

K-5 | 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

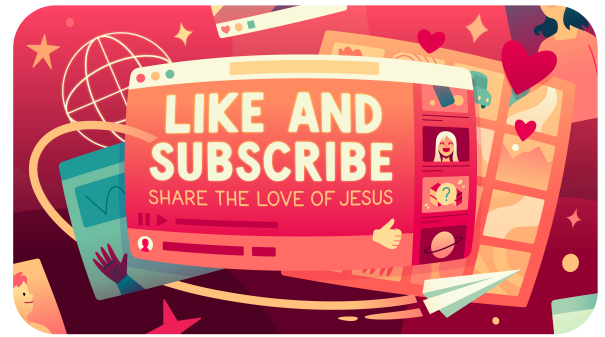
Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

**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

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

👤	Small whiteboards	4
👤	Dry-erase markers	8
👤	Erasers (or paper towels)	4
👤	Kid volunteers	8
👤	Timer	1

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Welcome to another awesome day here at [your environment's name]! We're starting a new month, and that means a new theme! This month, we've got a super-fun theme, 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus!'

"This brand-new series is about how God loves us, and how we can share that love with everyone we meet. It's called 'Like and Subscribe'—because when you come across a really cool channel or video, you don't want to miss it ... and you want to let other people know all about it too!

"Now, before we get to today's true story from the Bible about God's great love, I've got a challenge for you that's totally on theme. We're calling it ... #CaptionThat LIVE!

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! Title

"Have any of you ever seen a picture online with a funny caption underneath it? Typically, someone will post a picture, and then say something like, 'Livin' the life ... beach vibes 'J

"Well, today you're going to get to create your own captions, and we will give you the pictures!"

"Here's how this works: I'll show you a picture up on the screen. Your team will have *20 seconds* to come up with the funniest, most creative, or most meaningful caption for that picture.

"It could be a sentence, a short phrase, or even a hashtag or an emoji! Each team will write their caption on their whiteboard. When time's up, I'll call on each team to share what they came up with, and the rest of you will cheer for your favorite caption.

"The loudest cheer wins that round!

"If you want to do some caption creation, raise your hand!

Choose eight volunteers from the kids whose hands are raised. Create four teams of two. Give each team a small whiteboard, a dry-erase marker, and an eraser (or a paper towel).

"Everybody ready? All right! Let's get our first picture up on the screen!"

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 1 (Dog wearing sunglasses)

"You've got 20 seconds ... go!"

AUDIO: Fun, upbeat instrumental music

Start the timer with the music. After 20 seconds, stop the music.

"3 ... 2 ... 1 ... markers down! Okay, Team 1, what's your caption?"

Team 1 shares.

"Team 2?"

Team 2 shares.

"Team 3?"

Team 3 shares.

"Team 4?"

Team 4 shares.

"All right, let's see who had the best caption! If you liked Team 1, give it up!"

Encourage applause for each team.

"And the round goes to ... Team [#]!"

Rotate new teams of kids after a couple of rounds.

"Okay, next slide, let's go!"

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 2 (Funny-looking bird)

Play 20 seconds of music, repeat the same process.

Continue with more slides if time allows:

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 3 (Dinosaur working out)

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 4 (Jonah in the fish)

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 5 (Moses parting the Red Sea)

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 6 (Pancakes and waffles)

SLIDE: #CaptionThat LIVE! 7 (Jesus feeding the 5,000)

HOST: "You guys are amazing at this! Those captions were awesome, and some were hilarious!"

"But you know what's cool about captions? They always share a message. Sometimes that message is funny ... sometimes it's thoughtful ... and sometimes, it's something that can inspire people. That's what we're learning about this month. We can share messages of hope, kindness, and love because God loves the whole world."

13 min

Worship

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Today's true story from the Bible is all about someone who found out just how deep that love goes."

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Aren't you thankful that we get to come to church and worship God? What an amazing opportunity it is to get to worship the King of kings!"

"When we worship, we use our voices, our energy, and our hearts to tell God how much we love Him.

"And guess what? God's love is so big and so powerful that we can't keep it to ourselves. Let's sing about that with our first song!"

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Awesome singing, everyone! You showed that you really believe it; we can't contain God's love.

When we understand how much God loves us, it changes the way we live. We start showing that love to others. in our families, with our friends, and everywhere we go. Let's keep singing!"

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Great job! You know God's love isn't just for a few people, it's for the whole world! When we love like Jesus, we show others what God is really like.

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

2 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Aren't you thankful that we get to come to church and worship God? What an amazing opportunity it is to get to worship the King of kings!"

"When we worship, we use our voices, our energy, and our hearts to tell God how much we love Him.

"And guess what? God's love is so big and so powerful that we can't keep it to ourselves. Let's sing about that with our first song!"

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"Awesome singing, everyone! You showed that you really believe it; we *can't contain* God's love.

When we understand how much God loves us, it changes the way we live. We start showing that love to others, in our families, with our friends, and everywhere we go. This next song reminds us that love isn't just something we feel, it's something we *live*. Let's keep singing!"

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

"Great job! You know God's love isn't just for a few people, it's for the *whole world*! When we love like Jesus, we show others what God is really like

"This month's Memory Verse reminds us how Jesus teaches us to love one another. We're going to learn *John 13:34*! I'll read it, and then we can say it together!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

"Let's say it together!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "*I give you a ne*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job, everybody! God loves you so, so much, and He wants you to share that love with others!"

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed






33 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Table 1
-  Large, thick glowstick 1
-  Thinner glowsticks 1
-  Container to hold glowsticks 1

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have the glowstick ready.

STORYTELLER: "You guys! It's a new month! Yay! And we are going to start a new theme this month: 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus!'"

"This month, we're going to talk about how God loves us, and how we can share that love with everyone. Our theme is called 'Like and Subscribe'—because when you come across a channel or video that's super-awesome, you don't want to miss it ... and you want to let other people know all about it too! We are going to spend all month learning about God's great, great love!"

"And we are going to learn about this great, great love from Jesus Himself! We're going to read some of His words from the Bible! Today we're going to look at a conversation Jesus had with a man named Nicodemus.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"But before we dive into that true story from the Bible, let me tell you something amazing we've been doing this year. We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the key stories of the Bible? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our intention is to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

NICODEMUS VISITS JESUS AT NIGHT

What You Need

No supplies needed

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "We're picking up our journey through the Bible when Jesus was on earth. Jesus came to earth to show us what God is like! To start our journey into our true story from the Bible, let me ask you a few questions to think about.

"Have you ever stayed up late thinking about something you just couldn't stop wondering about? Maybe a question like, 'Why is the sky blue?' or 'What's the biggest animal on earth?' or even, 'What is God really like?' "Well, a man named Nicodemus had really big questions about God. And he decided to ask Jesus about them.

"Nicodemus waited until nighttime to find Jesus. And this nighttime conversation is one of the most important conversations in history! *If possible, dim the lights in the room to make the glowing of the glowsticks more obvious. Yet be mindful that the Storyteller will still need to read from their Bible.*

STORYTELLER: "Nicodemus was one of the most respected teachers in all of Israel. He studied God's laws his whole life, and people looked up to him.

"But when Jesus started teaching about God and God's kingdom, and performing miracles, Nicodemus realized something special was happening. So during this nighttime conversation with Jesus, he said:

Open the Bible to John 3:1-2 (NIRV) and read.

"Rabbi, we know that you're a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the signs you are doing."

"Jesus looked at Nicodemus and said something that made him stop in his tracks:

Open the Bible to John 3:3 (NIRV) and read.

"No one can see God's Kingdom unless they are born again."

"Wait, what? Born again? Nicodemus was confused. He said, 'How can someone be born a second time when they are old?'

"Jesus explained:

Open the Bible to John 3:5-6 (NIRV) and read.

5 min

GLOW STICK ILLUSTRATION

What You Need

No supplies needed

"No one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit. People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

"In other words, Jesus was saying, 'When you choose to trust Me, God's Spirit makes you brand-new inside—as if you were being 'born again.'"

STORYTELLER: "I want to show you what Jesus meant.

Hold up an uncracked glow stick.

"Before we decide to follow Jesus, our lives look a little like this. The Bible tells us that we have dark hearts, that all of us are living under a curse of sin. It's all dark inside.

"Now watch what happens when we accept that Jesus paid for our sins, broke that curse, and let God's Spirit in.

Crack and shake the glow stick until it glows brightly.

"Wow, look at that! It's the same stick, but it's come to life! It's glowing because something changed inside. But how do we get that glowing Spirit on the inside? Jesus told Nicodemus by reminding him of something that had happened in the history of God's people.

Open the Bible to John 3:14-15 (NIRV) and read.

"Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

"Let's talk about this wild snake story. See, while God's people were in the wilderness, which is recorded in the book of Numbers in the Bible, poisonous snakes invaded the camp and began to bite people! God told

Moses to make a bronze snake and hold it up on a pole. Anyone who looked at it would live.

"Jesus was giving Nicodemus a picture of what was coming. In the next year or two, Jesus would give up His life and be nailed to a cross, out of love for us. Jesus was going to be lifted up on that pole—the cross. Jesus' death and resurrection would bring life to everyone who looks to Him and chooses Him.

"That's where the Spirit comes in. Jesus promised that anyone who believed in Him would have their sins paid for, and then His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, would move inside of them. This Spirit would light up their life.

"Let me show you! Let me give everyone a glow stick. As we hand these out, be sure not to let them snap.

Give each kid a glow stick.

"See how each glowstick is dark? This is what the Bible says is true about us before we accepted what Jesus did. We had dark hearts, and we were living under the curse of sin. But thankfully, that's not where our story ends!

"Everyone, snap your glow stick.

Pause as the kids snap their glowsticks.

"It's so beautiful and light in there! Jesus paid for your sin, He broke that awful curse, and then His very Spirit moved in, shining brightly! God did all of this because He loves you!

"And this offer of this great gift would be for the whole, wide world. John recorded this after Jesus talked with Nicodemus in that nighttime conversation:

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

Open the Bible to John 3:16 (NirV) and read.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

"God's offer of salvation is for everyone! Everyone can accept what Jesus did and get God's Spirit glowing in them!"

STORYTELLER: "Nicodemus thought Jesus might be a good teacher, but he didn't realize that Jesus was so much more.

"In Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus, we learn something so, so important.

"[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world.

"That means every person, everywhere, always.

"God's love is so big that He sent Jesus to show us what that love looks like. He sent Jesus to give His life, to pay for our sins, so anyone who believes in Him can be His friend forever.

"When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, we can have a brand-new kind of life, one that lasts forever and shines with His light because His Spirit lives within us.

Hold up the glowing glow stick.

"You see this glow stick? And yours too? Before they were cracked, they didn't shine at all. But once the light started, it glowed bright for everyone to see.

"That's what happens when we say yes to Jesus.

"When you do, God's Spirit fills your heart, and His love shines through you like this light.

"The Spirit inside of you will start to change you! You start to care more. You start to forgive faster. You start to love people the way Jesus loves you. Because God's Spirit is inside of you, and He helps you do all of those things. He's Jesus' very Spirit, and He helps you do what Jesus would do!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"And guess what? That light doesn't just stay with you—it shines on the rest of the world too!

"Every time you're kind, every time you help, every time you choose to do what's right, you're shining God's love into the world.

"And this sacrifice that Jesus offers, that He did out of great, great love, is for everyone in the whole world. Hey, that reminds me of our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God loves the whole world. Say that with me."

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "God loves the whole world.

Host enters and joins in

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about God's great love! God loves us so, so much!

"This week, we talked about a conversation Jesus had at night with a man named Nicodemus! Nicodemus had big, big questions about God, and that's exactly why Jesus came—to teach us who God is. When Jesus lived on Earth, He did just what God would do, and He said exactly what God would say, because He is God. That's one of the reasons why God spent years and years and years working on His plan to send Jesus! This entire timeline of God's Big Story shows how God faithfully worked over thousands of years to send Jesus! (*Gesture to timeline.*) Jesus was the key point of God's Big Story. And as Jesus went around showing us what God is like, He lived a completely perfect life. He never sinned. Then Jesus gave up that perfect, sinless life to pay for our sins and break the curse we were under so we could be close to God again. Jesus, the Rescuer—because of His great, great love—gave His life to rescue us all!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"This week we learned about Jesus and His conversation with Nicodemus!"

HOST: "What do we do with this great love that God has for us?"

"Well, the first thing we can do is live in it. Look at your glowstick! God's love glows in you! God loves us so much that He sent Jesus, who gave His very life to pay for our sins, so we can be God's friend. God's Son gave His life to be your friend. That's a great, great love!"

"So, live knowing that you're loved. When you fail at something—when you miss a math problem or a basketball shot—know that you're loved.

"When someone says mean things about you, know that you're loved.

"When life throws something hard at you, and it will because we live in a broken world, know that you're loved. The King gave His life for you because He wants to be your friend. You are so very loved.

"Then, share that love. As we saw today, this great love, God's great love, is for the whole world.

"Ask God to help that light of His Spirit that is shining in you shine on other people.

Hold up the glowing glow stick.

"Every single person you will ever meet is loved by God. So as you live in God's love, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pass that love on to the people around you. God loves you, and He can help you show His love to them!"

"When you're following Jesus and growing closer to God, then God's love can shine through you, and more and more people will see God's love for them as you shine.

"Let's hold up our glowsticks. (*Hold yours up as the kids hold up theirs.*) Let's go shine God's love and light in the world!"

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's put our glowsticks down and talk to the God who loves you so, so much!"

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to rescue us because You wanted us to be Your friends. It's amazing to know that You love the whole world, and every single person in it, including all of us! Help us to live in the light of Your great love and shine Your goodness to everyone we meet. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Supplies

OPENER		Quantity	INTRODUCTION		Quantity
1.	Small whiteboards	4	1.	Bible	1
2.	Dry-erase markers	8	2.	Table	1
3.	Erasers (or paper towels)	4	3.	Large, thick glowstick	1
4.	Kid volunteers	8	4.	Thinner glowsticks	1
5.	Timer	1	5.	Container to hold glowsticks	1