

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

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

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*

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

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

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid 10-15 candy hearts and one craft stick.
- 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 or IF you were told they can't eat them per their parents. (There will be a sign at check in). If they aren't sure, they can put them in a baggie to save for later. Throw away any used, uneaten hearts.
- **Say:** “**In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus talked to a man named Nicodemus about a love that is way bigger than candy 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!**”

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Story Creation

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, Play-Doh® (one party sized can per kid), Paper plates

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper plate and a can of Play-Doh®.
- Explain that you're going to retell the story of Jesus and Nicodemus together.
- As you tell the story, encourage the kids to make the key parts with their Play-Doh®.
- Say, “Nicodemus was a very important teacher. Can you make a person out of Play-Doh®? That can be Nicodemus.”
- Say, “Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night, because he was afraid of certain people finding out he was talking to Jesus. Can you make some stars?”

- Say, “Jesus told Nicodemus that He was going to make a way for the whole world to be His friend forever because **God loves the whole world**. Can you make a big circle for the world?”
- Say, “In this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, we learned that God sent His Son, Jesus, for everyone in the world. Can you make a cross to help us remember Jesus?”
- Encourage the kids to show you their creations after each step.
- Open the Bible and read John 3:16 together.
- Say, “Jesus was giving Nicodemus a picture of what was coming—that Jesus would give up His life to pay for our sins because He loves us so much. And He would give eternal life to everyone who chooses Him. Anyone who chooses to follow Jesus can be God’s friend forever!”

2. The Whole World Ball Game

Application Activity

What You Need: Soft playground ball (one per bin)

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to stand in a single file line.
- Instruct them to stand with their legs shoulder-width apart, creating a tunnel with their legs.
- Stand at the front of the line and gently roll the ball so it goes through every kid’s legs.
- After the first roll, move to a different spot, maybe off to the side. Explain that the group has to move together to make sure the ball can still roll through everyone’s legs—including yours!
- Roll the ball again. The kids will need to shuffle and adjust their positions as a group to create a new tunnel for the ball.
- Continue a few times, moving to different spots and challenging them to work together.
- Say, “Great teamwork! You had to work together to make sure the ball could get through everyone in our line. This game helps us remember that God’s love is for everyone, everywhere! No one is left out. God loves people who are different from you, who live in different places, and people who do wrong things! **God loves the whole world**, and He wants His love to reach every single person.”

3. Memory Verse with Motions

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page (a few per bin)

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

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Have the kids stand up.
- Hold up the “Memory Verse Motions” Activity Page, and teach the kids the motions for the Memory Verse, adding one part at a time.
 - *I give you a new command.* (Hold up one finger.)
 - *Love one another.* (Hug yourself.)
 - *You must love* (Make a heart with your hands)
 - *one another,* (Point to friends around you.)
 - *just as I* (Point up to God.)
 - *have loved you.*” (Hug yourself.)
 - *John 13:34* (Open your hands like a book.)
- Practice the verse and motions together several times. Make it fun by going fast, then slow.

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*)
- “Dear God, thank You that You love the whole world. Thank You for loving all of friends and our families. Please help them know that You love them. Help us to share Your love with everyone this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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.