

ALLEY SG – January 31st- February 1st, 2026

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

Bottom Line: God loves the whole world.

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

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

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the group: "In the conversation we looked at today, Jesus tells Nicodemus that **God loves the whole world**. Just how big is the 'whole world'?"
- Ask the kids to guess these fun facts, then give them the answer.
 - How many countries are in the whole wide world? (*around 195*)
 - How many people are in the world? (*over 8 billion*)
 - How many different languages are spoken in the world? (*over 7,000*)
- Now, discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Nicodemus, who was a religious leader, might have had a hard time understanding that God's love was for *everyone*?
 - What makes it hard for us sometimes to believe that God loves the *whole* world—even people who are very different from us?
 - How does remembering that God loves everyone change the way you see people at your school or in your neighborhood?
- Say, "These numbers are mind-blowing! It's hard to even imagine that many people and places. But the most amazing truth from our story today is that God's love is big enough for every single one of them. Jesus gave Nicodemus a picture of His love by mentioning Moses lifting up a bronze snake in the desert. Just as people looked at the snake to live, Jesus would be lifted up on the cross to bring life to everyone who looks to Him. No matter where you live, what language you speak, or what you've done, God's love is for you. **God loves the whole world!**"

2. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Large piece of butcher paper (one per group), Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."* • John 13:34 NIV

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Lay the large paper out on a table or the floor (ensure everyone can reach it).
- Write the verse clearly one time in the center of the paper as a reference.
- Challenge the kids to turn the poster into “Verse Graffiti.” They should fill the remaining space by rewriting the verse in different ways: huge letters, tiny letters, sideways, drawing symbols (like a heart for “Love” or an arrow for “command”), or using creative fonts.
- Display the finished poster prominently in your small group space.

3. 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?

4. Just For Fun

What You Need: large Craft sticks (one per kid), Small candy hearts (maybe 10-15 per kid), snack sized baggies

What You Do:

- Give each kid 10-15 candy hearts and one craft stick.
- Tell the kids that since we are talking all about the LOVE of Jesus we are going to play a game with hearts.
- Explain the challenge: Each kid is to place the end of a craft stick in their mouth. They have to see how many candy hearts they can stack on the end of their stick without dropping them.
- Give them a few minutes to try the challenge. It will be tricky and silly.
- Celebrate all attempts, whether they stack one heart or ten.
- Play a few rounds.
- Tell the kids they can eat their candy IF they don’t have allergies. If they aren’t sure, they can put them in a baggie to save for later. Throw away any used, uneaten hearts.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- God, thank You for loving the whole world. Thank You for loving me. It's the most amazing news ever. Help me not to just know that You love everyone, but to show it in the way 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."
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the ALLEY for 3 Alley Cash!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one person they can share the love of God with this week.

