

2-3 | FEB W1

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity



Bible Story

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus • *John 3:1-21*

Bottom Line

God loves the whole world.

Monthly Memory Verse

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." • John 13:34 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

| | |
|---|---------|
|  Offering Container | 1 |
|  "Love Draw" Activity Page | 1 |
|  Coloring supplies | Several |

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Love Draw" Activity Page and make coloring supplies available.
- Invite the kids to circle all the things on the page that they "love."
- After a few minutes, invite the kids to share one or two of the things they circled.
- Talk about how we use the word "love" for lots of things.

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the group: "In the conversation we looked at today, Jesus tells Nicodemus that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**. Just how big is the 'whole world'?"

What You Say:

"It's fun to talk about all the things we love, like pizza and playing with our friends! We use that word a lot. **[Transition] But today, we're going to talk about a much, much bigger love. It's the greatest love in the world—God's love! Let's go!"**

What You Say:

"These numbers are mind-blowing! It's hard to even imagine that many people and places. But the most amazing truth from our story today is that God's love is big enough for every single one of them. Jesus gave Nicodemus a picture of His love by mentioning Moses lifting up a bronze snake in the desert. Just as people looked at the snake to live, Jesus would be lifted up on the cross to bring life to everyone who looks to Him. No matter where you live, what language you speak, or what you've done, God's love is for you. **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!"**

- Ask the kids to guess these fun facts, then give them the answer.
 - How many countries are in the whole wide world? (*around 195*)
 - How many people are in the world? (*over 8 billion*)
 - How many different languages are spoken in the world? (*over 7,000*)
- Now, discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Nicodemus, who was a religious leader, might have had a hard time understanding that God's love was for *everyone*?
 - What makes it hard for us sometimes to believe that God loves the *whole* world—even people who are very different from us?
 - How does remembering that God loves everyone change the way you see people at your school or in your neighborhood?

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – The Whole World Ball Game | Made to Move

What You Need

 Soft playground ball 1

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to stand in a single file line.
- Instruct them to stand with their legs shoulder-width apart, creating a tunnel with their legs.
- Stand at the front of the line and gently roll the ball so it goes through every kid's legs.
- After the first roll, move to a different spot, maybe off to the side. Explain that the group has to move together to make sure the ball can still roll through everyone's legs—including yours!
- Roll the ball again. The kids will need to shuffle and adjust their positions as a group to create a new tunnel for the ball.
- Continue a few times, moving to different spots and challenging them to work together.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! You had to work together to make sure the ball could get through everyone in our line. This game helps us remember that God's love is for everyone, everywhere! No one is left out.

"God loves people who are different from you, who live in different places, and people who do wrong things! **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**, and He wants His love to reach every single person. Because you and I are made in God's image—we reflect who God is to the world—we can show His love to others.

"When we're kind, we show the world God's love. When we're compassionate, we show the world God's love. Let's show everyone God's love because **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!**"

5 min

23 –Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

What You Need

👤 Bibles marked at John 13:34 Several

👤 "Memory Verse Motions" Activity Several
Page

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
- Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up John 13:34
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.*

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside and stand in a circle.
- Hold up the "Memory Verse Motions" Activity Page, and teach the kids the motions for the Memory Verse, adding one part at a time.
- "I give you a new command. (Hold up one finger.)
- Love one another. (Hug yourself.)
- You must love (Make a heart with your hands)
- one another, (Point to friends around you.)
- just as I (Point up to God.)
- have loved you." (Hug yourself.)
- John 13:34 (Open your hands like a book.)
-

What You Say:

"Great job with those motions! Jesus gave us the best example of love. Because He loves us so much, we can love others. Our job as followers of Jesus is to be filled up with His love and pour it out on others! We can show people that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!**"

Practice the verse and motions together several times. Make it fun by going fast, then slow.

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

- 👤 Plastic jar 1
- 👤 Bag of candy hearts 1

What To Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Show the group the empty jar.
- Say, "Praying for people is a way to share the love of Jesus. This month, every time we pray for someone, we're going to add a heart to this jar. At the end of the month, we can see all the people we prayed for and all the love we shared!"
- Encourage each kid to think of one person they want to pray for today.
- Go around the circle, and as each kid says the name of the person they are praying for, let them drop a heart into the jar.
- Close the group in prayer.
- Store the jar in a safe place to use again next week

What You Say:

"We just prayed for a lot of people, and that reminds us that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**. As we learned in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, God loves everyone, everywhere. This week, let's keep praying for all the people we named and ask God to show His great love to them.

"Dear God, thank You that You love the whole world. Thank You for loving [name a few of the people the kids mentioned]. Please help them know that You love them. Help us to share Your love with everyone this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

| Social Activity Made to Play | Quantity |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Offering Container | 1 |
| 2. "Love Draw" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. Coloring supplies | Several |

| 23 – The Whole World Ball Game Made to Move | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Soft playground ball | 1 |

| 23 –Memory Verse with Motions Made to Move | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Bibles marked at John 13:34 | Several |
| 2. "Memory Verse Motions" Activity Page | Several |

| 23 – Pray and Dismiss Made to Reflect | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Plastic jar | 1 |
| 2. Bag of candy hearts | 1 |