

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 1, 2026

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 NIV

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Teaching (Story Lab - Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

TAKE HOME

Devotional Page

Social Opening Activity Made to Play

Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time! Thank God that His love is big enough for the entire world, and that it's personal enough for each of us. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you realized God's love was bigger than you thought, or a time you were confused about a "church" topic (like Nicodemus) and God brought you clarity. Ask God to help the kids see that "the whole world" means everyone—even people who are different from them or hard to love. Pray they would be so full of God's love that they can't help but share it with others this week.

What You Need:

- Large plastic bag
- Medium-sized pom-poms or foam hearts

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Show the kids the plastic bag. Invite one or two kids to help you open it and trap air inside by swinging it and closing it quickly.
- Tie a knot at the top of the bag to keep the air in, creating a "catapult pillow."
- Place the bag on the floor.
- Put one pom-pom on the center of the bag.
- Show the kids how to launch the pom-pom by hitting the bag with their hands.
- Let each kid take a turn catapulting a pom-pom.
- See whose pom-pom can fly the farthest!

What You Say:

"Wow, look how far those pom-poms can go! They went everywhere! That reminds me of God's love. **[Transition]** In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about just how far God's love goes. Let's go find out!"

[Lead your group to the Large Group area.]

LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

- Introduce/Remind kids about the
- Monthly Theme
- Monthly Memory Verse
- Today's Bottom Line
- Play Worship Songs
- Allow kids to grab a snack
- Play Teaching Video
- Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

Groups

1. The Whole World Ball Game

Live for God | Application Activity

What You Need:

- Soft playground ball

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to stand in a single file line.
- Instruct them to stand with their legs shoulder-width apart, creating a tunnel with their legs.
- Stand at the front of the line and gently roll the ball so it goes through every kid's legs.
- After the first roll, move to a different spot, maybe off to the side. Explain that the group has to move together to make sure the ball can still roll through everyone's legs—including yours!
- Roll the ball again. The kids will need to shuffle and adjust their positions as a group to create a new tunnel for the ball.
- Continue a few times, moving to different spots and challenging them to work together.

What You Say:

“Great teamwork! You had to work together to make sure the ball could get through everyone in our line. This game helps us remember that God's love is for everyone, everywhere! No one is left out.

“God loves people who are different from you, who live in different places, and people who do wrong things! **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**, and He wants His love to reach every single person. Because you and I are made in God's image—we reflect who God is to the world—we can show His love to others.

“When we're kind, we show the world God's love. When we're compassionate, we show the world God's love. Let's show everyone God's love because **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!**”

2. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at John 13:34
- “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page

EveryChild Supplies:

- Extra “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Pages*

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
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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 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:

“Great job with those motions! Jesus gave us the best example of love. Because He loves us so much, we can love others. Our job as followers of Jesus is to be filled up with His love and pour it out on others! We can show people that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!**”

3. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need:

- Plastic jar
- Bag of candy hearts
- Take Home Devotional

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.
- Give each kid a Take Home Devotional page

What You Say:

"We just prayed for a lot of people, and that reminds us that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**. As we learned in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, God loves everyone, everywhere. This week, let's keep praying for all the people we named and ask God to show His great love to them.

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