

# February Week 3



## 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, NIV

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

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

God Made Me

God Loves Me

Jesus Wants To  
Be My Friend Forever

# February Week 3



## 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, NIV

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

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

God Made Me

God Loves Me

Jesus Wants To  
Be My Friend Forever

# February Week 3



## ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

### Teachers Pick



#### 1. All the People

**What You Need:** No supplies are needed.

**What You Do:** Sing the rhyme below to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” Use your hands to show the number of people as you sing.

**What You Say:**

*During the activity:* “I’m going to teach you a fun song. Ready? Here we go!”

“God loves the ...

One little, two little, three little people

Four little, five little, six little people

Seven little, eight little, nine little people

TEN little special people.”

*(Repeat as long as the children are interested.)*

*At the end of the activity:* “I like that song because it reminds me that God loves all people.

That’s right! God loves everyone! Our Bible story today is about how God wants you and me to love everyone too!”

#### 2. People Parade

**What You Need:** A basket filled with dolls, action figures, Fisher-Price® Little People®—any kind of toy people. You will also need a CD player and some fun marching music.

**What You Do:** Gather around the basket and let all the children choose one toy person to be their marching buddy. Line up with your toy people and have a people parade as you march around the room to the music. After you have marched one way, stop, turn around, and march the other way. You may even want to choose a different marching buddy and do it again! Continue with your people parade as long as the children are interested.

**What You Say:**

*Gathered around the basket:* “My basket has all kinds of people in it. There are tall people, short people, fancy people, baby people, army people, boy people, girl people, even hero people. There are A LOT of people in here! I want each of you to choose one toy to be your marching buddy. We’re going to have a people parade!”

*At the end of the activity:* “Okay, everyone. Put all the people back in the basket. *(Pause until all the people are in the basket.)* Did you have fun marching in our people parade? Me too! That was fun! You know, the world is full of all kinds of different people. There are big people, little people, old people, and young people. Our Bible story today is about how God loves ALL people. He wants us to love them too.”



# February Week 3



## Love Basket



**What You Need:** The same basket filled with toy people from the “People Parade” activity in Make It Fun, a red construction paper heart, tape, and a timer (*optional*).

**What You Do:** Tape the red heart to the front of the basket. Dump all the toy people into a pile. Place the “love basket” (with the red heart on it) on the opposite wall of the room. Line the children up by the pile of toy people. Tell the children they will race to see how fast they can transfer all the people from the pile on the floor to the “love basket.” You can count aloud or use a timer. On your mark, get set, GO!

### **What You Say:**

*At the start of the activity:* “Okay, everyone. We have a lot of people in this pile, and they all need love. God loves everyone, and so should we. Right? Right! (*Pause.*)

“Do you see that basket with the red heart? That’s where we’re taking the people—to the love basket. When I say ‘go,’ you will take turns grabbing a toy person, running to the love basket, and putting them in the love basket as fast as you can.

“Every time you drop a person in the love basket, you have to shout, ‘LOVE PEOPLE!’ Think we can do this? Sure we can! On your mark, get set, GO!”

*Every time you drop a person:* “LOVE PEOPLE!”

*At the end of the activity:* “Jesus says loving people is as important as loving God. And loving God is very, very, VERY important. **How do you love God? [Bottom Line] Love God with all your heart.**”





# February Week 3



## My Special Valentine



**What You Need:** Boxes of children's Valentine's Day cards and colored pencils, crayons, or makers.

*(Option: Make homemade Valentine cards. They're the best! Just gather construction paper, markers, glitter pens, paper lace, heart stamps, peel-n-stick jewel stickers, heart stickers—anything that can be used to decorate cards.)*

*(Note: You can purchase the Valentine's Day cards before the holiday to make sure you get what you want, but if you wait until after the holiday, you can find some great clearance discounts.)*

**What You Do:** Encourage the children to think of a few people that need some love. Maybe it's a sick friend, a relative, or a lonely neighbor. Maybe it's even a brother or sister. Make some special Valentine's Day cards for these people. As you decorate the cards together, talk about how God wants us to love everyone.

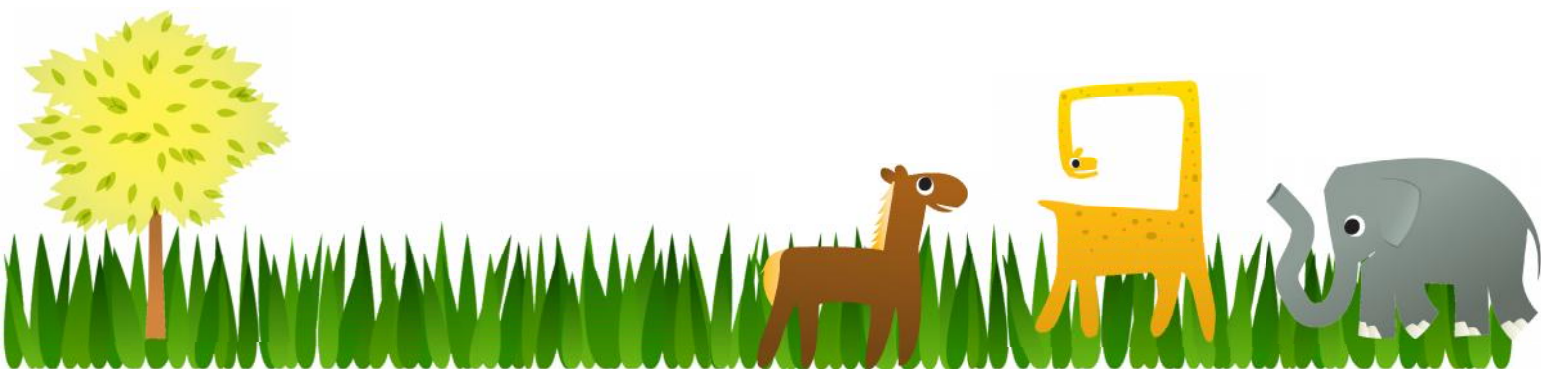
### **What You Say:**

*During the activity:* "God wants you and me to love people, just like Jesus taught Saul to love people today in our Bible story. Jesus told Saul that if you love God, you have to love people."

"I thought one way we could show some love is by making Valentine's Day cards for people. We can use all of this fun stuff to make them extra special. But the first thing we need to do is think of some people we want to give cards to. Maybe you know of a lonely neighbor or a sick friend. Who do you want to give a special Valentine?"

*At the end of the activity:* "Your cards look wonderful! I would feel very loved if I got a card like yours. Remember, this is just one way to show love. There are SO many other ways we can love people. And when we love people, we love God. **How do you love God?**

**[Bottom Line] Love God with all your heart!"**



# February Week 3

## Dismissal Activity



## Read to Me



**What You Need:** The book “Little Bear’s Friend” by Else Holmelund Minarik.

**What You Do:** Gather the children and read the book, “Little Bear’s Friend.” Make sure you point out all the different friends Little Bear has, like Owl, Duck, Emily, Cat, and Hen.

**What You Say:**

*After you read the story:* “Little Bear has a lot of friends, doesn’t he? Who are some of Little Bear’s friends? *(Talk about each of Little Bear’s friends.)* Does Little Bear love his friends? *(Pause.)* Yes, he does. Who are your friends? *(Pause.)* Wow! You have a lot of friends too! Our best friend EVER, Jesus, tells us something that God wants us to do in our Bible story today. I wonder what our friend Jesus will say!”



# February Week 3

## Jesus Taught us to Love Everyone The Greatest Commandment Part 2 “Love Others” Matt. 22:34-40, Acts 9:10-30

“Boy, oh, boy! Do I have an exciting story for you today! It’s one of my favorites. Are you ready to hear a true story right from the Bible? *(Open your Bible.)* I said, are you ready to hear a true story from the Bible? *(Cup one hand around your ear like you are listening for their responses.)* That’s better!

“Our story begins with a man named Saul. Saul was not a very nice person. In fact, he was down right MEAN. Can you show me a mean face? Come on! Show me your meanest, mean face EVER. *(Pause and look around with your mean face.)* Yep, those sure are some mean looking faces.

“Saul was so mean that people who loved God were scared of him. Can you show me your scared face? *(Pause and look around with a scared face.)* Ooh, those are some really good scared faces. You look like you just saw a big, hungry bear!

“Well, one day mean Saul was walking down a road, and guess who he met on the way. *(Getting excited)* I’ll give you a hint. This person wants to be your friend forever! *(Pause.)* Yes! It was Jesus! Saul met Jesus!

“Jesus told Saul that if you love God, you have to love people. Saul had never thought about that before. Hmm ... love God; love people. Then something totally amazing and wonderful happened. Saul’s heart changed from being full of meanness to being FULL of LOVE! It was awesome! Even Saul was amazed! He knew it was time to stop being mean to people and start loving people.

“Jesus changed Saul’s heart and taught him how to love God that day. You know how to love God. Yes, you do! **How do you love God?**”

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

*(Walk over to the sticky note pad and get ready to write these four words as you introduce them one at a time: hug, share, help, and clap.)*

**STORYTELLER:** “So if Saul loved God and loved people, would he hit his friends? *(Pause.)* No way! He would give his friends a big HUG. *(Write down the word ‘HUG.’)*

“If Saul loved God and loved people, would he share his things? *(Pause.)* Yes, he would SHARE! *(Write down the word ‘SHARE.’)*

“If Saul loved God and loved people, would he help someone who is hurt? *(Pause.)* Yes, he would definitely HELP. *(Write down the word ‘HELP.’)*

“If Saul loved God and loved people, would he say mean words to his friends? *(Pause.)* Never! He would say nice words and clap for them to make them feel happy. *(Write down the word ‘CLAP.’)*

“Guess what? You can learn to love people like Saul did in our story today. You can HUG, SHARE, HELP, and CLAP. And when you love people, you love God. Remember, **how do you love God?**”

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

**STORYTELLER:** “You got it! Let’s pray.

“God, we really want to love You with all our heart. Help us to love people by hugging, sharing, helping, and clapping for them. Thank You for loving us. Amen.”