

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Zacchaeus • *Luke 19:1-10*

Bottom Line: The love of Jesus changes people.

Conversation Starter: How can love change things?

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

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another awesome week here at [environment name]! It's great to see you. Find three people you don't know and give them a high-five and tell them your name. *(Pause as the kids mingle and introduce themselves.)*

"Great job!

"This month, we've been talking about our series called 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus' because when you see something awesome online, you like it and subscribe to it because you don't want to miss a minute of awesomeness. And you want to share that awesomeness with your friends and family too!

"This month we're talking about the love of God! That's definitely not something you want to miss a second of! And you so want to share it!

"We're learning that when we experience God's love, it doesn't just stop with us—it spreads, like a chain reaction to others."

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"Today's Bottom Line says it perfectly: **[Bottom Line] The love of Jesus changes people.** And once we experience that love, it can create a chain reaction that changes the world. In our true story from the Bible today, we'll meet a man named Zacchaeus—someone who was totally changed because of Jesus' love.

WORSHIP

LEADER: “God’s love is just so big! And one act of love can lead to another, and another, and another. God’s love never stops spreading!”

“So let’s stand up and worship God—His love changes us from the inside out. Our first song celebrates how much we and everyone else needs God’s love.

SONG: “*That’s Who I Praise*”

“Let’s take a moment to look at our Memory Verse for this month. It’s such a good reminder that love isn’t just a feeling, it’s something we do. When Jesus talked about love, He wasn’t talking about liking people who are easy to get along with. He was talking about a love that makes a difference. A love that changes hearts, changes relationships, and even changes the world. I’ll read it first, and then we’ll say it together.”

SLIDE: *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”

“Let’s say it together!”

KIDS AND LEADER: *“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.”* —John 13:34”

“Keep this verse in your heart this week. Maybe write it somewhere you’ll see it, or set a reminder on your phone to read it once a day. Every time you do, ask God to help you love like He does.”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: So and So Show

LANDING

LEADER: “So here’s what I want you to remember: The love of Jesus changes people. It changed Zacchaeus. It can change you. And it can change the people around you.

“When we love like Jesus—when we forgive, include, serve, and show kindness—we’re letting His love flow through us. And that’s how change spreads.

“Because God’s love doesn’t just fix us, it transforms us.

“Before we head to small groups, I want to leave you with one last question to think about.”

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] “How can love change things?”

“When we talk about love, we’re really talking about *God’s* love. God’s love is the kind of love that reaches out first—even when people don’t deserve it. It’s the kind of love that sees us, forgives us, and invites us into something new. That’s what Jesus showed Zacchaeus. God’s love didn’t just make Zacchaeus feel better; it completely changed his heart and his life.

“That same love can change us too. God’s love has the power to transform our hearts, our relationships, and the way we see people around us.

“So, as you head to small group, think about this: How can love change things? When have you seen God’s love make a difference for you, or through you? And what would it look like to let Jesus’ love change the world around you this week?”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Let’s talk to the God who loves you so much!

“God, thank You for loving us the way You loved Zacchaeus—not after we’ve cleaned up our mess, but right in the middle of it. Thank You that Your love changes hearts and makes us new. Help us live in that love this week. Show us how to share it with others so they can be changed too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SLIDE: Theme