

# February Week 2



## Overview Card



**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Key Question:** How do you love God?

**Bottom Line:** Love God with all your heart.

**Memory Verse:** "Love ... God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37, Nlrv

**Bible Story:** Jesus taught us to love God.

The Greatest Commandment: Love God • *Matthew 22:34-40; Acts 9:1-30*

God Made Me

God Loves Me

Jesus Wants To  
Be My Friend Forever

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## ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

### Greatest of All



**What You Need:** Masking tape, two beanbags, white cardstock, and “Game Pictures” (from the Activity Pages on the Web site).

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Make a copy of “Game Pictures” on white cardstock. Use masking tape to make a large tic-tac-toe board on the floor. Tape one of the nine pictures from the Activity Page inside each of the squares on the tic-tac-toe board.

*During the activity:* Instruct the children to take turns tossing the two beanbags onto the board. Ask them to tell you what pictures their beanbags landed on. Ask all the children if the two pictures are important things. Why or why not? Is one more important than the other? If so, which one and why? Use this activity to introduce the idea of something being important, and in some cases, more important than something else.

**What You Say:**

*At the end of the activity:* “It seems that some things are important and other things are not important. For instance, think about cookies and candy. (*Point to the pictures.*) They taste good, but they are not important, are they? What about healthy foods, like grapes and chicken? (*Point to the pictures.*) Are they important? (*Pause.*) Our body needs healthy foods.

“What about the bat and ball? (*Point to the pictures.*) Are they important? No. They’re fun to play with, but they aren’t important. Now the coat and gloves, they are very important, especially if it’s cold outside. They keep you warm! (*Very dramatically*) Come here and listen to this. Today’s Bible story is about THE most important thing EVER! It’s about something SO important that it’s even MORE important than a coat or food or even water! Let’s hear what’s the MOST important thing EVER!”



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## Banner of Love



**What You Need:** A long piece of white or light pink art paper, glue sticks, heart stamps, glitter pens, and Valentine stickers.

**What You Do:** Lightly tape the edges of your art paper to a table so the children can work on it. Write the words “Love God” down the center of the paper and make a cloud border around the words. Encourage the children to write their names outside of the cloud border. Write the name of those who can’t do it themselves.

Next, instruct the children to make the banner of love extra special by gluing the heart cutouts all over it, adhering stickers, and drawing pictures with the glitter pens, all outside of the cloud border. When the banner of love is finished, tape it to the wall outside of the classroom where all the parents can see it.

### What You Say:

*At the start of the activity:* “Today we learned that the MOST important thing EVER is that you **[Bottom Line] love God with all your heart. How do you love God? [Bottom Line] Love God with all your heart!** That’s right! Let’s make a special love banner to show everyone that we love God.”

*Going to each child as the children work:* “**How do you love God? [Bottom Line] Love God with all your heart!**”





# February Week 2



## Heart Watercolor Page



**What You Need**—Heart cardstock pages, watercolors, little cups for water, plastic tablecloths.

**What You Do**—Have kids paint the picture with watercolors!

## Pass the Heart Game

**What You Need:** A Bible and a large heart-shaped pillow or heart cut out.

**What You Do:** Stand in a circle and pass the heart from person to person as you say the Bible verse, Matthew 22:37. The person holding the heart on the last word of the verse must repeat the verse. Continue as long as the children are interested.

You can also try playing Hot Potato with this activity, too!

**What You Say:**

*At the start of the activity: (Hold up the heart.)* “What shape is this? *(Pause.)* Yes! It’s a heart. *(Open your Bible.)* The Bible says that we should, ‘Love ... God with all your heart,’ Matthew 22:37. I want to play a game with you that will help us remember our Bible verse. All we have to do is say the words to the Bible verse . We can do that! Let’s play!”

*During the activity:* “‘Love ... God with all your heart,’ Matthew 22:37.”

*At the end of the activity:* “**How do you love God? [Bottom Line]** Love God with all your heart.” *(Repeat a few times.)*



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## Dismissal Activity



# Love You



**What You Need:** The book “Guess How Much I Love You” by Sam McBratney and some large floor pillows, carpet squares, or blankets the children can sit on for story time.

**What You Do:** Invite the children to sit with you as you read the book, “Guess How Much I Love You.”

**What You Say:**

*At the end of the activity:* “Knowing there are people who love me makes me feel really good inside. How about you? Does it make you feel good to know people love you? *(Pause.)* Sure, it does! Our Bible story today is about how we can love God. Do you think it makes God feel good to know we love Him? *(Pause.)* I think it does too!”



# February Week 2

## Jesus Taught us to Love God The Greatest Commandment Part 1 “Love God” Matthew 22:34-40, Acts 9:1-30

Hello, everyone! (*Give a big, happy wave.*) I am SO happy to see you! Do you want to hear another true story from the Bible? (*Hold up the Bible.*) If you do, wiggle your fingers way up high like this (*demonstrating*). Yay! I see your fingers wiggling! I guess I better tell you the story! You can put your hands back in your lap and get your listening ears ready.

(*Open your Bible.*) “Our story begins with our good, good friend, Jesus. That’s right! Jesus is a good friend, and He wants to be your friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?”

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** [*Basic Truth*] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Yes! Jesus wants to be your friend forever. In this story, some men walk up to Jesus and ask Him, ‘Jesus, what is the MOST important thing EVER?’

“Wow. That’s a big question. I wonder what the most important thing EVER would be. (*Pause.*) Hmm ... do you think the most important thing ever is not forgetting to wear a raincoat when it’s raining? (*Put on a fun looking raincoat and pause for children’s responses as you walk around modeling it.*)

“No? What about making sure you wear an apron when you’re cooking? (*Put a frilly apron on over the raincoat and pause for the children’s responses as you walk around modeling it.*)

“No? Hmm ... Oh! I got it! The most important thing ever is to probably make sure you wear a warm hat when it’s cold outside? (*Put on the cartoon character snow hat and pause for children’s responses as you walk around modeling it.*)

“A warm hat is important. Raincoats are important. Aprons are important, especially if you’re a messy cook. But none of these things are the MOST important thing EVER. But guess what? Jesus tells us in the Bible what the MOST important thing EVER is. He said the MOST important thing EVER is to ...

“‘Love (*hug yourself*) God (*point up with both index fingers*) with all (*stretch your arms out wide to each side*) your heart’ (*put both hands on your chest over your heart*).”

[*Bottom Line*] “Love God with all your heart! That’s it! That is the most important thing EVER. How do you love God?  
[*Bottom Line*] Love God with all your heart. That’s right! How do you love God?”

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** [*Bottom Line*] “Love God with all your heart.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Since this is the MOST important thing EVER, let’s say it one more time! How do you love God?”

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** [*Bottom Line*] “Love God with all your heart.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Great job! Now let’s say it with our motions again. That’s our memory verse for the month.”

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** “‘Love (*hug yourself*) God (*point up with both index fingers*) with all (*stretch your arms out wide to each side*) your heart’ (*put both hands on your chest over your heart*).”

**STORYTELLER:** “I’m so thankful we have Jesus to teach us what we need to know. Let’s talk to Him right now and thank Him.

“God, we know You made us to love You. Help us to love You with all our hearts. Thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus, to teach us what is right. Amen.”