

WEEK

ONE

K-3 | W1

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: “Hey, everyone! I’m so excited that you’re here today. We’re diving into a brand-new series about how much God loves us, and how we can share that love with everyone we meet. It’s called ‘Like and Subscribe’—because when you come across a really cool channel or video, you don’t want to miss it ... and you want to let other people know all about it too!

“Now, if you watch something online with your mom or dad, one way to let the creator know you like their video is with one of these.

SLIDE: Thumbs Up Emoji

“Do you all know what this is?

Get a response from the audience.

“Yup! It’s a thumbs-up emoji. (Do a thumbs up.) It means you like something. But emojis can express a whole lot of other things too. In fact, there are nearly 4,000 official emojis! So right now, we’re going to play a game to test your emoji expertise and how well you know a few Bible stories too. It’s time to play ‘Scripture Symbols.’

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols Title

“Who’s ready? Great. We’re going to see a set of emojis that represent a Bible Story. If you think you know it, raise your hand in the air, and I’ll call on you. Everyone ready? Great. Let’s see our first set of Scripture Symbols!

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 1 (world, tree, apple)

“Who thinks they know what these emojis stand for?

Pick someone to answer. If they get it wrong, give someone else a chance. When someone gets the right answer, show the answer slide.

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 2 (Creation)

“Yes! You got it. These emojis represent Creation! First, God made light. Then God separated the water from the sky and the water from the land. After that, God created the sun and stars and plants and fish and birds and animals and finally, people! And then God rested. Who wants to try another one?

13 min

Worship

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 3 (woman, man, snake, apple)

"Can anyone guess what this is?"

Listen for the kids' response.

"That's right! It's Adam and Eve!"

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 4 (Adam and Eve)

Continue with as many of the remaining emoji challenges as you have time for. Briefly explain each one when someone guesses the correct answer.

The remaining emojis are:

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 5 (boat, rain, dove, rainbow)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 6 (Noah)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 7 (basket, baby, water)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 8 (Baby Moses)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 9 (praying hands, lion, moon)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 10 (Daniel)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 11 (star, camel, crown)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 12 (Wise Men)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 13 (loaf of bread, fish)

SLIDE: Scripture Symbols 14 (Jesus feeding the crowd)

"Great job, everyone!!! You all know your Bible stories and your emojis!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I love getting to be here with you to worship God together. God loves you and is always with you, no matter what you're going through. The more you ask God to show you His love, the more you'll see Him at work in everything—from the way your friends make you laugh to the way the sky looks on a clear, bright day. It's something we've just got to share! So let's stand up and sing together.

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"It's so awesome to see the way that you're putting your hearts into worship. The more you see and experience God's love at work in you, the more you can live it out. Let's sing one more song!

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I love getting to be here with you to worship God together. God loves you and is always with you, no matter what you're going through. The more you ask God to show you His love, the more you'll see Him at work in everything—from the way your friends make you laugh to the way the sky looks on a clear, bright day. It's something we've just got to share! So let's stand up and sing together.

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"It's so awesome to see the way that you're putting your hearts into worship. The more you see and experience God's love at work in you, the more you can live it out. Let's sing one more song!

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

"Loving God and sharing the love of Jesus is the most important thing that we'll ever do. This is one of the last things that Jesus reminded His followers, right before He gave up His life for us, and then returned to life. It's this month's Memory Verse:

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "John 13:34 says: 'I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.'

"Now, repeat after me!

"I give you a new command."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I give you a new command."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Love one another."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Love one another."

2 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another,"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another,"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

WORSHIP LEADER: "John 13:34!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "John 13:34!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "You guys! God loves you so very much! It's the greatest love of all! And He wants you to love others, so they know what it's like to see God's love."

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

 Bible

1

 Table

1

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "Yay! It's a new month! And I get to spend some time with you guys learning about the greatest love of all—God's love!"

"This month, we're starting a brand-new series about how much God loves us, and how we can share that love with everyone! This new series is called 'Like and Subscribe'—because when you come across a channel or video that's really awesome, you don't want to miss it ... and you want to let other people know all about it too! God's love is the coolest, most amazing thing of all! It's something you'll want to live in and share with everyone!"

"Today we're going to learn more about God's great love from a conversation Jesus Himself had! But before we dive into that part of the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year. We're going through key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!"

"But are we going through the Bible just so we'll learn the awesome stories in the Bible? Not exactly! One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so that we can get to know Him. He wants us to be His friends! So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we learn about Him."

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!"

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too."

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!"

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land."

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

NICODEMUS VISITS JESUS

a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it.

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're at the part of the Bible that tells about the time when Jesus was on earth. Jesus came to earth to show us who God is! This conversation Jesus had that we're going to read about today takes place in a part of the Bible called the New Testament. (*Hold up Bible.*) The first four books of the New Testament tell us about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When we listen to what Jesus said and see how He treated others, we discover how big God loves us.

"Now, since you all did such a great job with the emojis in our game, we're going to use emojis to help tell the story too! As I tell the story, we're going to see some emoji faces pop up to show how the person in our story might have felt. When you see an emoji, I want you to make the expression too! Let's practice.

SLIDE: Teaching 1 (Smiley Face Emoji)

"I think we all know this one. Make your best smiley face.

Smile big. Acknowledge as the kids do the same.

"Okay, that just makes me happy, seeing all of our grins. I think we're ready. So here goes!"

STORYTELLER: "When Jesus was about thirty years old, He began to travel and teach and heal. People quickly took notice. Many religious leaders felt threatened, while others were simply puzzled.

What You Need

No supplies needed

"One of these religious leaders was a man named Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee—a part of a group who believed it was so important to keep God's rules that they followed a lot of extra rules just to be safe.

"Nicodemus was very curious about Jesus. But he was also worried about what people would think if they saw him talking with Jesus.

SLIDE: Teaching 2 (Scared Face Emoji)

Make a scared face. Acknowledge as the other kids make scared faces too.

"Oof. You all look so scared! Nicodemus was so worried about what people might think that he arranged to visit Jesus at night! He told Jesus—

Open the Bible to John 3:2 (NirV) and read.

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the signs you are doing."

"Nicodemus wanted to check up on Jesus and find out if He was the real deal. But Jesus flipped the spotlight back on Nicodemus.

Open the Bible to John 3:3-4 (NirV) and read.

Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "They can't go back inside their mother! They can't be born a second time!"

"Nicodemus was so confused by what Jesus said!

SLIDE: Teaching 3 (Confused Face Emoji)

"Let's see your best confused face.

Make a confused face. Acknowledge as the kids make confused faces.

"It's easy to understand why Nicodemus was puzzled. Being born a second time sounds, honestly, kind of impossible. But Jesus meant this as a word picture.

Open the Bible to John 3:5-8 (NirV) and read.

Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit. People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.' The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can't tell where

5 min

GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD**What You Need**

No supplies needed

it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born with the Spirit."

"See, God's Spirit actually makes us brand-new inside, as if we were being 'born again'—a second time. Jesus explained that we can't see the Spirit with our eyes, but we can see what happens when we allow the Spirit to change us and work through us.

"That's a lot for us to think about. And it was a lot for Nicodemus too. I think his mind was blown.

SLIDE: Teaching 4 (Mind-Blown Face Emoji)

"Let's see what it looks like when you hear something so amazing it blows your mind.

Make an amazed face and mind-blown gesture with your hand. Acknowledge as the kids do the same.

"Yeah, I think that's exactly what Nicodemus felt like!

Open the Bible to John 3:9-13 (NirV) and read.

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus. "Don't you understand these things? What I'm about to tell you is true. We speak about what we know. We are witnesses about what we have seen. But still you people do not accept what we say. I have spoken to you about earthly things, and you do not believe. So how will you believe if I speak about heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven. He is the Son of Man."

"Jesus was saying that He was teaching about heavenly things. He had come from heaven, and He would know!

"And what was up with all of that 'Son of Man' language? Why did Jesus call Himself that? Jesus often called Himself 'the Son of Man,' because even though He is God's Son, He also chose to be completely human, like us. The prophet Daniel used the title 'Son of Man' to tell about the coming Messiah. So, every time Jesus used the title 'Son of Man,' Jesus was saying: 'That's Me. I'm the Messiah.'"

STORYTELLER: "Nicodemus would have been very familiar with Daniel, the lions' den guy, and he would have also been very familiar with the thing Jesus shared next that had happened to God's people ...

Open the Bible to John 3:14-15 (NirV) and read.

"Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

"What? Timeout! Snake in the desert?"

SLIDE: Teaching 5 (Snake Emoji)

"Okay, let's hear those snake hisses! Ssssssssssss!"

Hiss like a snake. Acknowledge as the kids do the same.

"Whew. That's a little too real. But let's talk about this wild snake story. See, while God's people were in the wilderness, which is recorded in the book of Numbers in the Bible, poisonous snakes invaded the camp and began to bite people! God told Moses to make a bronze snake and hold it up on a pole. Anyone who looked at it would live.

"Jesus was giving Nicodemus a picture of what was coming. In the next year or two, Jesus would give up His life and be nailed to a cross, out of love for us. His death and resurrection would bring life to everyone who looks to Him and chooses Him.

"When Jesus' friend John recorded the story, he put it this way:

Open the Bible to John 3:16-17 (NirV) and read.

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. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.

"You might have heard these verses before. But even though they may be familiar, don't miss this: God loves the *whole world*. God loves everyone who has ever lived or is living now, or will be born.

SLIDE: Teaching 6 (World Emoji with Heart Emoji)

"All right, everyone. Hold out your arms wide, like this ... like you're hugging the whole entire world!"

Gesture like you're hugging a giant globe. Acknowledge as the kids do the same.

"I can definitely feel the love."

STORYTELLER: "Now, you have to remember: Every single one of us has done things that go against God and His ways. We've all sinned. But God loves us so much that God sent Jesus. Anyone who looks to Jesus, to what Jesus did while He was up on the cross, and chooses to follow

5 min

LIVE IN THE LIGHT

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Him will be able to live forever with God. John finished the story this way ...

Open the Bible to John 3:19a-21a (NirV) and read.

Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light. They loved darkness because what they did was evil. Everyone who does evil deeds hates the light. They will not come into the light. They are afraid that what they do will be seen. But anyone who lives by the truth comes into the light. They live by the truth with God's help.

SLIDE: Teaching 7 (Candle Emoji)

"Okay, everyone. Pretend to hold a candle up high, where we can see it.

Hold up a pretend candle, lifting it high. Acknowledge as the kids do the same

"God's love and truth are like brilliant lights that chase away the darkness.

"See, we can never be 'good enough' on our own. We can only live by the truth with God's help. God loves the whole world, and showed His great love for the entire world by sending Jesus. When we live in God's love, we don't have to hide anything out of fear or shame. We get to live in the light.

"As for Nicodemus, we don't know exactly how he responded to this. We do know that later he defended Jesus to a group of Pharisees. And after Jesus was crucified, Nicodemus helped to prepare His body and place it in a tomb.

STORYTELLER: "Nicodemus was scared and confused and didn't always get it right. But the most important thing we know about Nicodemus is this: that God loved Him deeply. God loved Nicodemus, no matter what. God loves you no matter what. In fact ...

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God loves the whole world. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "God loves the whole world."

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about God's great love! God loves us so, so much!

"This week, we talked about a conversation Jesus had at night with a man named Nicodemus! Nicodemus had big, big questions about God, and that's exactly why Jesus came—to teach us who God is. When Jesus lived on Earth, He did just what God would do, and He said exactly what God would say, because He is God. That's one of the reasons why God spent years and years and years working on His plan to send Jesus! This entire timeline of God's Big Story shows how God faithfully worked over thousands of years to send Jesus! (*Gesture to timeline.*) Jesus was the key point of God's Big Story. And as Jesus went around showing us what God is like, He lived a completely perfect life. He never sinned. Then Jesus gave up that perfect, sinless life to pay for our sins and break the curse we were under so we could be close to God again. Jesus, the Rescuer—because of His great, great love—gave His life to rescue us all!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"This week we learned about Jesus and His conversation with Nicodemus

HOST: "So what's our part in all of this? Well, the most important thing is to accept God's love for you! God loves you so much, and He made you to be His close friend. That's the entire reason why God made you—He wants to be your close friend forever!

"And even though sin put everyone under that curse back in the Garden of Eden, God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be restored—Jesus gave up His life to pay for sin. When you choose to accept what Jesus did for you by paying for your sin and by following Him, you get to be friends with God!

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"And as you grow closer and closer to Jesus, you'll see how God's great love begins changing you from the inside out—to make you more like Jesus.

"Not only does God love you more than you can imagine, but God loves the whole world! God loves your family. Your friends. Your neighbors—both close by and the ones who live all around the world.

"God loves people who are different from you. And God even loves people who do wrong things.

"Every single person you will ever meet is loved by God. So as you receive God's love, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pass that love on to the people around you. God loves you, and He can help you show His love to them!

"When you're following Jesus and growing closer to God, then God's love can flow through you, and more and more people will come to know God's love for them."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to God together now. Bow your heads and close your eyes.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your own Son, Jesus, to live with us and to give His life to rescue us. Thank You for the way that Jesus showed us Your love for the whole world. Please help us to remember Your love every single day, and help us to pass that love on to the people around us. We love You, and in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Supplies

INTRODUCTION

Quantity

1.	Bible	1
2.	Table	1

WEEK

TWO

K-3 | W2

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

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Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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 NIV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

-  Table 1
-  Bag of candy hearts 1
-  Paper straws 1
-  Cups 1
-  Timer 1

HOST: "Hello, hello! Welcome, everyone! This month, we're talking about sharing the love of Jesus as we 'Like and Subscribe' to the incredible things He teaches.

Show the box/bag of candy hearts.

"And whether you love candy hearts or hate them, here is one way you can share a little love.

Pick out a few candy hearts and read them. The following is an example of what you could find!

"Candy hearts! Let's see ... (*read a few*). This one says, 'Be Mine.' And this one says, 'Miss You.' And here's one that says, 'Call Me.' Today, we're gonna play a game to share the love with some of these hearts. Do any of you know what a 'Minute to Win It' game is? If you do, raise your hand. (*Acknowledge the raised hands.*) A 'Minute to Win It' game is just a super-fun game that you have to play in just sixty seconds. And they all get a big 'like' (*give a thumbs-up*) in my book.

"Our minute-to-win-it game today is a special Valentine's challenge. I need [number] volunteers (*based on how many you decide*) who want to collect candy hearts! If you'd like to do that, raise your hand!

Select your volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and bring them up on stage. Encourage them to stand behind the table. Place a cup on the table in front of each volunteer.

Slide: Valentine Challenge Title

"Your job is simple. You have one minute to collect as many of these candy hearts as possible in your cup.

Pour out candy hearts evenly across the table(s).

"BUT!—you can't touch these hearts with your hands! Instead, each one of you will get a paper straw!

Give each volunteer a paper straw.

"You must use this straw to suction up each heart, move it to the cup in front of you, and then drop it in—like this.

12 min

Worship

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Demonstrate sucking on the straw to suction a heart. Then drop it into your hand.

"Simple? Yes. Easy? Well ... you're about to find out. Everyone ready? It's time to SHARE THE LOVE!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start the timer. Lead the rest of the kids in encouraging and cheering on the volunteers. Offer help if it's needed.

When the minute is up, say ...

"Time's up, straws down! Let's count up those hearts and find out who our winner is!

Help count up the hearts in each volunteer's cup. Announce the winner.

"Let's give a big round of applause for all of our volunteers."

Send volunteers back to their seats.

"You guys are awesome at sharing the love!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

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WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to be with you today as we talk about sharing the love of Jesus. It's a love so big that there is no way we can contain it all. We've got to pass it on! Let's worship together."

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Great job, everyone! When we share the love of Jesus, it's like we're shining a bright light in a dark world. Let's sing together.

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse**What You Need**

No supplies needed

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to be with you today as we talk about sharing the love of Jesus. It's a love so big that there is no way we can contain it all. We've got to pass it on! Let's worship together."

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"Great job, everyone! When we share the love of Jesus, it's like we're shining a bright light in a dark world. Let's sing one more song together."

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

"When we share the light and love of Jesus with the people around us, we're doing just what Jesus told us to do in this month's Memory Verse. These are words of Jesus! I'll read it, and you can repeat after me!"

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 NIV.

"Now, repeat after me!"

WORSHIP LEADER: *"I give you a new command."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"I give you a new command."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Love one another."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Love one another."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another,"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another,"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

"Well done!"

1 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

36 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Table 1
-  16 very large, cardstock or posterboard 16 hearts

"When we love one another like Jesus loves us, we're making the world look more like God's Kingdom! Great job!"

STORYTELLER: "I'm so excited! We're going to spend some time together getting to know God better! Welcome, everyone!"

"Today we're continuing our series: 'Like and Subscribe!' When you find something online that you think is awesome and you just want to share it, you 'like' it and you 'subscribe' so you don't miss a single episode. This month, we're learning about God's great love—you want to tune in to that and share it with others too! This week, we're going to learn what Jesus said are the most important things!

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year! We're going through the Bible cover-to-cover!"

"Why? Well, God gave us the Bible so we can get to know Him. So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we'll learn about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. On either side of Storyteller, place a stack of very large cardstock or posterboard conversation hearts with

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "Today we're continuing our journey through the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus Himself is on earth. Jesus came to earth to teach us about God, and today He's going to tell us the two most important things in the entire Bible!

"Since we've been sharing the love today, I need a couple of volunteers to help me tell the story ... using more conversation hearts! Who would like to help? If you'd like to help, raise your hand!"

phrases written on them in large, readable letters (these should look like conversation hearts!)

Make sure the hearts are ordered with the first heart (heart #1) face up on the top of one stack, the second heart (heart #2) face up on the other stack, and so on, alternating between the two stacks. Which hearts go in which stack (and in what order) are listed below—it's based on odd and even numbers.

- 1 Trick questions!
- 2 Put God first!
- 3 Don't worship false gods.
- 4 Honor God's name in everything you do.
- 5 Honor God by resting on the seventh day.
- 6 Honor your parents.
- 7 Don't murder.
- 8 Be faithful to your spouse.
- 9 Don't steal.
- 10 Don't lie.
- 11 Don't envy what others have.
- 12 613 Laws
- 13 Love God.
- 14 Love others.
- 15 Heart and soul
- 16 Mind

5 min

GOD'S LAWS

What You Need

No supplies needed

Choose two kids from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to come up and stand on either side of you, each one in front of a stack of hearts.

"Great. These hearts have messages on them—just like conversation hearts do! Now, when I point to you, I want you to pick up the top heart on your stack and hold it up high so we can all see what it says. (*Point to the first volunteer.*)

"I'll cue you first to hold up the top heart in your stack with the words facing out so we can all see them. (*Point to the second volunteer.*) And then you will do the same thing second. We'll go back and forth.

(*To audience*) "Now, when one of our volunteers holds up a heart, I want everyone to shout it together if you can read it. We'll all go through the conversation hearts together!

"Everyone ready? Great! Let's get started on our true story from the Bible!"

"Near the end of Jesus' time on earth, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The religious leaders were on high alert. They were afraid that Jesus was changing the way they had always done things, and they were looking for a reason, any reason, to get rid of Him.

"So the religious leaders plotted to ask Jesus ... what?

Cue the first volunteer to hold up the first heart in their stack (heart #1). Their heart reads "Trick questions." Lead the audience to say: "Trick questions."

"Trick questions! The religious leaders were being sneaky! They figured that no matter how Jesus answered, people would be mad. But time after time, Jesus turned the questions back on the religious leaders or gave a wise and unexpected answer. At last, the leaders came up with a question they were *sure* would trap Jesus.

"A law expert approached Jesus and said:

Open the Bible and read Matthew 22:36.

"Teacher ... which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

"Simple question, right? Well, not so much. See, the Jewish people followed a *lot* of rules and commandments—going all the way back to when God led His people out of slavery in Egypt.

"In the wilderness, God met with their leader, Moses, on Mount Sinai. God gave Moses important laws and instructions to help the people follow God and live the best life. We know these as the Ten

Commandments. Let's take a quick look at them. (*To volunteers*) We're gonna do this super-fast, so be ready!

Cue the second volunteer to hold up the next heart (heart #2). Lead the audience to read the heart. Then cue the first volunteer to do the next one (heart #3). Lead the audience to read the heart. Continue until all ten hearts are read. This should move quickly since the Ten Commandments are not the main focus of the lesson. Encourage the kids to read along with you.

"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.

"Whew! Those are all good things, right? But there weren't just ten laws. In fact, there were ...

Cue volunteer to hold up the next heart: "613 Laws"

"613 laws! That's a LOT of rules to follow.

"And then, over time, the religious leaders got worried that people might mess up and break those laws too, so they added even *more* rules around those laws to make sure people didn't get anywhere close to breaking God's laws.

"Whew. Following all those laws and rules sounds kind of impossible, right? In fact, most ordinary people couldn't even try to keep them all. It was a full-time job!

STORYTELLER: "But, back to the question from our law expert:

Open the Bible and read Matthew 22:36.

"Teacher ... which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

5 min

JESUS' ANSWERS

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

"See how tricky that is? 613 laws, plus a bunch of additional rules. If Jesus picked one, He'd upset all the people who thought a different law was the most important. But Jesus wasn't stumped. He replied—

Open the Bible and read Matthew 22:37-40.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."

"Wow. Do you hear what Jesus just did? He took all those laws and rules, and simplified them down to two.

Cue both volunteers to hold up "Love God" and "Love others."

"[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others!"

"Let's say what's on these hearts, since Jesus told us that they are the most important of all.

"Let me say them, and then you can repeat them after me!"

"Love God!"

KIDS: "Love God!"

STORYTELLER: "Love others!"

KIDS: "Love others!"

STORYTELLER: "Awesome! Let's do it again!"

"Love God!"

KIDS: "Love God!"

STORYTELLER: "Love others!"

KIDS: "Love others!"

STORYTELLER: "Woohoo! Great job! You just summed up all of the laws in the Bible!"

STORYTELLER: "The very most important thing for anyone ever is to *love God*. In fact, the first four of the Ten Commandments point to this!

"Put God first!

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Don't worship false gods.

"Honor God's name in everything you do.

"Honor God by resting on the seventh day.

"We love God because He loved us first, and as we learn more and more about God, we grow to love Him even more.

"One of the main ways that we show our love for God is to obey Him and be like Him, by *loving others*. That's what the last six of the Ten Commandments point to.

"Honor your parents.

"Don't murder.

"Be faithful to your spouse.

"Don't steal.

"Don't lie.

"Don't envy what others have.

"Jesus didn't say to get rid of any of these other laws. He said that if we simply focus on loving God and showing God's love to people, then we'll end up keeping all those other laws too.

"So that's my job. That's your job. Love God with everything in your—

Cue the last two hearts. "Heart and soul." "Mind."

"Heart and soul ... and mind! Study and learn about who God is and what He is like. Invite Jesus into your emotions—the good ones and the hard ones. Ask God's Holy Spirit to lead you and help you experience the depth of God's love for you.

"And when you stay connected to God, then you can pour out God's love to the people around you.

"Volunteers, thank you so much for your help today—learning about the most important things! You can return to your seats. Let's give them some applause for their help today!

Lead the applause as the volunteers return to their seats.

STORYTELLER: "Not only did Jesus silence the religious leaders who were trying to trick Him, but Jesus gave us a way to keep all of God's laws by remembering two simple things.

3 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

**GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER
(OPTIONAL)****What You Need**

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

**WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE
STORY?**

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Love God. Love others. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: *[Bottom Line]* "Love God. Love others."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!"

"This week, Jesus Himself taught us what the most important things are. And He would know, since He is God! God wants us to know what's right and true, so He sent Jesus to earth to come and tell us. We don't have to wonder what the most important things are because God told us! Then, not only did Jesus tell us the most important commandments to keep—the ones that sum up all of the other laws—He kept every single law. It's like Jesus said: 'When you mess up, know that I've done it all for you! You don't have to lose heart!' Jesus lived an absolutely perfect life, following all of those laws, and then He gave up His life as the perfect sacrifice. He paid for our sins. He broke that awful curse. He loves us so, so much that He rescued us all!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"This week Jesus taught us what the greatest commandments are!"

HOST: "So what's our part in this story? I think you know it already!"
[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.

"One of the most important ways you can love God is by deepening your friendship with Him! That's why He made you, to be His close friend!"

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER**What You Need**

No supplies needed

When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. And He goes through every moment of your life with you. That means you can also love God by talking with Him about every little thing in your life, and listening to Him, just like you would a friend.

"Another way you can love God is by getting to know Him through His Word, the Bible. As you love God, He will fill your heart up with His love, and you'll want to pour out love just like He does.

"There are *so many* ways that we can show love to others! Ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you and open your eyes to people who might need God's love throughout your day, like a lonely kid who needs someone to play with at recess. You can offer words of encouragement and remind someone that God loves them. You can lend a helping hand or just sit with a friend who is sad and listen. And you can even be kind to someone who has been rude to you.

"Love God. Love others. It's not always easy, but God is always, always with you to help you do it."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to God right now! Bow your heads and close your eyes.

"Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to show how much You love us. Thank You that Jesus makes it clear that we can follow all Your laws by loving You and loving others. Help us listen to Your Holy Spirit this week so that we can learn how to love You and how to show love to others. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Table	1
2. Bag of candy hearts	1
3. Paper straws	1
4. Cups	1
5. Timer	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Table	1
3. 16 very large, cardstock or posterboard hearts	16

WEEK

THREE

K-3 | W3

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Like It or Not (K-1st grade), Unbox the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)

Application Activity: Change for the Better Hanger (K-1st grade),

Respond with Love (2nd-3rd grade),

Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Voice the Verse (K-1st grade), Draw the Verse (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)

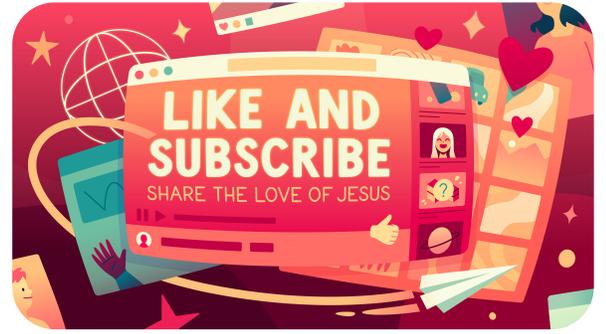
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Zacchaeus • *Luke 19:1-10*

Bottom Line

The love of Jesus changes people.

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

10 min

Social

5 min

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

 Offering Container	1
 Heart-shaped cutouts or heart-shaped sticky notes	Several

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Scatter the hearts all over the floor of your group area.
- Tell the kids the "Floor is Lava," but the hearts are safe stepping stones.
- Challenge the kids to move from one side of the room to the other by only stepping on the hearts.
- Play a few rounds. For an extra challenge, take away a few hearts each round, so the kids have to work together to help friends get across.

What You Say:

"Great job staying on the hearts! You had to focus on the safe spots to get across. The hearts are a great reminder of love. [Transition] Today in our true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about a man whose life was totally changed by Jesus' love! Let's go hear about it!"

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

 Offering Container	1
 "Tic Tac Love" Activity Page	1

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Pair the kids up.
- Give each pair a "Tic Tac Love" board and game pieces.
- Show them how to play Tic-Tac-Toe. One person will be "Jesus" and the other will be "Hearts."
- Invite them to play several rounds against each other.
- Encourage them to cheer for each other, even if they lose a round.

What You Say:

"Tic-Tac-Toe is such a fun game! It's great to play with friends.-
[Transition] In our true story from the Bible today, we're going to hear about a man named Zacchaeus who didn't have many friends because he was a dishonest tax collector. But one day, he met Jesus, who saw him, and it changed everything! Let's go find out what happened."

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Hi there, friends. I LOVE that I get to hang out with all of you here today as we continue to talk about ways to share the love of Jesus. Our series is 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 it's so amazing that you so want to share it!

"So before we hear an amazing true story from the Bible about the love of Jesus, I thought we should play a little game called 'Like or Dislike!'

SLIDE: Like or Dislike Challenge Title

"Okay, everyone, warm up your thumbs. (*Wiggle your thumbs.*)

"Are you ready? Okay, let's go! In a few moments, I'm going to call out the name of something. If you like that thing, give me a thumbs up, raised high. (*Do a thumbs up.*) YAY! But if you do not like that thing, I want to see a thumbs DOWN. (*Do a thumbs down.*) BOOOO. Let's try one to practice!

"Watching football. Like or dislike?"

Encourage kids to give a thumbs up or thumbs down. Comment on the split.

"Everyone, have your thumbs at the ready? Let's go!"

Work through the following list—or add your own, based on the likes and dislikes of the kids in your ministry. Feel free to include current trends, sports rivalries, etc. Comment on the responses as you go.

- Radishes
- LEGOs®
- The color orange
- Salt on watermelon
- Cleaning your room
- Camping
- Snakes
- Homework
- Chewing gum

- Gum on your shoe
- Waking up early
- Road trips
- Thunderstorms
- Dark chocolate
- Your birthday

"Great job, everyone! You can give your thumbs a rest now. It was so much fun to see all the things that you like ... and dislike!"

11 min

Worship

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to be here with you this morning. I love worshiping God and singing together because the love of Jesus is so awesome and we need it!"

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Well done! It's so great to worship right here in this space. But it's just as important to go out and worship God with the way that we live it out all week. Let's sing some more.

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to be here with you this morning. I love worshiping God and singing together because the love of Jesus is so awesome and we can't contain it!"

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"Well done! It's so great to worship right here in this space. But it's just as important to go out and worship God with the way that we live it out all week. Let's sing one more song.

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Great job. Jesus taught us exactly how we can live out God's love in this month's Memory Verse from John 13:34. Let me read it to you, and then you can repeat after me!

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 NIV.

"Now, repeat after me!"

"I give you a new command."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"I give you a new command."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Love one another."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Love one another"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"You must love one another"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"just as I have loved you."*

WORSHIP LEADER: "John 13:34!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "John 13:34!"

"I think you've got it. God wants us to show love to every single person, just like Jesus did."

Kids

252 Kids And Preteen

February - Week 3

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

33 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure a table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Place a pair of sneakers and a bag of coins on the table, along with an index card with the line for the volunteer playing Jesus. Set a kids' size table on one side of the stage. Place festive fake food on the table. Place the fake plant near center stage. If you use chairs in your seating area, create a "path" up the middle for the kid actor playing Jesus to walk through.

STORYTELLER: "Yay! You guys! I'm so excited that we're together today learning about God!"

"This month, we're continuing our series called 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus,' because when you see something awesome online, you totally like it and subscribe to it, and you share it with your friends and family because it's so awesome!"

"This month we're talking about the love of God! That's for sure something you don't want to miss a bit of, and you totally want to share!"

"This week, we're looking at something that happened to Jesus while He was on earth."

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible this week, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover."

"Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we'll learn about God."

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!"

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too."

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "At the end of three years of ministry, Jesus knew it was time to go once more to Jerusalem. And He knew that this time, He would give up His life for the sake of His followers, and even His enemies. But on his way there, Jesus passed through the town of Jericho.

"Now, we need some volunteers to help tell this story! I need someone to play Jesus, and someone to play a guy we're about to meet, whose name is Zacchaeus. Raise your hand if you want to do some acting!

From the kids who have their hands raised, choose an older boy to be Jesus and another boy to be Zacchaeus. Invite both kids to the stage with you. Give the card with the line to the Jesus volunteer.

(To the boy playing Jesus, who is holding his card) Okay, you're going to be Jesus today! And you have a very special line to read on that card. Now I need you to go all the way to the back of the room (gesture to back of room, behind the audience), and when I cue you, you'll travel up the middle all the way to Jericho on the stage.

(To the other boy volunteer) "Now you are going to be Zacchaeus. (To audience.) If some of you have heard this story before, you may know

5 min

ZACCHAEUS TRIES TO SEE JESUS

What You Need

No supplies needed

something important about Zacchaeus. What did he look like? (*Get a response.*) Yes! Zacchaeus was very short. So we need you to get down on your knees to walk around. Can you do that?

Help the volunteer get in position and give them the pair of shoes to "wear" on their knees.

"Oh, and you'll need these shoes too. Wow ... you really have to look up to everyone! Now we know something else about Zacchaeus too.

Hold up the bag of coins and shake it so they clink.

"Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector! Jewish tax collectors took money from their own people for the Roman government. These men paid their own salaries from that money, but some of these tax collectors, like Zacchaeus, took so much money it was very unfair. No one liked tax collectors ... especially not a chief tax collector. So, Zacchaeus, go ahead and take your money. And we need this tree right over here.

Hand over the bag of money to Zacchaeus. Set the potted plant in the middle of the stage.

"Now that we've got everything set for our story, let's get started."

STORYTELLER: "On His journey to Jerusalem, Jesus and His friends approached the city of Jericho. Along the road, Jesus gave sight to a blind man, and the crowd went wild. News of Jesus' coming spread rapidly through the streets.

"Word even reached Zacchaeus, who had heard about Jesus, and maybe even that Jesus was kind to tax collectors. Zacchaeus was curious enough to make his way through the crowds until he discovered a problem. (*to audience, gesture*) Okay, I need all of you to stand up tall and cheer for Jesus! And Jesus, you can start walking very slowly up through the crowd. Yay for Jesus!

Pause as the kids cheer for Jesus until the actor playing Jesus makes his way to the stage. Quiet the crowd, then continue.

"But just look at this. Zacchaeus was so short that he could not see Jesus through the crowd! So Zacchaeus ran ahead and found a sycamore-fig tree near the road. (*to Zacchaeus*) Okay, scootch your way over to our plant-slash-fig-tree as fast as you can!

Zacchaeus scoots over to stand "in" the plant.

"Zacchaeus scrambled up the scaly branches until he had a prime box seat with a perfect view of the action!

5 min

JESUS INVITES ZACCHAEUS TO DINNER

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

ZACCHAEUS' CHANGE OF HEART

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER (to volunteer): "Okay, Jesus. Keep walking over here toward the tree. Pretty soon, Zacchaeus could see Jesus walking toward him. Zacchaeus leaned forward, hoping to get a good look. As Jesus drew closer, though, He looked up, directly at Zacchaeus, with deep love in His eyes.

Gesture for the kid actor playing Jesus to stand right in front of Zacchaeus.

"Okay, Jesus, go ahead and read your line!"

VOLUNTEER: "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today."

STORYTELLER: "Wow! Jesus wanted to come and stay with Zacchaeus! We don't know what went through Zacchaeus' mind. Maybe he thought of all the people he had wronged. Of the way he had been so focused on gaining more and more money. Of how most people hated him.

"But something about Jesus ... something in His face ... swept it all away. Zacchaeus knew in that instant that Jesus loved him, no matter what he'd done.

"With joy, Zacchaeus came down from the tree. Okay, Zacchaeus. Scoot out of that tree and lead Jesus over there.

Gesture for Zacchaeus to lead Jesus over to the table.

"Then Zacchaeus led Jesus to his home. He probably threw a ginormous feast!

STORYTELLER: "Not everyone was happy about it, though.

Open the Bible to Luke 19:7-8 (NirV) and read.

All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

"Okay, Zacchaeus, pour all that money out on the table to show how you're giving it all away!

Encourage the kid playing Zacchaeus to spill out all the coins.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Open the Bible to Luke 19:9-10 (NirV)

and read.

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

"Side note: 'Son of Man' is another name for Jesus, because He's God, but chose to be born as a human like us. It points back to something the prophet Daniel said about the Messiah. In a way, Jesus was saying: "That's Me! I'm the Messiah!"

"But did you see what Jesus did? Jesus didn't condemn Zacchaeus or immediately order him to pay everyone back. Jesus simply made it clear how much He loved Zacchaeus, and gave Zacchaeus an opportunity to make things right. As far as we know, Zacchaeus followed through and did it!

"All right, let's get a HUGE round of applause for our amazing volunteers. Especially for [the kid who played Zacchaeus] who might have some sore knees after this. You can go back to your seat!

Lead applause and send volunteers back to their seats.

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we read about something that happened while Jesus was on earth. God spent years and years of His Big Story paving the way for Jesus to come on earth because when Jesus came, He showed everybody what God is like because He is God. God really, really wants us to know what He is like! And when Jesus encountered Zacchaeus, a man who had done a tremendous amount wrong, Jesus welcomed him. God was saying, 'I love you no matter what you've done.' Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus. And when Jesus was going around showing everyone what God is like, He never sinned. He lived an absolutely perfect life. Jesus showed God's great love when He gave up that perfect life, paid for our sin, broke that awful curse we were under, and rescued us. The God of all showed how deep His love goes by dying to rescue us all! We are so very loved by God!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"And this week, we saw how the love of Jesus can change people ... even people like Zacchaeus!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "So what's our part in the story? Well, Jesus didn't force Zacchaeus to make big changes before coming to his house. Instead, Jesus loved Zacchaeus as he was. Jesus showed Zacchaeus unconditional love. And Zacchaeus made an incredible turnaround because he had been loved by God.

"The love of Jesus changes people! See, God's love for us is far bigger than we can ever imagine. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to give up His life for us so we could be close friends with God again.

"It's easy to forget God's amazing love. But when you receive God's love for you every day, over time, you start to change from the inside out. Knowing that you're loved changes everything! You become more peaceful and joyful. You become more secure and confident. Then it's easier to show God's love to other people, which can change them too!

"Now, showing the love of Jesus to someone doesn't guarantee that they'll change, but it does open the door.

"You can start by making a habit every morning of asking God to show you His love. Be still for a minute or two and take some deep breaths. Let yourself rest in God's love.

Read the room. If you think kids are still focused enough, try asking them to close their eyes and breathe deeply for 15-20 seconds while they rest in God's love for them.

"Don't forget that when you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of you. So you can ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's love and show you ways to love others during your day ... because it just might make room for them to change. Let's talk to the God who loves you so much."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how much You love us. Please help each of us to know and experience Your love this week, and to allow that love to change us. Help us to spread Your love to the people around us in all we do and say. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

10 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

K1 - Like It or Not | Made to Play

What You Need

 Floor tape

1

What You Do:

- Place a line of tape down the center of the room or your Small Group rug.
- Instruct all of the kids to stand on the line.
- Explain that one side of the line is the "Like" side and the other is the "Don't Like" side.
- Start by calling out some fun things and have them jump to the side that matches their opinion.
 - "Pineapple on pizza!"
 - "Doing homework!"
 - "Touching slime!"
 - "Building with LEGO®!"
- After a few fun ones, switch to reviewing the Bible Story. Say a statement about the Bible Story. If it happened in the story, instruct the kids to go to the "like" side. If it didn't happen, direct the kids to go to the "don't like" side.
 - "Zacchaeus was a very tall man." ("Don't like" side)
 - "Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus." ("Like" side)
 - "Jesus was angry with Zacchaeus." ("Don't like" side)
 - "Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house for dinner." ("Like" side)
 - "Zacchaeus decided to give back the money he had stolen." ("Like" side)

What You Say:

"You know this story so well! People did not like Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector who cheated his neighbors. Since Zacchaeus was not very tall, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus. But Jesus looked up, called him by name, and said, *'I must stay at your house today'* (Luke 19:5 NIV). Jesus showed him love no matter what he had done, and that made all the difference. It's true that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

5 min

23 – Unbox the Story | Made to Explore

What You Need

 Box for story props	1
 Tree branch (or green construction paper leaf)	1
 Coin	1
 Bag of coins	1
 Food item (plastic or real)	1
 Foam heart	1
 Sad face	1
 Small Jesus figure	1
 EveryChild Supplies: Pictures of the story images	1



EveryChild Tips

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- This is a highly sensory activity. Allow kids to safely touch and hold each item as it's unboxed. Allow them to look at the item before touching.
- Use simple, clear pictures of the items for non-verbal children to point to as you talk about each part of the story.

What You Do:

- Place the box in the middle of your group.
- Explain that you're going to "unbox" the story of Zacchaeus, just like in an unboxing video.
- Let kids take turns pulling one item out of the box.
- As each item is revealed, ask the kids how it connects to the story by asking the corresponding question.
 - Tree branch: "What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?"
 - Coin: "What was Zacchaeus's job? What did he do that was unfair?"
 - Sad face: "How did people feel about Zacchaeus?"
 - Jesus figure: "Who came to town that day?"
 - Heart: "Who loved Zacchaeus when no one else did?"
 - Happy face: "How did Zacchaeus feel after Jesus showed him love?"
 - Food item: "What did Jesus do at Zacchaeus's house?"
 - Bag of coins: "What did Jesus do after Zacchaeus was changed by Jesus' love?"

What You Say:

"You unboxed the whole story! Zacchaeus was not a very liked person, but Jesus saw him and loved him anyway. Jesus looked up into the sycamore-fig tree and called him out, saying, 'Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.' (Luke 19:5 NIV). It changed Zacchaeus! He decided to give back the money he had taken and be generous. That's because **[Bottom Line]** the love of Jesus can change things for the better."

10 min

Application Activity

5 min

K1 - Change for the Better Hanger | Made to Create

What You Need

 "Change for the Better Hanger" Activity Page 1

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Change for the Better Hanger" Activity Page.
- Let them decorate it with the coloring supplies.
- As they color, talk about how Zacchaeus's life was changed. Ask: "How can you show Jesus' love to others when you are at home or on the go with your family?"
- Help them cut out the hanger and the circle at the top.
- Read the verse on the hanger together.

What You Say:

"These look so great! You can hang this on a door to help everyone remember to share the love of Jesus. Zacchaeus's life was changed so much by Jesus' love that he wanted to make things right. He promised to give half of what he owned to the poor and to pay back four times the amount to anyone he had cheated! He learned that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

5 min

23 – Respond with Love | Made to Imagine

What You Need

 "Respond with Love" Activity Pages 0

What You Do:

- Read one of the scenario cards aloud.
- Ask the group, "What would you normally want to do in that situation?" (e.g., get mad, say something mean back)
- Then ask: "How can you respond with the love of Jesus instead?"
- Brainstorm kind and loving responses together.
- Continue with each of the scenarios

What You Say:

"It's not always easy to choose love, is it? But when we remember how Jesus loved Zacchaeus—even when he had done wrong things—it helps us. Even when everyone was whispering that Jesus had gone to be the 'guest of a sinner,' Jesus chose love. We can ask Jesus to help us show love to others too. Zacchaeus's response of generosity and making things right shows that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

10 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Voice the Verse | Made to Imagine

What You Need

 Bibles marked at John 13:34 Several

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.
- Tell the kids you're going to practice the Memory Verse in lots of fun ways.
- Read the verse together in a normal voice first: "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." John 13:34
- Then, challenge the kids to say the verse in different voices.
 - "Now, let's sing it like opera singers!" (Use big, booming voices.)
 - "Now, let's shout it like a coach!" (Cup hands around mouth and shout.)
 - "Now, let's say it like robots!" (Use a monotone, choppy voice.)
 - "Now, let's whisper it like it's a secret!"
- Let kids suggest other silly voices to try and try saying the verse in them!

What You Say:

"That was so fun! No matter how we say it, the message is the same: Jesus commands us to love. Jesus told the crowd that He, the Son of Man, the Messiah, came to look for the lost and save them. Zacchaeus was lost in his selfish choices, but Jesus found him! And Zacchaeus

changed! When we do what Jesus commands, we see that ***[Bottom Line]*** the love of Jesus can change things for the better."

5 min

23 – Draw the Verse | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bibles	Several
 Paper	1
 Coloring supplies	Several

What You Do:

- Give every kid 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.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and coloring supplies.
- Give each kid one part of the verse to write and then illustrate.
- Kid 1: "I give
- Kid 2: you a new command.
- Kid 3: Love
- Kid 4: one another.
- Kid 5: You must
- Kid 6: love
- Kid 7: one another,
- Kid 8: just as I
- Kid 9: have loved you."
- Kid 10: John 13:34
- If you have more than 10 kids, pair kids to work together. If you have fewer than 10 kids, give each kid more than one part to write and illustrate.
- Invite the kids to put their pieces of paper together. Read the verse together several times.

What You Say:

"Your illustrations are awesome! These pictures will help us remember the verse! Jesus' command to love one another is so important. Jesus' love for Zacchaeus changed his life. Jesus told him, 'Today salvation has come to your house' (Luke 19:9 NIV). When we follow Jesus' command, we also see that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

10 min

Prayer

5 min

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

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

What To Do:

- Instruct the kids to form a circle. Give each kid a candy heart, and put the Prayer Jar in the middle of the circle.
- Encourage the kids to think of one person who might be younger than them that they can pray for. It could be a baby brother or sister, a cousin, or a neighbor.
- Go around the circle, and as each kid names their person, let them add a heart to the jar.
- Ask for a volunteer to pray for some of those names.
- Store the Prayer Jar in a safe place to use again next week

What To Say:

"Our prayer jar is filling up with so much love! Let's pray for all the younger people we named and ask God to help us show them His love.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for the story of Zacchaeus that shows us Your love can change anyone. Please be with the people we prayed for today. Help us to be like Jesus and show them Your love, because we know Your love can make everything better. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen."

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

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

What To Do:

- Ask the kids to think of one thing they would like to see Jesus change in their hearts for the better. It could be their bad attitude when it comes to doing math, how they're jealous of their little brother, or how they're tempted to lie in a situation because it seems easier.
- Invite them to think of that one thing and talk to Jesus silently and pray, "Dear Jesus, please change my heart in this area. I need Your help to make it better."
- When the kids are done praying silently, give them each a candy heart and encourage them to put it in the prayer jar.
- Explain that sometimes we are the ones who need to be prayed for. Sometimes it's our hearts that need to be changed for the better, and God loves to help us do that!
- Close in a group prayer.
- Store the Prayer Jar in a safe place to use again next week.

What You Say:

"Thank you for sharing your hearts with Jesus. He loves you, and He is powerful enough to help with every single one of these things. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for the story of Zacchaeus. It reminds us that Your love is so powerful. Please help us with the areas we talked to You about. We know that You can make things better. Help us to share Your love with others this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Offering Container	1
2. Heart-shaped cutouts or heart-shaped sticky notes	Several

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering Container	1
2. "Tic Tac Love" Activity Page	1

K1 - Like It or Not | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Floor tape	1

23 - Unbox the Story | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Box for story props	1
2. Tree branch (or green construction paper leaf)	1
3. Coin	1
4. Bag of coins	1
5. Food item (plastic or real)	1
6. Foam heart	1
7. Sad face	1
8. Small Jesus figure	1
9. EveryChild Supplies: Pictures of the story images	1

23 - Respond with Love | Made to Imagine

	Quantity
1. "Respond with Love" Activity Pages	0

K1 - Voice the Verse | Made to Imagine

	Quantity
1. Bibles marked at John 13:34	Several

23 - Draw the Verse | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	Several
2. Paper	1
3. Coloring supplies	Several

K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Prayer jar from Week 1	1
2. Bag of candy hearts from Week 1	1

23 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Prayer jar from Week 1	1
2. Bag of candy hearts from Week 1	1

K1 - Change for the Better Hanger | Made to Create

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | "Change for the Better Hanger"
Activity Page | 1 |
|----|---|---|

WEEK

FOUR

K-3 | W4

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity

Bible Story Review

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and a Suffering Woman • Mark 5:21-43

Bottom Line

Jesus shows love to people in need.

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

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

-  Bandanas, fabric strips, or elastic Several bands
-  Floor tape 1

HOST: "Hi, everyone! I'm so happy to be with you today. It's the final week of our series 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus!'

"This series is called 'Like and Subscribe,' 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!

"While Jesus showed love to every single person, He showed extra care and compassion for those who were sick and hurting ... the people who needed Him most! To be honest, we all need a helping hand sometimes. Or, like in today's game, a helping LEG! I need [number of] helpers (*based on how many volunteers you decide*) who would like to help us play.

"If you'd like to volunteer for our game, raise your hand!

Choose as many volunteers as you have space for—either across the stage, up an aisle, or even around the room. Divide them into teams of two, trying to match height.

SLIDE: Three-Legged Race Title

"Okay! Our game today is a viral sensation that's been sweeping the nation ... since the late 1800s. Yup, about 150 years ago, the three-legged race was actually a serious, competitive sport with world records!

"We're going to be tying each team together, using these bandanas. (Show bandanas or fabric strips.) When everyone is ready, the teams will start right here (point out start line) and run as fast as they can all the way to the finish line! (Point out the race course and finish line or indicate if they are circling around to return to the start line.) Now let's turn you all from two-legged creatures into three-legged creatures!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Depending on how many kids are playing, you may wish to recruit small group leaders or other adult volunteers to help tie up the teams as quickly as possible. Once the teams are attached, direct them to the start line.

11 min

Worship

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Remember, you simply can't win this one on your own. You all need help in a big way! You have to work together with your teammate. So, on your marks ... get set ... GO!

Cheer and encourage the racers along the route. When the race is over, announce the winning team.

"And we have a winner. Two winners! You both needed help in a big way. And you both came through for each other. Let's have a big round of applause for all of our brave three-legged volunteers."

Lead applause and send volunteers back to their seats.

"In our true story from the Bible today, we're going to see how Jesus helped a couple of people who needed it!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! It's great to see you here today! I'm so excited to worship God together that I can hardly contain it. So on your feet, and let's sing!

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Great job. When we know and experience God's deep, deep love for us, it changes everything. Let's sing together.

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! It's great to see you here today! I'm so excited to worship God together that I can hardly contain it. So, on your feet, and let's sing!

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"Great job. When we know and experience God's deep, deep love for us, it changes everything. Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

"You did such a great job singing and shining! Let's take a minute to remember the verse we've been learning all month long. These are words that Jesus Himself spoke. He gave an amazing command—something that would show the world what His love looks like.

"This month's Memory Verse is *John 13:34*! I'll read it, and then we can 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 WORSHIP LEADER: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." —John 13:34"*

"That verse reminds us of something really important. Jesus didn't just tell people He loved them. He showed love by helping others, forgiving, and giving His life for us. When we love others the same way, we're showing people what Jesus is like. That's what it means to follow Him. So remember, this week you can love others by stopping to help, by being kind, or by including someone who feels left out. That's how you can share the love of Jesus every single day!"

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Place the "That's Good!" and "That's Sad!" signs on the table.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "You guys! I'm so excited to spend the next little while learning about God with you! I can't think of anything I'd rather do!"

"For this month, we've been talking about our theme of 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of God.' Because when you find something awesome online, you 'like' it and you 'subscribe' to it because you don't want to miss a second of it! And you share it with your friends and family so they can experience the awesomeness too!"

"This month we've been talking about the great, great love of God, and you definitely don't want to miss a second of that either! This week, we're going to look at how Jesus stopped what He was doing—and what the Savior is doing is always important—to help some people who were in need. Jesus is so loving and kind and good."

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year! We're going through the Bible cover-to-cover!"

"Why? Well, God gave us the Bible so we can get to know Him. So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we'll learn about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!"

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too."

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "We're continuing right along through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on earth, teaching us about God. Let's see what happened when Jesus encountered two people who really needed His help.

"People everywhere heard about the amazing things Jesus was doing. He healed people who were sick or couldn't walk, or had skin diseases. He had power over evil spirits. He even calmed a wild storm!

"Today's story takes us to some pretty hard emotions and some pretty amazing ones. So I need all of you to help me out with marking the highs and lows. But first, I need a couple of special sign holders. If you would like to help, raise your hand!

Choose two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, and instruct them to stand on either side of you. Hold up the two signs.

"Now, this sign says, 'That's good!' (*Show "That's good!" sign.*) So every time you see this sign, I want you to punch your fists in the air and shout 'That's good!' But this sign (*show "That's sad!" sign*) says 'That's sad!'

5 min

JARIUS MAKES A REQUEST

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

THE SUFFERING WOMAN

So when you see this sign, I want you to make a sad, droopy face and say, 'That's sad!'

Hand each volunteer a sign.

"Okay, you've got 'That's good!' And you have 'That's sad!' Start by holding your signs down. But when I cue you, raise your sign high, and we'll all shout it out. Let's practice.

Point to Volunteer 1, who raises sign.

(Cheer and smile.) "'That's good!' Okay, you can put it down as soon as we say it.

Point to Volunteer 2, who raises sign.

(Make a sad face.) "'That's sad!' Now you can put your sign down until I point to you. Everyone ready?

STORYTELLER: "One day, when Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee with His friends, a huge crowd showed up to meet the boat. One of them was a man named Jairus, an important leader of the synagogue, where Jewish people worshiped God. When Jairus saw Jesus, he fell down at Jesus' feet.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:23 (NirV) and read.

He begged Jesus, "Please come. My little daughter is dying."

Cue Volunteer 2, who raises sign.

"'That's sad!' So very sad. But Jairus wasn't finished. He said—

Continue reading. Open the Bible to Mark 5:23 (NirV) and read.

"Place your hands on her to heal her. Then she will live."

"Now, we don't know what Jesus had planned for the day, but He set it aside and went with Jairus.

Cue Volunteer 1, who raises sign.

"'That's good!' Yay! Jesus started off ... and so did the entire crowd! They were all jostling and packing in close to Jesus to see what He would do."

STORYTELLER: "But one woman in the crowd wanted something more. This woman had been sick for a long time with an illness that made her bleed.

Cue Volunteer 2, who raises sign.

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JARIUS'S DAUGHTER

“That’s sad!’ Think about how awful it feels to be sick for a few days. This lady had been sick for twelve *years*! She had spent all her money on doctors, but they couldn’t help. Her sickness made her an outcast. She was weak and alone, without hope. Until Jesus showed up.

“When this woman saw Jesus coming, she pushed her way through the crowd. Reaching out, the woman touched the back of Jesus’ clothing.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:28-29 (NirV) and read.

She thought, “I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed.” Right away her bleeding stopped. She felt in her body that her suffering was over.

Cue Volunteer 1, who raises sign.

“That’s good!’It’s absolutely amazing! This woman may have planned to slip away, but ...

Open the Bible to Mark 5:30-31 (NirV) and read.

At once Jesus knew that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd. He asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

“You see the people,” his disciples answered. “They are crowding against you. And you still ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

“But Jesus knew someone had been healed. He wanted to look in their eyes and speak with them.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:33-34 (NirV) and read.

Then the woman came and fell at his feet. She knew what had happened to her. She was shaking with fear. But she told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Dear woman, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are free from your suffering.”

Cue Volunteer 1, who raises sign.

“That’s good!’

“It was incredible. Jesus completely healed this woman—in an instant! After being sick and alone for so long, she had a whole new chance at life!”

STORYTELLER: “But remember? Jesus was actually on His way to Jairus’s house, where a girl was dying.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:35 (NirV) and read.

What You Need

No supplies needed

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus. He was the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Cue Volunteer 2, who raises sign.

"That's sad!" These people had no hope. They didn't believe that Jesus was powerful enough to help.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:36 (NirV) and read.

Jesus heard what they were saying. He told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

"When Jesus arrived at Jairus's home, things were chaotic. It was tradition for mourners to come and loudly grieve when someone died.

Cue Volunteer 2, who raises sign.

"That's sad!" People were already crying and wailing. But Jesus did not let that stop Him.

Open the Bible to Mark 5:39 (NirV) and read.

He went inside. Then he said to them, "Why all this confusion and sobbing? The child is not dead. She is only sleeping."

"But the mourners just laughed at Him! Jesus sent them outside. Only the girl's parents and three of Jesus' closest friends stayed with Him as they went into the room where the twelve-year-old girl lay. Jesus looked down at her and then, gently—

Open the Bible to Mark 5:41 (NirV) and read.

He took her by the hand. Then he said to her, "Talitha koum!" This means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"

"... And she did!

Cue Volunteer 1, who raises sign.

"That's good!" Double good. Triple good. A million good!

"Right away, the girl got up and took a few steps. Everyone was amazed. Speechless. Dead people do not just get up and walk, right?! You can imagine the incredible reunion with Jairus and his wife both hugging their daughter at once.

"Jesus told the group not to tell anyone what had happened. Then, He told the girl's parents to give her something to eat.

"Okay, let's give a big round of applause to our good/sad sign leaders! You all did great!

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

**GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER
(OPTIONAL)****What You Need**

No supplies needed

Lead applause and send the volunteers back to their seats

STORYTELLER: "The girl had not only been raised to life again, but she was completely well! No matter how important Jesus' plans were, He always had time to stop and show God's love by helping someone in need.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Jesus shows love to people in need. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus shows love to people in need."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we looked at two interactions Jesus had with people who needed His help. If we zoom out to look at God's Big Story, God spent so much time in His Big Story preparing for Jesus to be on earth. (*Gesture to timeline.*) It was so important for Jesus to come. One of the reasons it was so important for Jesus to come is that Jesus shows us exactly who God is because He is God. So when Jesus went throughout our broken world, again and again, He fixed what was broken—like He did in our story today. And then, after years of fixing what was broken, Jesus died on a cross, and when He did, He fixed our biggest brokenness: the sin that was keeping us all from being God's close friends. God is in the business of fixing brokenness. While He was on earth, Jesus fixed broken bodies and broken lives. And then, on the cross, God declared loud and clear: 'I'm fixing something else that's broken too.' Our God loves us so, so much!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"This week we learned how Jesus always had time to stop and show compassion to people in need, like the suffering woman and Jairus's daughter."

HOST: "So what's our part in the story? Well, Jesus was on the most important mission ever: to give up His life to save the whole world, so we can be close to God! But that didn't stop Jesus from pausing in His day to show God's love to specific people who needed His help.

"And *all* of us need His help. Whether you're really sick and need healing or a little sad and need encouragement, Jesus is with you, and He will help you through it. You can choose to be still and breathe and ask Jesus to show you His love. And when you've spent time with Jesus and experienced His love, you can pass it on to the people around you who are in need.

"One of the best ways to show love like Jesus is to be willing to stop what you're doing to offer help—like if you're in the middle of a new level in your video game, but your little sister wants you to help her fix her block build. Or maybe you're at lunch, laughing with your friends, and you see a kid who's all alone, so you invite them over.

"Each day, ask the Holy Spirit to show you the needs of the people around you ... and how to meet those needs, even if it's as simple as giving a smile.

"Don't forget: you can also pay attention to how Jesus shows love to *you* through other people who help meet your needs. Because the more you see the love of Jesus in action, the more you'll be able to share it with others in need."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to the God who loves you so much!

"Dear God, thank You for showing Your love for us by sending Jesus. Thank You that Jesus always had time to help people in need. Remind us throughout the week of ways that we can show the love of Jesus to people around us who are in need. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Bandanas, fabric strips, or elastic bands	Several
2. Floor tape	1