

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2026, Week 1

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 NIRV

Small Group (15 minutes)

Bible Story Review: Whole World

- Blow up the globe

Application Activity: Whole World Puzzle

- Coloring supplies
- scissors

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse with Motions

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Bible Story Summary

We start off as Nicodemus visits Jesus at night. While Nicodemus struggles to understand how a grown-up could be born again, Jesus challenges him to see with new eyes. John, recording this scene, interprets for us: "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." [BOTTOM LINE] God loves the whole world.

Prayer

Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time! Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that "the whole world" means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

1. Bible Story Review- Whole World

What You Need:

- Inflatable Globe

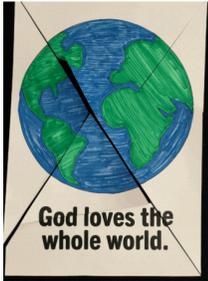
What You Do:

- Say: “In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus was telling Nicodemus about something He was going to do. He was going to give His life so that everyone in the whole world could choose to be God’s friend forever.”
- Show the kids the globe or map.
- Invite the kids to name some places they know. Maybe where grandma lives, or a place they went on a vacation. Point to those places.
- Ask: “Name some places that you could take a car to.”
- Ask: “Name some places that are so far away you would need to fly on an airplane!” Point to those faraway places. (Share some faraway countries, and point to them on the globe.)
- Say: “In our true story from the Bible today, we learned that God loves everyone. We learned that Jesus was going to give His life so anyone in the world could be God’s friend forever.”
- Encourage the kids to point to a place on the globe where people live who God loves.
- Explain that you can point anywhere because there are so many places and people all over the world, and God loves every one.

What You Say:

“Wow, we talked about so many places! Our world is so big. And our Bible Story today tells us something amazing. It tells us that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**. God loves the people who live right here (point to a place on the map/globe), and God loves the people who live way across the ocean. In Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, so that anyone who believes in Him, anyone in the world, will not die but will have eternal life—they’ll be God’s friend forever. God loves everyone, everywhere!”

2. Application Activity- Whole World Puzzle



What You Need:

- “Whole World Puzzle” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies
- Kid-friendly scissors
- Paper bag

What You Do:

- Give each kid a puzzle page from the “Whole World Puzzle” Activity Page. Make the coloring supplies available.
- Invite them to color the picture of the world.
- As they color, talk about how God’s love is for everyone.
- When they are done coloring, help them carefully cut along the lines to turn their picture into a puzzle.
- Give each kid a paper bag to store their puzzle pieces.
- Challenge them to put their puzzle back together. They can also trade puzzles with a friend.

What You Say:

“These puzzles show the whole world! Every piece was important to make the whole picture, right? It’s like that with all the people God made and put on this earth. Every single person is important to God, and He loves every one of them. That’s why God sent Jesus. Jesus came and gave His life so that everyone in the world, if they choose to believe in Him, can be God’s friend forever! **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!** He loves us so very much!”

EveryChild Pro Tips:

- *For kids who find cutting challenging, you can pre-cut the puzzles. Or draw thicker, simpler lines for them to follow.*
- *Provide larger puzzle pieces for kids who need more fine motor support.*

3. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at John 13:34
- “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page (posted in room and on next page)

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
- Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up John 13:34 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 aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside and stand in a circle.
- Hold up the “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page, and teach the kids the motions for the Memory Verse, adding one part at a time.
 - “I give you a new command. (Hold up one finger.)
 - Love one another. (Hug yourself.)
 - You must love (Make a heart with your hands.)
 - one another, (Point to friends around you.)
 - just as I (Point up to God.)
 - have loved you.” (Hug yourself.)
 - John 13:34 (Open your hands like a book.)
- Practice the verse and motions together several times. Make it fun by going fast, then slow.

What You Say:

“You’ve got it! Jesus gives us the most important command: to love one another. Why? Because He loves us! **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!** God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us love one another. Jesus explained that we can’t see the Holy Spirit with our eyes, but we can see what happens when we allow the Holy Spirit to change us and work through us. With the Holy Spirit, we can practice the most important command: to love one another.”



**"I give you a new
command.**



**Love one
another.**



**You must
love**



one another,



just as I



**have loved
you."**



John 13:34

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Clear jar
- Bag of candy hearts- use all month long so do not hand out extras

What To Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Show the group the empty jar.
- Say, "Praying for people is a way to share the love of Jesus. This month, every time we pray for someone, we're going to add a heart to this jar. At the end of the month, we can see all the people we prayed for and all the love we shared!"
- Encourage each kid to think of one person they want to pray for today.
- Go around the circle, and as each kid says the name of the person they are praying for, let them drop a heart into the jar.
- Close the group in prayer.
- Store the jar in a safe place to use again next week.

What To Say:

"Our prayer jar has its first hearts! Let's pray for the people we named.

"Dear God, thank You that Your love is for the whole world. Thank You for loving us, and for loving [name a few of the people kids mentioned]. Help us to show Your love to everyone we meet this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."