

Preteen | 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

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

👤 Offering Container	1
👤 Chairs	Several

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Arrange the chairs in a circle, facing in, with one fewer chair than there are kids.
- Instruct one kid to stand in the middle.
- Instruct the kid in the middle to ask someone who is seated, "Do you love your neighbor?"
- If the person answers, "Yes, I love my neighbor," the two people sitting on either side of them must get up and swap seats before the person in the middle can take one of their chairs.
- If the person answers, "No," they must follow up with, "But I love everyone who ..." and name a characteristic (e.g., is wearing blue, has a pet dog).
- Everyone in the circle who has that characteristic must get up and find a new, empty chair. The kid in the middle also tries to find a chair.
- Whoever is left without a chair is the new kid in the middle.

What You Say:

"That was a chaotic and also a fun way to talk about loving our neighbors! It gets you moving, for sure. [Transition] In our Bible Story today, a law expert asked Jesus a trick question. Jesus answered in a way that involves loving our neighbor. Let's go find out what He said!"

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:

- 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.

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).

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

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

 Clipboard	1
 Paper	Several
 Marker	1
 Optional: Blindfold or eye mask	1

What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to be the “artist.” Give them a clipboard with paper and a marker. Blindfold them or tell them to close their eyes.
- Tell the rest of the group that you are going to give a secret phrase to get the artist to draw. Encourage the group that they are to guess what the artist is drawing once the artist has finished their drawing.
- Whisper the first phrase to the artist. (Someone is eating lunch alone, so you go eat with them.)
- After they finish (or give it a good try), let the artist see what they drew.
- Show the rest of the group the illustration and invite them to guess what it is.
- After some guesses, share the topic of the illustration.
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Someone fell and you helped them up.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Sharing a snack with someone.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Singing songs to worship God.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Showing someone how to play a game.)

What You Say:

“That was really challenging! Loving God and loving others can sometimes feel like that—it’s not always easy. Jesus tells us this is our main goal, and He said that if we focus on loving God and loving others, then we’ll be living how He wants us to live. We can also show love to others by being kind to someone who has been rude to us or by giving words of encouragement. We can all love God and love others every single day.”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Prepared "Memory Verse Puzzle" Activity Page in a zip-top bag	1

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 13:34 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Encourage the kids to set the Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a zip-top bag containing pieces from the "Memory Verse Puzzle" Activity Page.
- Challenge the kids to pour out the pieces, and be the first group to put the verse in the correct order.
- Recite the verse together as a group once everyone has finished.

What You Say:

"Great job putting all the words to our Memory Verse in order! Jesus' new command in our verse is the same as one of the greatest commandments from our story. He wants us to love one another, because that's how He loves us. When we love each other, we are showing the world what God is like. We can love God by getting to know Him through His Word, the Bible. Our goal is to: [Bottom Line] Love God. Love others."

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 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?

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.
- 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.

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

- 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.