

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: Most Important Relay

- Floor tape

Memory Verse Activity: Backpack Tag

- Bibles
- Coloring supplies

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Prayer jar 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 told us that the most important commands are loving Him and loving others. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when it was hard to love someone, but you chose to do it anyway because you love God. Ask God to help the kids in your group love Him with their whole heart—with what they think, say, and do. Pray that this love for God would overflow into loving others, even when it's easy, like on the playground or with a sibling.

1. Bible Story Review- Most Important Relay

What You Need:

- “Most Important” Activity Page
- Drinking straws
- Large hearts
- Floor tape

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams and have them line up on one side of the room.
- Place the two large heart shapes on the other side of the room.
- Give each team a set of the small tablet cards from the “Most Important” Activity Page.
- Give each kid a straw.
- Show the kids how to pick up one of the cards by placing the straw on it and sucking in.
- Explain the relay: On “Go,” the first kid on each team will use their straw to pick up one card and carry it over to the heart.
- After they drop their card on the heart, they are to run back and tag the next kid in line.
- Continue until all the cards have been moved to the heart.
- When they’re done, ask: “Jesus was asked about all the commandments. Which one did He say was the first and most important?” (*Love God.*)
- Ask: “Which commandment did Jesus say was also very important? (*Love others.*)
- Ask: “What two commandments did Jesus say all of God’s Law was based on? (*Love God and love others!*)

What You Say:

“You did it! You moved all the commandments to the heart. That’s a great way to remember our story. Jesus wasn’t stumped by the religious leaders’ trick question. He took all those laws and said they were based on two. He said the most important thing we can do is to: *‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind’* (Matthew 22:37 NIV). And then He said to: *‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself’* (Matthew 22:39 NIV). Out of all the commandments, Jesus said the most important things we can do are to **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**”

**Put God
first.**

**Don't
worship
false gods.**

**Honor God's
name in
everything
you do.**

**Honor God
by resting
on the
seventh day.**

**Honor
your
parents.**

**Don't
murder.**

**Be faithful
to your
spouse.**

**Don't
steal.**

Don't lie.

**Don't envy
what others
have.**

2. Memory Verse Activity- Backpack Tag

What You Need:

- Bibles
- “Backpack Tag” Activity Page
- Plastic bag tags with loops
- Coloring supplies



What You Do:

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

Finding verses for 2-3rd 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. When they 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 correct 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.
- Encourage the kids to set aside the Bibles.
- Say: “Jesus wants us to love one another! In fact, as we learned in our Bible Story today, that is one of the most important things we can do! Let’s make something to help us remember that.”
- Give every kid a “Backpack Tag” Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies and invite the kids to decorate their “Backpack Tag” Activity Page.
- Read the words together as kids insert their tag into the plastic sleeve.
- Show kids how to thread the plastic loop through the hole and the other part of the same loop to secure.

What You Say:

“Today, you made a special tag for your backpack to remind you of the two most important things God wants you to do, and that is **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.** Now whenever you’re at school or practice and see your awesome backpack tag, you can remember to **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.** You can show love to others by doing things like holding the door open for a teacher, inviting someone to play with you, or using kind words. Jesus said we should love one another just as He has loved us. We show our love for God by loving others. That’s the main goal!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Prayer jar from Week 1
- Bag of candy hearts
- Plastic spoons

What To Do:

- Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Give each kid a spoon.
- Hold a spoon yourself, but put a candy heart on it.
- Start by passing your candy heart from your spoon to the spoon of the kid next to you without it falling.
- Encourage the kids to pass it to the next kid, and so on around the circle.
- Once the heart has made it all the way around, say, “Great job sharing the love! Now, let’s pray.”
- Ask each kid to think of one person they want to show love to this week.
- As each kid names their person, let them add a candy heart to the prayer jar.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Our prayer jar is getting so full! That means we are doing one of the most important things—loving people by praying for them! Let’s pray for the people we named.

“Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us to love You back with everything we are. And help us to love the people around us, especially [name a few people the kids mentioned]. Show us how to be kind and loving this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”