

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2026, Week 2

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 NIRV

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Bible Story Review: Hopscotch Commandments

- Floor tape
- Bible

Application Activity: Spread the Love

- Small cup of warm water

Memory Verse Activity: Love God. Love Others.

- Bibles marked at John 13:34
- White paper
- Coloring supplies

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Solo cup to put popsicle sticks in
- Prayer jar from Week 1
- Bag of candy hearts from Week 1

Bible Story Summary

During Week 2, we explore the Most Important Commandment. Several religious leaders try to trap Jesus with a trick question: basically, choose your top commandment so everyone can take you down for picking the wrong one. Just how many rules are we talking about here? We revisit the original Ten Commandments in Exodus, as well as the additional 603 laws and the extras added around them by the religious leaders. Instead of debating, Jesus rolls them all into two simple commands. [BOTTOM LINE] Love God. Love others.

PRAYER

Thank God that He makes loving Him simple. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you showed love to someone (like a friend or family member) and how that showed you loved God too. Ask God to help the kids in your group show love this week. Pray that they would love God by talking to Him and love others by sharing their toys, using kind words, and giving hugs to their family.

1. Bible Story Review- Hopscotch Commandments

What You Need:

- Bible
- Cardstock with numbers written on them
- Floor tape
- cardstock heart with Love God, Love Others written on it

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 22:36-40 from the Bible.
- Create a hopscotch board on the floor with the numbered pages, secured with tape.
- Tape the paper heart on the floor just above the 10th square of the hopscotch board.
- Ask the kids what they remember from the story. Remind them that Jesus was asked which of all the commandments was the most important.
- Ask: “Is it the fifth commandment? Honor your parents?” Encourage a kid to hop to the 5th square.
- Ask: “Is it the eighth commandment? Don’t steal?” Encourage a kid to hop to the 8th square.
- Continue asking about a few of the commandments. (A simplified list is below.)
 - 1st: Put God first!
 - 2nd: Don’t worship false gods.
 - 3rd: Honor God’s name in everything you do.
 - 4th: Honor God by resting on the seventh day.
 - 5th: Honor your parents.
 - 6th: Don’t murder.
 - 7th: Be faithful to your spouse.
 - 8th: Don’t steal.
 - 9th: Don’t lie.
 - 10th: Don’t envy what others have.
- Finally, say, “Jesus said the greatest commandment of all isn’t on the board. It’s this one!”
- Instruct a kid to hop all the way to the end and point to the heart.
- Read the heart together: **[Bottom Line] “Love God. Love others.”**

What You Say:

“That’s right! Jesus was asked which of all the 613 laws was the most important. Jesus said out of all the laws, the most important is: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.’ ... And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself’ (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV). **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.** When we love God and love others, we are doing what Jesus said is most important!”

2. Application Activity- Spread the Love

What You Need:

- Skittles®
- White plastic plate
- Small cup of warm water

What You Do:

- Have the kids sit around a table.
- Let them arrange the Skittles® in a circle or heart shape around the edge of a paper plate.
- Once the shape is made, slowly pour the warm water into the center of the plate until it just touches the Skittles®.
- Watch as the colors spread from the candy.

What You Say:

“Wow, look at that! The colors are spreading out and making something beautiful. This is what happens when we share God’s love. Jesus said the most important thing to do is to: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.** The first four of the Ten Commandments help us love God, and the last six help us love others. When we love God and love others, that love spreads just like our Skittles® hearts and makes the world a more beautiful place, and it looks more like God’s Kingdom. The more we share God’s love, the farther it goes. Remember, the best way to live is to: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**”

EveryChild Pro Tips:

- *This is a great sensory activity. Let kids who are comfortable touch the Skittles® and the water.*

3. Memory Verse Activity- Love God. Love Others.

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at John 13:34
- White paper
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible marked at John 13:34.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids 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 right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and make the coloring supplies available.
- Tell them they are going to make a Valentine's Day card for someone they love.
- Encourage them to draw a picture and decorate their card.
- Help them write a short note inside. At the end of their note, help them write: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**
- Ask: "What does it actually mean to love the people in your life?" (e.g., sharing, being kind, helping).

What You Say:

"These cards are beautiful! The people who get these will feel so loved. When you give this card to them, you are showing them what Jesus wants us to do. Jesus wants us to love one another. You are choosing to: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**"

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Cup with premade craft sticks
- Prayer jar from Week 1
- Bag of candy hearts from Week 1

What To Do:

- Let each kid draw one craft stick from the cup filled with pre-made craft sticks. (The craft sticks say: family, friend, community helper, neighbor, someone at church, someone at school)
- Read the word on their stick and invite them to name one specific person from that category they can pray for. (e.g., If they draw “friend,” they can name their best friend from school.)
- After each kid names a person, let them add a heart to the prayer jar.
- Close by praying for all the people who were named.
- Store the prayer jar in a safe place to use again next week.

What You Say:

“Our prayer jar has even more hearts in it now! We named a lot of people whom God loves! Let’s pray for all these people.

“Dear God, thank You for all the people in our lives. Help us to show them Your love this week, especially [the people the kids’ named]. Help us remember the most important things: **[Bottom Line]** **Love God. Love others.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”