

# Preteen | Feb W2

## 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

The Most Important Commandment • *Matthew 22:34-40*

### Bottom Line

Love God. Love others.

### 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
-  "People Picture" Activity Page 1

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five or fist bump!
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Explain to your group of kids that you're going to play a guessing game.
- Choose one kid to start.
- Tell the kid to pick a picture and hold it up to their forehead, facing out, so everyone else in the circle can see it, but they cannot.
- Instruct the kid to ask "yes" or "no" questions to figure out who is on their picture. (e.g., "Do I wear a uniform?" "Do I work in a school?")
- Share that the other kids can only answer "yes" or "no."
- Help the kids guess and then let the next kid have a turn with a new picture.

5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect

### What You Need

-  EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker 1

### What You Do:

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### What You Say:

"Great guessing, everyone! There are so many different kinds of people in the world, and they all do important jobs. [Transition] In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus is going to talk about something that's important for ALL people to do. Let's go find out what it is!"

### What You Say:

"These are incredible ideas! It shows that 'loving God' and 'loving others' isn't just something we do at church. We can do it everywhere, using the exact talents and interests God gave us. Jesus took the massive list of laws and simplified them down to two. Jesus said the most important commandment and the second most important are: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV).

Start by asking: "What is your favorite thing to do? What is a talent or hobby you have?"

- After a few kids share, transition the conversation by asking: "How can you use that thing you love to do to love God or love others?"
- Give them some examples to get them thinking:
  - "If you love to draw, how could you use that to love God or others?" (You can draw a picture for someone who is sad; you can create art for the church)
  - "If you love playing video games, how could you use that to love others?" (You can be a good sport online; you can invite a new kid to play with you)
  - "If you love to bake, how could you use that to love God or others?" (You can make cookies for a neighbor; you can thank God for the food He provides.)
- Let the kids brainstorm and share their own creative ideas.

#### EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Create a visual mind map on a whiteboard, with "Love God/Love others" in the center. As kids share their hobbies, write them down and draw lines connecting them to the center, adding their ideas for how they connect.
- If a student struggles to think of a talent, have the group offer positive suggestions about what they see as that person's strengths.

5 min

## Discussion Questions

5 min

### Preteen Discussion Questions

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does it look like to love God with all of who you are—not just your words, but your thoughts, choices, and feelings?
- The second most important commandment says to love your neighbor as yourself. What are some ways it might actually be hard to love

5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from 1 Week 1 with their names on them
-  Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend Week 1      Several
-  Coloring supplies      Several
-  Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity Page      1

### What You Do:

- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Give each kid their "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from the previous week.
  - If a new kid attends this week who didn't attend the week previously, give them a blank "Prayer Journal" Activity Page and instruct them to write their name on the front.
- Encourage the kids to turn to page 3 in their "Prayer Journal."
- On the "Love God." page (page 3), encourage the kids to write or draw one specific way they can show love to God this week (e.g., spend 5 minutes praying each day, sing loudly during worship, thank Him for my family).
- After a few minutes, direct the kids to turn to page 4 of their "Prayer Journal"—the "Love others." page.

yourself—or hard to love others the same way? How can God help you do both?

- Jesus simplified over 600 laws into two commands—love God and love others. Why do you think love was the foundation of everything God wanted His people to do?
- When you think about your normal day—school, friends, family—where do you think it's easiest for you to show love, and where is it hardest? What could help you love better in the hard places?
- The story says the Holy Spirit can nudge us to notice people who need love. How can you stay aware of those "nudges" during your day, and what's one practical way you could respond when you sense one?

### What You Say:

"These are awesome, practical game plans for loving God and others this week. Let's ask God to help us follow through.  
"God, thank You for making it so simple. Thank You for showing us that what matters most is loving You and loving the people around us. Please help us with the things we wrote in our journals today. Give us the strength and the courage to love like Jesus this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## February - Week 2

- On the "Love others." page, encourage the kids to write or draw one specific way they can show love to someone else (e.g., help my sister with her homework, invite the new kid to sit with me, don't argue with my parents).
  - Optional: If using a blank piece of paper instead of the "Prayer Journals," instruct the kids to create two columns on their page. Label one "Love God" and the other "Love others," and follow the prayer directions above.
- Give the kids a few minutes of quiet to work and reflect.
- Let the kids know they'll add to their journal each week.
- Collect the prayer journals and keep them in a safe place for the following weeks.
- Close in prayer.

# Supplies

Social Activity   Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Offering Container	1
2.	"People Picture" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension   Made to Connect		Quantity
1.	EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard	1
2.	EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer   Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from Week 1 with their names on them	1
2.	Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend Week 1	Several
3.	Coloring supplies	Several
4.	Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity Page	1