



INITIATIVE | WEEK 4 | MAY 25, 2025

## Elementary Lesson

# Start Spreadin' the News

**Monthly Virtue:** Initiative—seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

**Bible Story:** Start Spreadin' the News (John's Disciples Follow Jesus) • *John 1:35-45*

**Key Question:** How did you first hear about Jesus?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**Memory Verse:** None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. *Philippians 2:4 (NirV)*

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33b). Sometimes, we may not understand why something happens the way it does. Yet, despite the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good. Because of that, we can trust God no matter what as we begin to explore why the story of Jesus is good news for everyone.*

**Key Question:** How did you first hear about Jesus? Everyone has a starting point in their faith journey. Thankfully God has placed people in our lives to help us grow. We don't have to figure out the hard parts on our own. We hope this question helps preteens think about their faith and who they can talk to when they want to learn more.

For week 4 we head to **John 1:35-42** where we meet Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. One day as John was with his disciples, they saw Jesus walking by. Jesus was the very same man John had been preparing his disciples for! So, when the time came, John's disciples left to go follow Jesus, and that decision led to more disciples following Jesus as they began to tell one another about Him.

### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

### Morning Flow

Doors  
Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group  
Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group  
Starts  
10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### WHAT’S THAT SOUND?

(Blank paper, Markers/Crayons)

Let’s check out our virtue for the month.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Initiative—seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Initiative is a big word so let’s say it and the definition together on the count of 3. Ready? 1, 2, 3...

It can be easy to let others step up and take care of things. Think about it, you probably do that all the time! Your mom probably cooks dinner most nights. Your teacher probably cleans up the classroom at the end of the day. Your coach probably plans how each of your practices are going to run.

But initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it without being asked and with the right attitude! And it’s not just with tasks. It can also be with how we treat others. Check out our verse for the month.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4 *(NirV)*

*Take a minute to explain that ‘Philippians’ is a book in the New Testament, and that*

*the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.*

“You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!”

**(SLIDE: WHAT’S THAT SOUND TITLE SLIDE)**

**(SLIDES: WHAT’S THAT SOUND SLIDE WITH AUDIO ATTACHED)**

### HOW TO PLAY

- Have kids get into small groups and give each group a piece of paper and a marker/crayon.
- Explain that they are going to have to listen closely. You are going to play them a sound bite ONLY ONCE and they will have to guess what they think is happening.
- After you play each sound bite, give the groups about 15 seconds to discuss and write down their guess. Once you’ve played through all sound bites, go through them again and reveal the answers.
- ANSWERS:
  1. *Turning on a car*
  2. *Kazoo*
  3. *Pen clicking*
  4. *“Raking” LEGO*
  5. *Opening a bag of cereal*
  6. *Flipping through a book*
  7. *Pouring soda into a glass of ice*
  8. *Start-up sound on a computer*
  9. *Cracking eggs*
  10. *Scissors cutting paper*

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

### WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

**(VIDEO: RIVER, BURN)**

### BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

**(No Supplies)**

It’s true; we talk A LOT about Jesus here, but maybe you’re wondering why. Maybe you’ve never thought about it, but at some point, every Small Group Leader, worship leader, even me . . . heard about Jesus and chose to follow Him with our entire lives. How about I tell you my story about that . . .

*LGL share an age-appropriate, personal story about the time they first heard about Jesus. Use the following story as an example.*

“When I was eleven, I attended Vacation Bible School for the first time. My friend, Noah, invited me, but I wasn’t super excited about it. But my mom said I should go—she said it’d be good for me



and would at least give me something to do that week. So that first morning, Noah and his mom picked me up and dropped me off at their church. And you know what? It wasn't that bad. In fact, it was actually fun. More than that, though, the Small Group Leaders were SO nice! One of them, a guy named Mr. Dave, really stood out to me. He wasn't like anyone I had ever met—kind, patient, and full of joy that seemed to light up the entire room.

“During one of his lessons, he spoke about Jesus in a way I'd never heard before. I remember him saying, ‘Jesus isn't just someone you read about; He's someone who wants to walk with you every day.’ His words stayed with me, and I couldn't shake the feeling that something big was happening in my life.

“Later that day, during a quiet moment, Mr. Dave and I got to talking. He asked me if I thought I was ready to invite Jesus into my life and follow Him. I just HAD to say yes! Later, when my mom came to pick up, we chatted again with Mr. Dave. And we all prayed together, and for the first time, I asked Jesus into my life. Of course, that decision didn't mean everything suddenly became perfect, but because of Noah and Mr. Dave and JESUS, I started out on a path that has that brought me to hang out with you all and tell you about Jesus, too.

My journey of following Jesus started with someone taking initiative to talk with my about how much Jesus meant to them and what Jesus had done in their life. And I imagine if you asked your Small Group Leader or maybe even your mom or grandmother, they'd have a similar story. Someone told them about Jesus.

“And you're here today, and someone—me and your Small Group Leader—is telling you about Jesus. We think telling people about Jesus is a pretty great thing because Jesus has changed our lives for the better. We want everyone to get to have that same experience! But you might wonder if YOU should be telling others about Jesus. And if you should, how should you? Like, what should you say? Are there some special words or phrases? How can you let people know how much Jesus means to you?

“Those are really important questions to consider as you make decisions about your faith in Jesus. Thankfully, we're not the first people who thought about those questions. In fact, since people first started following Jesus, they've been asking about what it means to share Jesus with others. We have many of their stories captured for us in the New Testament of our Bibles. How about we look at one of those moments now?”

### **(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)**

Wherever Jesus went, people were changed. These changes were so huge, that they couldn't wait to tell others about what Jesus had done. It was clear that there was something very special about Jesus. More and more people started believing that He was the Savior God had promised. That's why Jesus' first followers spread the word about Him again and again.

“And here's the really cool part. That same thing is still happening today. It's like we said earlier, people experience Jesus and can't wait to share that experience with others. That sharing keeps going on and on. We're still telling each other about Jesus! We believe that Jesus really is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, and the news about Him is the best news of all.

“But like we said, you might be wondering how you can talk about Jesus—if you need the right words or the right sort of experience. Well, that’s what’s so great about following Jesus. We follow Jesus as a community like here at church, but we also have a very personal way that Jesus meets us and helps us. When that happens, that’s what we can talk about with others. Like, you can tell them how Jesus gave you peace during a difficult time. You can offer to pray with someone who’s facing something tough. You can encourage people who are struggling or scared that Jesus is with them. We might just need to take some initiative.

“Check out our Basic Truth for this week...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am made for a purpose so I can tell other people about God

Humans were made to bring glory and honor to God. Down to the very core of our being, we shout out the goodness, holiness, and creativity of God our Creator. Our sin can keep us from sharing about God with others, but if you have a right relationship with God – you’ve asked Him to be your Lord and Savior – then you don’t have to let sin control you. You can be bold and share the goodness of God with others. We are going to practice that today in your small group.

“As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** How did you first hear about Jesus?

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

Dear God, I pray that these kids come to have a growing, right relationship with you and learn to fix their eyes on you always! Amen.

**DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**





## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue: Initiative**—seeing what needs to be done and doing it

**Bible Story: Start Spreadin’ the News (John’s Disciples Follow Jesus)** • John 1:35-45

**Key Question:** How did you first hear about Jesus?

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

FOR TODAY ONLY, skip the Key Question because you are going to talk about it in the activity below.

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

Look Up: John 1:35-45

Say: “The book of John is found in the New Testament. It is one of the four ‘Gospels’ - which tell the story of Jesus.”

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(Small Ball of Yarn – 1 per group, Index cards – 1 per kid, Markers)*

What You Do:

- **Sit in a Circle:** Have kids sit in a circle. Explain that the news of Jesus is sometimes called the ‘Good News’! Jesus’ message has been shared from person to person for over 2,000 years!
- **Share Stories:** Start with yourself. Share how you first heard about Jesus or a time you learned something new about Him.
- **Pass the Yarn:** After sharing, hold onto a piece of the yarn and toss the ball to another child across the circle, who then shares their story or a time when they learned something new about God.
- **Create a Web:** Continue until all kids have shared and the yarn forms a web connecting the group. If the yarn and time/interest allows, keep passing the yarn and sharing.
- **Reflect on the Web:** Point out how the web represents how Jesus’ message spreads from person to person. Everyone is connected because someone took the time to share with them!
  - (If you have to share the yarn in between services, be sure not to let the kids knot the yarn and try to carefully try to wind it back up.)
- **ASK:**
  - Who was the first person to tell you about Jesus? How did they share with you?

- Why do you think it's important to share about Jesus with others?
- What would have happened if John the Baptist, Andrew, or Philip hadn't told others about Jesus?
- Who is someone you can tell about Jesus this week?
- How can we share about Jesus in simple ways, even if we feel nervous? *(If you need some help with this, refer back to the Big Story, the Wordless Book, and the Roman Road that the kids learned about a few months back.)*
- Have kids write on an index card the name of someone they want to share Jesus with.
- Pray together, asking God to give them courage to tell others about Him.

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Memory Verse Poster, Bibles, and “Make the First Move” Activity Page -1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Divide the kids into four groups.
- Give each group a Bible.
- Lead the kids to find Philippians 2:4.
- Encourage the groups to repeat the verse aloud together.
- Give each group one of the four cards from the “Make the First Move” Activity Page that outlines a part of the Memory Verse and motions to go along with it.
- Give the groups time to work together to practice and memorize their part of the Memory Verse.
- Once the time is up, gather your entire group together.
- Invite each group to teach their portion of the Memory Verse to the rest of the kids.
- Then, practice repeating the verse and motions together several times.

### What You Say:

“Way to go, everyone! I’m so glad we have the Bible. We can learn so much truth from it that can help us love God and others. Memorizing the verses in the Bible is a great way to keep important truths handy when you need them most. God showed initiative by making the first move and making a way to restore our relationship with God through Jesus. Friends, God took care of our greatest need! When we remember this month’s Memory Verse, it reminds us to keep our eyes open for the people around us and their needs too.”

## PRAYER

“Prayer is a conversation we get to have with God anytime, anywhere! This month, we will pray using the word “TACO”.

- T = Thanks
- A = Adoration
- C = Choices
- **O = Others**

Dear God, thank You for making the first move to restore our relationship with You by giving us Jesus! Thank You that Jesus is always with us, walking alongside us through every situation. Help us to keep our eyes open to the needs of others and to share how Jesus has changed our lives with them.

“Help us tell others about the peace Jesus gives us in tough times so they know that Jesus is with them too. We pray for the people in our lives who don’t know You yet. Please take care of their greatest need and show them how much You love them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”