



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2026 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *John 3:1-21*

Conversation Starter: *Where have you seen God's love?*

Memory Verse: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." (John 13:34, NIRV)*

Bottom Line: *God loves the whole world.*

Application: *Love – Choosing to treat others the way Jesus treats us.*

Series Overview: What's the first thing you want to do when you discover a funny video or listen to a powerful podcast? Share it, of course! That's why we chose "Like and Subscribe: Share the love of Jesus" as this month's theme. We want kids to know that there's nothing more awesome they can share with others than the love and adventure of a life with Jesus.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love isn't a secret and that it's for everyone, everywhere—no exceptions. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you had to step out of your comfort zone to ask questions about faith, or a time you realized God's love extended to someone you had overlooked. Ask God to open the eyes of your preteens to see “the whole world” in their daily life—the kid who eats alone, the person in their feed they disagree with, or the friend who doesn't know Jesus. Pray that the truth of John 3:16 would move them from knowing God loves everyone to showing God's love to everyone.*
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
 - *What's something you've seen, heard, or experienced recently that stuck with you and why?*
 - *Who's someone you trust when they recommend something? What makes you trust them?*
 - *What's something good in your life right now that you wish more people knew about?*
 - *Would you rather quietly enjoy something great on your own or share it with others even if they don't all love it? Why?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*

- *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
- Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: 1/2 Heart activity page; Scissors; Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid an activity page and scissors.
- Instruct kids to fold page in half and cut in the bold line to create a heart
- Have kids open their paper hearts and decorate.
- Encourage kids to think of someone they want to make a Valentine's Day card for

What You Say:

We use hearts to talk about love all the time. But in our true story from the Bible today, Jesus talked to a man named Nicodemus about a love that is way bigger than these hearts. Jesus explained that God sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life—they will be His friend, forever. Let's go hear about it!

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

We start off as Nicodemus visits Jesus at night. While Nicodemus struggles to understand how a grown-up could be born again, Jesus challenges him to see with new eyes. John, recording this scene, interprets for us: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” [BOTTOM LINE] God loves the whole world.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask your group these questions & talk about them as a group.
 - Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night instead of during the day? What does that tell you about his curiosity or fears?
 - Jesus said we need to be “born again.” What do you think that means in your own words, and how might your life look different if you let God’s Spirit make you new?
 - John 3:16 says God loved the whole world. What are some groups of people or kinds of situations where it’s hardest for you to believe God loves equally—and why?
 - Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind—you can’t see it, but you can see what it does. Can you think of a time when you saw evidence of God’s Spirit working in you or someone else?
 - Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus, but he didn’t avoid Jesus—he went right to Him with his questions. What does this story teach you about bringing your doubts or questions to God?

PRAYER JOURNALS

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; Prayer journal activity page; Journal instruction page; Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give every kid (or several kids) a Bible. Invite them to look up John 13:34.
- Read the Memory Verse out loud several times
- Give each kid a prayer journal activity page. Set out the coloring supplies.
- Explain that this will be their personal journal to talk to God.
- Encourage kids to write their names on the front-page section of their Prayer Journal.
- Challenge the kids to spend a few minutes quietly writing or drawing pictures of people and places that remind them of the words in each section.
- Guide kids through the folding process using the Journal Instruction Page
- After a few minutes of quiet reflection, close in prayer.
- Tell kids to keep the prayer journals in a safe place to look at home.

What You Say:

“It’s incredible to stop and think about just how big God’s love is. Let’s thank Him for that love together.”

Close in prayer or invite a kid to pray!