



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



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



K1 | W1

Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they 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.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

K1 | W1

ACTIVITY ONE

Whole World

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- World 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!**"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

K1 | W1

ACTIVITY TWO

Whole World Puzzle

What You Need

- “Whole World Puzzle” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies
- Envelopes or Sandwich bags



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.
- Encourage each kid to store their puzzle pieces in the sandwich bag or in the envelope.
- Challenge them to put their puzzle back together.

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!”

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

Pray and Dismiss



What You Say

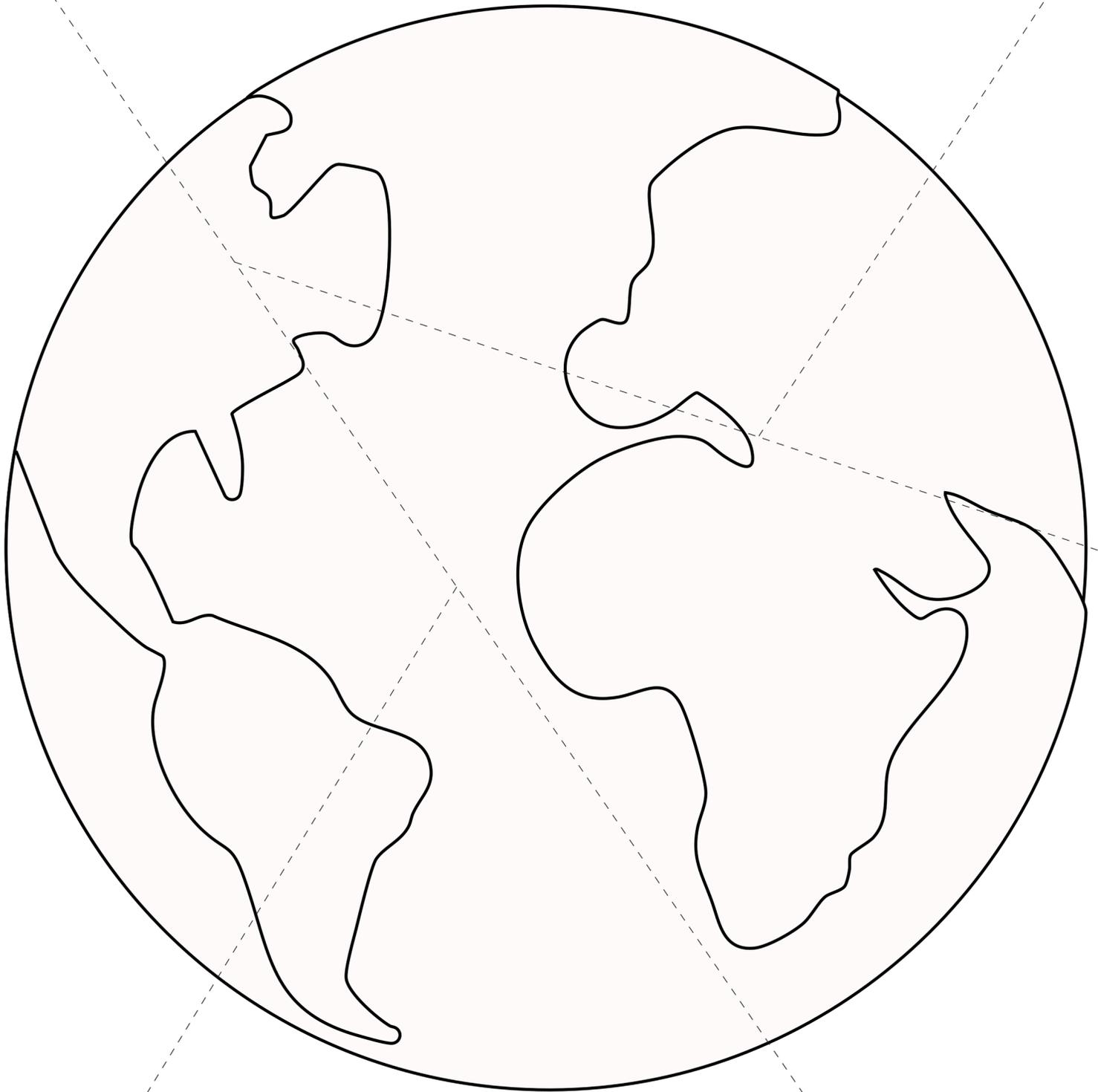
"Dear God, thank You that Your love is for the whole world. Thank You for loving us, and for loving [name a few of the people kids mentioned]. Help us to show Your love to everyone we meet this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



God loves the
whole world.