



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2026 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *The Most Important Commandment | Matthew 22:34-40*

Bottom Line: *Love God. Love others.*

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)*

Conversation Starter: *How have others shown love to you?*

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 He brings clarity to all of life’s complications by telling us to simply “Love God” and “Love others.” Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you had to make a conscious choice to love someone who was unpopular, difficult, or different, and how that act was an expression of your love for God. Ask God to help your preteens understand what it means to love Him with their whole heart—with their time, their talents, their words, and their “likes.” Pray that this love would challenge them to actively love all others, both in person and online, especially those who are overlooked or left out.*
- *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 was your favorite part of this last week?*
 - *What is something that makes you feel loved?*
 - *How do you show love to your friends and family?*
 - *How many of the ten commandments can you name?*
- *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: Chairs

What You Do:

- Arrange the chairs in a circle, facing in, with one fewer chair than there are kids.
- Instruct one kid to stand in the middle.
- Instruct the kid in the middle to ask someone who is seated, “Do you love your neighbor?”
- If the person answers, “Yes, I love my neighbor,” the two people sitting on either side of them must get up and swap seats before the person in the middle can take one of their chairs.
- If the person answers, “No,” they must follow up with, “But I love everyone who ...” and name a characteristic (e.g., is wearing blue, has a pet dog).
- Everyone in the circle who has that characteristic must get up and find a new, empty chair. The kid in the middle also tries to find a chair.
- Whoever is left without a chair is the new kid in the middle.

What You Say:

“That was a chaotic and also a fun way to talk about loving our neighbors! It gets you moving, for sure. *[Transition]* **In our Bible Story today, a law expert asked Jesus a trick question. Jesus answered in a way that involves loving our neighbor. Let’s go find out what He said!**”

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

During Week 2, we explore the Most Important Commandment. Several religious leaders try to trap Jesus with a trick question: basically, choose your top commandment so everyone can take you down for picking the wrong one. Just how many rules are we talking here? We revisit the original Ten Commandments in Exodus, as well as the additional 603 laws and the extras added around them by the religious leaders. Instead of debating, Jesus rolls them all into two simple commands. [BOTTOM LINE] Love God. Love others.

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.
 - Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does it look like to love God with all of who you are—not just your words, but your thoughts, choices, and feelings?
 - The second most important commandment says to love your neighbor as yourself. What are some ways it might actually be hard to love yourself—or hard to love others the same way? How can God help you do both?
 - Jesus simplified over 600 laws into two commands: love God and love others. Why do you think love was the foundation of everything God wanted His people to do?
 - When you think about your normal day—school, friends, family—where do you think it's easiest for you to show love, and where is it hardest? What could help you love better in the hard places?

- The story says the Holy Spirit can nudge us to notice people who need love. How can you stay aware of practical way you could respond when you sense one?

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Cardstock puzzle sets; Bottom Line puzzle set; Permanent or acrylic markers or crayon; Ziplock baggies; permanent marker

What You Do:

- Invite them to look up John 13:34 and read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Give out the pieces of Bottom Line puzzle. Work together to assemble.
- Repeat the Bottom Line together: **“Love God, Love Others.”**
- Give each kid a puzzle set and a baggie
- Instruct kids to write their names on the baggie
- Encourage kids to write the Bottom Line on the puzzle and decorate as they like.
- Kids will place the pieces of their puzzles into the baggie to take home.

What You Say:

“Great job! Jesus’ new command in our verse is the same as one of the greatest commandments from our story. He wants us to love one another, because that’s how He loves us. When we love each other, we are showing the world what God is like. We can love God by getting to know Him through His Word, the Bible. Our goal is to: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**”

Close in prayer or invite a kid to pray!