

## Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2026, Week 1

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus and the Children • Mark 10:13-16  
Jesus loves children.

**Key Question:** Who loves you?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves me.

**Memory Verse:** *Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'* • Matthew 19:14 NLT

### Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

**Social: Providing time for fun interaction**

**Sweet Treat Freeze Dance**

- Floor/wall tape

**Sensory Bin**

- Jesus and the Children Bin
- Shredded paper

### Small Group (25 minutes)

**Groups: Creating a safe place to connect**

**Memory Verse with Motions**

**Bible Story Review- Stop and Go to Jesus**

- Floor/Wall tape

**Jesus Loves All the Little Children**

**Pin Your Picture to Jesus**

**Craft- Come to Me**

- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

**Journal and Prayer**

### Bible Story Summary- Jesus and the Children

People bring children to see Jesus, but the disciples try to stop them, thinking Jesus doesn't want to spend time with children. But Jesus corrects them and says, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!" Jesus takes the children in His arms and blesses them. He shows the disciples—and everyone—that children are important to Him. They are important to God's kingdom! And Jesus loves them.

## Social

### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

#### 1. Sweet Treat Freeze Dance

##### What You Need:

- “Sweet Treat Freeze Dance” Activity Page
- Music player
- Upbeat preschool worship songs
- Painter’s tape

##### What You Do:

1. Arrange the pictures on the floor in an open area of your room, creating a winding path. Secure each picture with tape.
2. Start the music and encourage children to move around the path however they like: walking, marching, rolling, crawling, or skipping. When the music stops, ask children to freeze on a sweet treat. Call out a specific treat and do a silly movement. Anyone standing on that sweet treat should copy your movement then everyone does the movement together until the music starts again. Keep playing until everyone has had a chance to try each movement. Repeat as desired.
3. Introduce the Bible Story.

##### What You Say:

1. “Friends, look at all the sweet treat pictures on the floor! Wow! I see cupcakes and ice cream cones, lollipops and cookies ... yum! We’re going to play freeze dance around these pictures. When the music starts, you move around the pictures and when the music stops, you stop.”
2. : “Everybody ready to play? *(Start the music.)* Hooray! Here we go! Move around anyway you’d like. *(Pause the music.)* Everybody freeze on a sweet treat! Look at the picture you are standing on ... If you are standing on a cupcake, move your hand/foot/body around in a circle. *(Pause.)* Fantastic! Now everybody, move your body like that. *(Start the music.)* There’s the music, let’s start moving! *(Continue with the following movements for the remaining sweet treats: ice cream cones-pretend to lick the ice cream; lollipops-tap your foot/hand; and cookies-jump, hop, or raise your hands in excitement. Repeat as desired.)* That was so much fun!”
3. “You guys were great sweet treat movers and freezers! Today in our Bible Story, we’re going to hear about a time when children wanted to be near Jesus. And guess what? Jesus wanted to be with them too! Let’s go hear our story!”

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by choosing a sweet treat to move like.

## 2. Sensory Bin

### Supplies:

- Shredded paper
- Jesus and the Little Children bin materials

### Talking Points:

- Jesus was teaching and healing people. Many people wanted his attention.
- The church leaders were asking Jesus hard questions.
- Parents brought their young children to see Jesus.
- The disciples thought the children were bothering Jesus. They told the parents to leave Jesus alone.
- Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to him.
- Jesus was saying the young children were special and loved.
- Jesus said that heaven belongs to children.
- Jesus meant that we should have an open heart. We should love God and Jesus.
- Talk about how Jesus is God's Son and how we can believe that.
- Talk about how Jesus showed that everyone can believe and receive salvation.

## Lesson Activities

### 1. Memory Verse with Motions

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

1. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.
2. Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

#### What You Say:

1. "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) "Let the children (*point to children*) come to me," (*move hands toward self*) Matthew 19:14." (*Open hands like a book.*)
2. "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Jesus said.' (*Tap finger to middle of each palm.*) Put one hand out straight in front of you with your palm up, like this, (*extend one arm in front of you, palm up*) and touch the center of your palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand. Then, switch hands, put the other hand straight in front of you, and tap the center of that palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand like this, (*tap middle finger in the center of the outstretched palm, then repeat with the other hand*) and say: 'Jesus said.' (*Tap finger to middle of each palm.*) (*Repeat with children.*) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Let the children.' (*Point to children.*) Get your pointer fingers ready and point to all our friends like this (*point to children*) and say, 'Let the children.' (*Repeat with children.*) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) 'Let the children.' (*point to children*) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Come to me.' (*Move hands toward self.*) Put both hands out and wave them towards yourself like this (*wave hands toward self like motioning to come close*) and say, 'Come to me.' (*Repeat with children.*) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) 'Let the children (*point to children*) come to me,' (*move hands toward self*)

"Now the last part is: 'Matthew 19:14.' (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: Matthew 19:14 (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) "Let the children (*point to children*) come to me," (*move hands toward self*) Matthew 19:14. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

3. "The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves all children, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever! That's such an awesome thing, Jesus loves you (*point to children*) and **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. That's right! This time when I ask, I want you to say it loud and proud. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!"**

## 2. Bible Story Review- Stop and Go to Jesus

### What You Need:

- “Stop and Go to Jesus” Activity Page
- Wall tape

### What You Do:

1. Tape one stop sign to a wall and one heart to the opposite wall. Set the other stop sign and heart near the middle of the area to use during the game.
2. Show children both signs and explain what they mean. Encourage children to walk, march, skip, crawl, or roll toward the signs to answer the question. Hold up the heart or stop sign to direction their movements and ask children to continue to that side. Repeat as desired.

### What You Say:

1. “In our Bible Story, the disciples told the children to stop and not go to Jesus. But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me!’ Come stand with me. Today we’re going to play a game to remember that Jesus always wants us to come to Him!”
2. “Everybody look. We have a stop sign on that wall. (*Point.*) And a heart on that wall. Hearts make us think of love. Our game has three questions, one answer will lead you to the heart, one answer will lead you to the stop sign and the other question will have you jump up and down. Ready to play? Here’s our first question. Who did the grown-ups bring to Jesus? (*Pause for answers.*) The children! Everybody, jump up and down! (*Pause.*) Good job! But what did the disciples say? (*Pause for answers.*) Stop! That’s right! (*Hold up the stop sign and have children move to the stop sign.*) But friends, what did Jesus say? (*Pause for responses.*) That’s right! Jesus said ‘Let the little children come to me!’ (*Hold up the heart.*) Everyone move to the wall with the heart. (*Pause.*) Super job everyone! (*Repeat as desired.*) Great job, friends! That was a fun way to remember our story!”
3. “Grown-ups brought their children to be near Jesus, to hear Him teach but the disciples said to stop! But Jesus loves all the children and wants them near, so Jesus called the children to Him because He loves them. Jesus loves you, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me! Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**”

### 3. Pin Your Picture to Jesus

#### What You Need:

- “Pin Your Picture to Jesus” Activity Page
- Wall tape
- People cutouts
- Clear tape or glue dots
- crayons

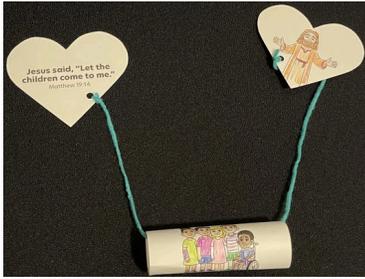
#### What You Do:

1. Tape the picture of Jesus to the wall at child’s height.
2. Invite children to draw a picture of themselves. Call each child’s name and ask them to run to the picture of Jesus and stick their picture next to Him. As each child places their picture, say: Jesus loves [child’s name]! Continue with each child.

#### What You Say:

1. “Today in our Bible Story we learned that Jesus loves YOU! Jesus loves all the children and wants them to come to Him. I have a fun way to remember our story. ”
2. “We are going to draw a picture of ourselves on these blank people. We will put tape on the back of each of your people. Then everyone will line up with me and when I call your name, run your picture to Jesus and stick it next to Him. Ready? [Child’s name] run to Jesus and put your picture next to Him. *(Pause.)* Jesus loves [child’s name]! Great job! Let’s keep going! [Child’s name] run to Jesus and put your picture next to Him. *(Continue with each child.)* Hooray! Now let’s all run to Jesus! *(Pause.)* Look at all your pictures all around Jesus! *(Pause.)* That’s amazing! Jesus loves *(name each child as you point to their picture)* and wants to be close to you.”
3. “Some grown-up’s brought their children to be near Jesus and to hear His teaching but Jesus’ friends, the disciples, told the grown-ups to stop that children weren’t who Jesus needed to be spending time with. But Jesus told them: *‘Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. (Mark 10:14 NLT)* Jesus wanted the children to come to Him. Jesus placed His hands on the children’s heads and blessed them. Jesus made sure the children knew He loved them. And Jesus wants you to know that He loves you too! Jesus loves everyone ... which means Jesus loves you **and [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**”

#### 4. Craft- Come to Me



##### What You Need:

- “Come To Me” Activity Page
- “Come To Me Children” Activity Page
- Crayons
- Yarn
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

##### What You Do:

1. Write each child’s name on their paper.
2. Encourage children to color Jesus and the children on their papers. Ask children to decorate the heart with the text on it. Roll each child’s picture of the children into a tube and secure it with a piece of tape. For each child, thread their yarn through the tube and knot either end of the yarn to the hearts, text on the left and Jesus on the right. Demonstrate how to lift and lower either side simultaneously to make the children move to Jesus.

##### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Sweet friends, come to me! I have some super special story art for you to make to help you remember today’s true story from the Bible.”

*During the Activity:* “You have two pictures, one picture is Jesus in a heart cutout, and the other is a picture of lots of children. Color both of these pictures and then decorate your other heart with the words on it. *(Pause.)* Great job! Let’s roll the picture of the children into a tube like this *(demonstrate)* and add a piece of tape to keep it rolled up nicely. *(Help each child as needed.)* Now we need to put the yarn through the tube and tie the ends to each heart. I’ll help you with that. *(Make sure the heart with the text is on the left and the heart with Jesus is on the right and knot each end of the yarn through the holes on each heart.)* Now watch this. *(Hold up the example with the words lower than Jesus.)* The words on this heart are our Memory Verse words. Let’s say them together. ‘Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”’ Matthew 19:14. *(Raise the heart with the words written on it to make the children move to Jesus.)* Look! We made the children move to Jesus! Let’s do it together. Hold your hearts up making sure Jesus is higher in the air than the words. *(Pause.)* Great! Now say the verse with me. ‘Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”’ Matthew 19:14. Now raise the heart with the words *(pause)* and watch the children move to Jesus! That is so cool!”

*After the Activity:* “In today’s true story from the Bible, we learned that Jesus and His friends, the disciples, traveled to a lot of places because Jesus loved people and wanted to tell everyone that God loves them and that God wants them to love others. One day Jesus was teaching, some grown-ups brought their children to be near Jesus and hear Jesus teach. The disciples told the grown-ups to stop

that children weren't who Jesus needed to be spending time with. But, when Jesus saw what His friends were doing, He became angry! Jesus told them: *'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. (Mark 10:14 NLT)*

"Jesus wanted the children to come to Him. Jesus placed His hands on the children's heads and blessed them. Jesus made sure the children knew He loved them. And Jesus wants you to know that He loves you too! Jesus loves everyone ... which means Jesus loves you **and [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**"

## 5. Journal and Prayer

### What You Need:

- “Memory Verse Card” from the Home folder
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

### What You Do:

Encourage children to give themselves a big hug as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “It’s Small Group time! Today we are going to give ourselves the biggest hugs we can. Wrap your arms around you and give a little squeeze. Follow me and keep giving yourself little squeezes as you hug yourself. Great work! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

*During the Activity:* (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) “In our Bible Story today, we heard a story about Jesus, His friends, the disciples, and some people who came to hear Jesus teach. The people who came to be with Jesus and hear Him teach were not just grown-ups, but some children were also there! Children just like you! (Point to all the children.)

“But there was a problem! The disciples, Jesus’ friends, told the grown-ups to take the children away! But Jesus loves EVERYONE! Grown-ups AND children too! Jesus called the children to Him and blessed them. Jesus made sure that the children knew that He loved them. No matter where you live, Jesus loves you! Jesus loves everyone ... which means Jesus loves you **and [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**

“Hey! That reminds me of the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, ‘Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) “Let the children (point to children) come to me,”’ (move hands toward self) Matthew 19:14.” (Open hands like a book.) Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! ‘Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) “Let the children (point to children) come to me,”’ (move hands toward self) Matthew 19:14.” (Open hands like a book.) Yay! (Clap.)

“Let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) We’re going to make a list of all your names in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. (Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.) Jesus loves [child’s name] (write child’s name). And Jesus loves [child’s name] (write child’s name). And Jesus loves... (Continue with each child.) Jesus loves all the children, each and every one of you! (Point to all the children.) When I read your name in our list, I want you to add a heart sticker next to your name because hearts make us think of love and Jesus loves you! (Point and read each child’s name pausing to give each child time to add their sticker.) Great job everyone!”

*After the Activity:* “This is a list of very special people, it’s a list of all our Small Group friends! (*Hold up journal.*) Let’s pray and thank God for you. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, Thank You for Jesus, and how He loves [child’s name], and [child’s name] and... (*say this with each child’s name*). We love You, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”