



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

### WEEK 1- STARTER



**Activity Name:** Hearts To Give Away

**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!

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

### WEEK 1- SMALL GROUP

### Discussion Questions:

- 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?



### Bible Story

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus • *John 3:1-21*

### Conversation Starter

Where have you seen God’s love?

### 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*

## Activity Name: Prayer Journals

**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 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\*\***

God, thank You for loving the whole world. Thank you for loving me. It's the most amazing news ever. Help me not just know that You love everyone, but to show it in how I treat people this week. Help me to love others just like You have loved me. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP**