



Get Their Attention! (5 min)

Materials: Wild Animal Counters

SAY the following to the group:

Jambo (Jah-mm-bo), **Rafikis** (Rah-fee-keys)! *That means, "Hello, friends!"*

My name is (your name)! I am your Safari Guide!

Today we are going on a safari to see all the wonderful things God wants to show us! We'll look high (look high) and low (look low) for animals we know!

PLACE the **Wild Animal Counters** in center of group & SAY the following to each child:

Jambo! What is your name? (Allow response)

Show us which animal you want to see on our safari! (Allow child to select a **Wild Animal Counter**)

Let's all act/sound like a (selected animal)! (Everyone acts like selected animal)

After everyone has been introduced, **TELL** kids we are going to explore the very BEST BOOK ever written to discover what we need to know today!

Bible Story (5 min)

Materials: God's Story for Me Bible, Treats

SHOW & READ p.300-305 from **God's Story for Me Bible** ("John the Baptist").

ASK & SAY the following to review. Give kids a **treat** when they answer!

1. **Did John live in the hot desert or in the cold snow?** (Hot Desert, p.300)
2. **What special job did God give to John?** (Tell people about Jesus, p.301)
3. **Did John tell the people to KEEP doing what was wrong or STOP doing what was wrong?** (Stop doing what was wrong, p. 302)
4. **Who was the VERY special person John baptized in the river?** (Jesus, p.304)
5. **Did God open the skies and talk when John baptized Jesus?** (Yes)
6. **What did God say?** (This is My Son. I love Him, p.305)
7. **Did you know that God talks to you and me? He does! The BIGGEST way God talks to us is when we read His words in the Bible!**

God tells us so many wonderful things when read the fun stories in the Bible, just like this story about John. The Bible is fun to read and we can learn so many wonderful things from it. That makes it the very BEST book!

Let's say this together:

The Bible (make book with hands)

Is The Very Best (two thumbs up)

Book! (make book with hands)

Need to Know:

The Bible

(make book with hands)

Is The Very Best

(two thumbs up)

Book!

(make book with hands)

Bible Story:

John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-17;

Luke 3:1-22

Materials:

- ⚙ **Wild Animal Counters** (including **Hippo Counter**)
- ⚙ **God's Story for Me Bible**
- ⚙ **Treats**
- ⚙ **Hippo Feeding Guide**
- ⚙ **Paper Bags** (3)
- ⚙ **Safari Memory Cards**
- ⚙ **Hand Sanitizer**
- ⚙ **Snacks**
- ⚙ **Coloring Sheets**
- ⚙ **Crayons**
- ⚙ **Filler Activity Guide**

Application Summary:

As kids play a memory game, they will discover great stories from the very BEST book ever—the Bible!

Remember Verse:

“Open my eyes (hands open wide beside eyes)

so that I can see (make binoculars with hands)

all the wonderful things (two thumbs up)

in your teachings.” (make book with hands)

Psalm 119:18

Getting To Know You:

Use these questions to get to know your group during Snack/Coloring Time.

- ☼ **If you were an animal in our safari, what would you be?**
- ☼ **Did you have fun today?**
- ☼ **What did you learn?**

Application Activity (10 min)

Materials: Hippo Counter, Hippo Feeding Guide, Paper Bags (2), Safari Memory Cards

1. Pass **Hippo Counter** to each child and allow him/her to share favorite book or story, and then thank kids for sharing their favorites.
2. Tell group the Hippopotamus (hold up **Hippo Counter**) is hungry and we need to feed him stories from the very BEST book ever...the Bible!
3. Refer to **Hippo Feeding Guide** for directions on how to play memory game.
4. Play until each child has had a turn or all **Safari Cards** are in **bags**. Then say:

We have read a lot of good books, but we have learned today that God gave us the very BEST book! What is the very BEST book? (The Bible) Yeah!

Let's say what we Need to Know together:

The Bible (make book with hands)

Is The Very Best (two thumbs up)

Book! (make book with hands)

Remember Verse Game (5 min)

Materials: Wild Animal Counters, Paper Bag (1)

1. Have kids repeat each line of Remember Verse after you, with motions.
2. Explain that this verse means we can ask God to open our eyes to all the wonderful things in the Bible!
3. Place **Wild Animal Counters** into one **Paper Bag**.
4. Allow each child to reach in bag and select one animal.
5. Have group repeat verse, after leader, while acting out/sounding like the **animal** selected from the **bag**.
6. Play until all kids have had a chance to select **animal**, or as time allows.

Wrap It Up (10 min)

Materials: Hand Sanitizer, Snacks, Coloring Sheets, Crayons, Filler Activity Guide

LARGE GROUP REVIEW:

1. **What animal did we see with Rafiki on our safari today?** (Hippo)
2. **What did the Hippo say was the best book?** (The Bible) **That's right! The Bible is the very best book!**

PRAY with your group, having them repeat the following after you in short phrases.

Dear God, thank you for giving me the Bible to read! It is the very best book! Thank you for my snack. I love you! In Jesus' name I pray, amen!

SANITIZE hands with **hand sanitizer** & **PASS OUT** **snacks**.

PASS OUT **coloring sheets** & **crayons**.

STAY in Small Group as families arrive. Use **Filler Activity Guide** as needed.