. Thanks for playing Big Brain Bible Bash.*

Review Questions

- Why did Jesus ask John to baptize Him? *"To fulfill righteousness"; as an example for everyone*
- Why did John call Jesus by the metaphor "the Lamb of God"?
- What sign did John see that identified Jesus as the Messiah?
- How does Jesus' baptism relate to Peter's declaration in Acts 2:38?

APPLY AND ACT

Ready to network with Apostolic teachers from around the world? Join the God's Word for Life Kids Community on Facebook. For more info, see page 4.

Bible Math

Instruction

- As you discuss the following points, write the equations and words on the whiteboard.
- *Say:* From mathematics we learn that $2 + 2 = 4$. We also learn that $3 + 1 = 4$. Therefore, does $2 + 2 = 3 + 1$? . . . Yes it does.
- Use coins to demonstrate the following:
 - » Do ten pennies equal two nickels? *Yes*
 - » Do two nickels equal one dime? *Yes*
 - » Therefore, do ten pennies equal one dime? *Yes*
- From the Passages about John the Baptist **RKDR**, read John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God.*" (Emphasis added.)
 - » *Write:* WORD = GOD.
- Read the first half of John 1:14: "And the *Word was made flesh*, and dwelt among us." (Emphasis added.)
 - » *Write:* WORD = JESUS (FLESH).
 - » *Write:* JESUS = GOD?

Application: Verse 1 says the Word is equal to God. Verse 14 says the Word is equal to Jesus (flesh). Does that mean Jesus is equal to God? . . . Yes. I will follow Jesus because He is God.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 11:

- Option 1: Whom Do You Follow?
- Option 2: Following Jesus

Prayer and Response

Preparation

- Write a letter to families, sharing the methods of communication (e.g., social media, text messages, or email) you will use throughout the quarter. Explain how you would like to become partners with them in discipling their children.
- Consider setting up an appointment with each family to discuss and fill out the Spiritual IEP **DR**.

Instruction

- Lead students in prayer.
 - » Thank the Lord for coming to save us from sin.
 - » Ask students to whisper a personal commitment to follow Jesus.
 - » Pray for a chance to tell others to follow God with us.
 - » Ask everyone to raise their hands and worship Jesus.
- Send each student home with the Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages.
- Use the Student Information form **DR** to obtain contact information from parents.

Consider sending families the MP3 **DR** and lyrics **DR** for the new series song, "Down from His Glory" by PPH Kids Music. Since God's Word for Life is a whole-church curriculum, siblings can enjoy learning the same song.

OPENING OPTION 1

Jesus' Titles

Preparation

- On the whiteboard, write: What are some of Jesus' titles?
- On a sticky note, write one title, such as Savior. Attach the note to the board as an example.

Instruction

- Give students access to sticky notes and pencils.
- Instruct them to write titles of Jesus on the sticky notes and attach them to the board.
- Read the titles aloud. Can students think of other suggestions?

Application: Jesus has many titles. In today's Bible story, we will learn one of Jesus' best-known titles—the Lamb of God. As the Lamb of God, Jesus came to save us from sin.

OPENING OPTION 2

Scriptural Metaphors

Instruction

- *Ask:* What is a *metaphor*? A word picture that symbolizes something
- *Say:* For example, if I say, "Mark is a couch potato," is he a literal potato? Or if I say, "Danielle has a heart of gold," is her heart literally made of gold? No, these are word pictures used to illustrate something.
- *Say:* The Bible is full of metaphors. In this activity, you will look up each verse. Then you will write what is being described and the metaphor being used to describe it.
- Give each student a Scriptural Metaphors handout (RKDR), a Bible or access to a Bible app, and a pencil.
 - » Consider letting students work in pairs, or look up the verses as a class.
- *References:* Hebrews 4:12 (Word of God—sword); I Peter 5:8 (devil—lion); Psalm 119:105 (Word of God—lamp and light); John 10:11 (Jesus—shepherd); Jeremiah 23:29 (Word of God—fire and hammer); Matthew 5:13 (Jesus' followers—salt); Matthew 13:44 (kingdom of Heaven—treasure); John 1:36 (Jesus—the Lamb of God)

Application: The Bible contains many metaphors, including Jesus as the Lamb of God.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Whom Do You Follow?

Preparation

- Search online and print full-page pictures of famous people your students will recognize.

Instruction

- *Ask:* Why do people "follow" other people?
 - » Discuss different methods used to follow others, such as friending them on Facebook, subscribing to their YouTube page, binging on all their media, and so on.
- Show the pictures and discuss the things people do to follow that person or character.
- *Say:* John the Baptist had followers too. When Jesus showed up, however, John told them to stop following him and start following Jesus. Why? Because Jesus was the Lamb of God who came to save us.

Application: It may be fun to follow celebrities, but remember, they cannot save you. Jesus is the Lamb of God, so we must follow Him and encourage everyone we know to follow Him too.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Following Jesus

Instruction

- Choose a student to be the leader.
 - » For one minute, all students should imitate every action of the leader.
- Afterward, discuss the importance of following Jesus like they followed the leader.
- *Ask:* What are some attitudes and actions of Jesus that we should imitate?
 - » Answers include love, kindness, compassion, honesty, dedication, and unselfishness.
- Review the New Birth poster (RKDR).
- *Say:* By following God's plan of salvation, we follow the actions of Jesus. He died for our sins; we die to our sins when we repent. Jesus was buried; we are buried with Him in baptism. Jesus rose again; we rise to new life when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Discuss ways to follow Jesus after being born again. Include prayer, daily repentance, studying the Bible, listening to spiritual leaders, and church attendance.

Application: I will follow Jesus because He is God.

Truth about God: Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save us from sin.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**, “All in Him” lyrics **DR**, highlighters or pencils

Preparation

- For each student, print the “All in Him” lyrics **DR**.

Instruction

- Give each student a copy of the lyrics and a highlighter or pencil. Play “All in Him” by First United Pentecostal Church of Covington **QL**.
 - » During the verses, instruct students to highlight or underline each word or phrase that identifies Jesus.
 - » During the chorus, everyone should sing.
- **Series Song:** “Down from His Glory” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “John 1:1–14—the Word” by Seeds Family Worship (purchase for group use) **QL**
- “In the Beginning (John 1:1–5)” by Dave and Jess Ray **QL**
- “Lion and the Lamb” by Indiana Bible College **QL**
- “All about the Lamb” by Apostolic Kidz Collective **QL**

Application: Once John the Baptist realized who Jesus was, he told everyone. Once you know what Jesus can do, you want to tell everyone, just like John the Baptist did.

SNACK OPTION

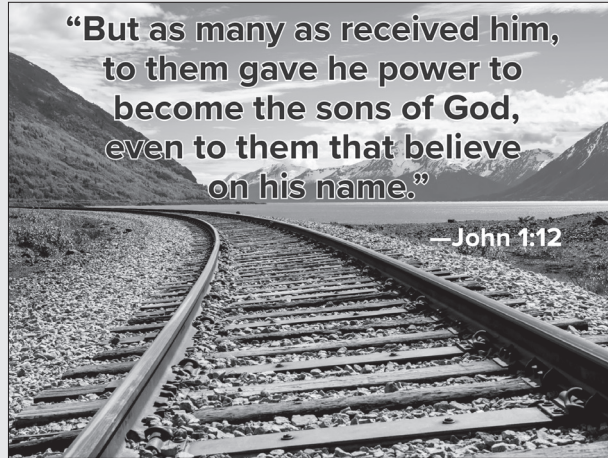
John the Baptist’s Diet

Supplies: Small individual cups of honey, pretzels, napkins, cups, water

Instruction

- **Say:** John the Baptist’s lifestyle was viewed as a little strange. His diet consisted of crunchy locusts (possibly grasshoppers) and sweet, wild honey. His diet was probably limited to what he could find in the wilderness.
 - » **Ask:** Could you live on John the Baptist’s diet?
- Ask a volunteer to thank God for the food and for coming to save us.
- Serve pretzels for dipping in honey and water to drink.

Application: People may have thought John was a little strange, but he was on a mission to point to and recognize the Messiah—the Lamb of God. John didn’t want people to miss their opportunity to follow after God’s plan.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verse: John 1:12

Supplies: Series 1 MW cards **DR**, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- For each pair of students, print a set of the Series 1 MW cards **DR**.
 - » Cut apart each set, shuffle them, and stack them.
 - » From each set, randomly remove two or more words.

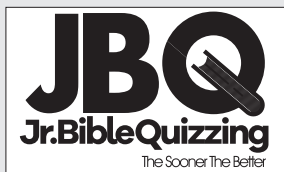
Instruction

- Using the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR** read John 1:12 aloud together.
 - » Then cover the poster.
- Pair up students. Give each pair a shuffled set of Series 1 MW cards **DR**.
- Challenge them to put the words in order, leaving spaces for the missing words.
- Once finished, pairs take turns reading the verse while filling in the missing words.
- These cards will be used again in lesson 1.2.

Application: John the Baptist and John the disciple both believed Jesus was the Lamb of God. John 1:12 tells us that *anyone* who believes in God will become a child of God.

Truth for My Life: I will follow Jesus because He is God.

JBQ OPTION



Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.

GAME OPTION

Shear Speed

Supplies per team: Bowl of cotton balls, second bowl, clothespin

Preparation

- For each team, place a large cluster of cotton balls in a bowl, separating them so they don't stick together.
- Each team also needs a second bowl of the same size.

Instruction

- Discuss what students know about lambs or sheep.
 - » Explain what it means to shear a lamb or sheep. Relate it to the cotton balls.
- Form teams. Give each team an empty bowl and a clothespin.
 - » Place a bowl of cotton balls for each team on the opposite side of the room.
- Have teams race to "shear the sheep."
 - » On go, one student from each team crosses the room, pinches a cotton ball with the clothespin, carries it back, drops it into the team's empty bowl, and then hands the clothespin to the next teammate.
- Play for ninety seconds.
- When time is up, count the cotton each team was able to "shear." The team with the most cotton wins.

Application: John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. Jesus was not sheared like a sheep is, but He became the sacrifice so we could be forgiven of our sin.

CRAFT OPTION

Create Emojis

Supplies: Emoji template **DR**, yellow cardstock, scissors, fine-point markers, adhesive magnetic squares (4 per student), New Birth poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- For each student, print the Emoji template **DR** onto yellow cardstock.

Instruction

- Give each student a sheet of yellow circles to cut out.
- On the first two circles, challenge students to create metaphorical emojis for Jesus and John the Baptist.
 - » Jesus' emoji could be a lamb because He was the Lamb of God.
 - » John's emoji could be a face with an open mouth because he was a voice crying in the wilderness.
- On the third circle, students create an emoji representing thankfulness.
 - » Say: We are thankful Jesus came to save us from sin.
- On the fourth circle, students create an emoji representing how they will feel after being born again in water and Spirit.
 - » Review the New Birth poster **RKDR**.
- Attach a magnetic square to the back of each emoji so students can display them at home.

Application: John called Jesus the Lamb of God because He was and is the only one able to take away our sin. When we think about all Jesus did for us, we should be thankful.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » "The Baptism of Jesus" by Saddleback Kids **QL**
 - » "55 John Baptizes Jesus" by Care Bear's Bible Stories for Kids **QL**
 - » *Advanced students:* "A Reading of John 1:1-18 | The Prologue" by Steve Thomason **QL**
 - » *Advanced students:* "John 1—the Word becomes Flesh" by BibleProject **QL**