



Jesus and Nicodemus

Lesson Aim: To know God loves the world.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Serves

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 3:1-5, 16

What He Has Done: Jesus teaches Nicodemus about salvation.

THE WAY

Bible Memory Verse: "His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: Forgiveness, Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Jesus taught the crowd to forgive.	To know God is happy when we forgive.
8	Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus taught Nicodemus about salvation.	To know God loves the world.
9	Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 25-26, 28-30, 42	Jesus spoke to the woman at the well.	To know God wants us to tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To know Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.	To know Jesus came for you.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 1:12-13. Please join us in praying "Thank You for the gift of eternal life. Help us trust You to prepare the hearts of the children to believe in You and follow You as their Savior. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Reinforce the lesson aim by asking the children a simple question at various times during class. For example, today you could ask them, "Who does God love?" Prompt them to answer "God loves the world and God loves me!" When they are being picked up, ask the question again. It's a great way for them to share what they've learned with the adults picking them up.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart or world
		Coloring Center: Jesus and Nicodemus	Coloring pages of Jesus and Nicodemus, star stickers, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: God Gives You All You Need	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Discovery Center: Jesus Loves You	Foil pan with shredded paper, small plastic mirror, laminated pictures of Jesus, heart, Bible, optional song: "Jesus Loves Me"
		Block Center: God's Love Is So Big	Blocks
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "Zacchaeus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do You Love Me?" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "His One and Only Son" "I Will Listen" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 8
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 3:1-5, 16	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 3:16a Visual: Picture of the Bible story or the world, globe or inflatable globe
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: God's Love Ruler	Sturdy colored paper, crayons or markers, pencil, optional: heart stickers
		Game: Measure of Love	"God's Love Ruler" crafts
		Game: Jesus Loves Me	None
		Snack: Moonlight Snack	Moon-shaped (round or crescent) cookies or crackers
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 2, Lesson 8
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 3:1-5, 16	None
	Up to 10	Game: His Love Endures Forever	Beach ball or other soft ball for tossing
	Up to 10	Game: Circle of Love	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's love

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart or the world. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember God loves the world.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: JESUS AND NICODEMUS

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus and Nicodemus, star stickers, crayons or markers

DO

Children color and add two star stickers to their coloring sheets while discussing Nicodemus' visit with Jesus.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about Jesus and Nicodemus. One night, Nicodemus went to find Jesus. He wanted Jesus to teach him about God and about heaven. I wonder what Nicodemus asked Jesus. What would you ask Jesus? (Children respond.) Let's put some stars on our coloring sheets to remember the night Nicodemus talked with Jesus.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD GIVES YOU ALL YOU NEED

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking God's love and how He cares for our needs. Encourage children to make things God has given them with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Did you know God loves you? (Children respond.) God loves you so much; He gives you all you need. Can you make some things God has given you with the play-dough? Talk with the children about the things God has given them as they play.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DISCOVERY CENTER: JESUS LOVES YOU

SUPPLIES

Foil pan with shredded paper, small plastic mirror, laminated pictures of Jesus, heart, Bible, optional song: "Jesus Loves Me"

DO

Before children play, hide the items in the pan of shredded paper. Children search for the items while they learn Jesus loves them. Encourage children to look in the mirror to "see who Jesus loves."

TALK ABOUT

The items in our pan remind me of a song. Do you know the song, "Jesus loves me"? (Children respond.) Will you sing it with me? Lead the children in singing "Jesus Loves Me."

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

BLOCK CENTER: GOD'S LOVE IS SO BIG

SUPPLIES

Blocks

DO

Children remember how big God's love is by building something high or long.

TALK ABOUT

God's love is so wide, so long, so high, and so deep we could never measure it. What would you like to build today? (Children respond.) Let's see how long (or high) you can make it and let's remember how big God's love is.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"His
love
endures forever."
Psalm 100:5**

The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who serves. That means He gives us what we need. What we need most of all is love: God's big love. Let's pray and thank God for loving us. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, We love You so much. Your love for us is so big we can't even imagine it. Thank You for loving us forever. Amen.**



His love endures forever; that means He will always love us. Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse together with the motions.

**"His
love
endures forever."
Psalm 100:5**

The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



How big is God's love? Is it this big? Hold hands slightly apart. **Is it this big?** Spread hands further apart. **Is it bigger than this?** Stretch hands far apart. Encourage children to do the following motions with you. **God's love is so wide** (Spread arms wide.) **and so long** (Reach arms forward.) **and so high** (Reach high.) **and so deep** (Squat down low.) **that we could never measure it** (Move head from side to side for no.). Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?"

When we show God we love Him, that's called worship. We show Him we love Him when we pray, sing and give our offering. Let's do that now. Sing: "Be Still and Know" while collecting the offering.



Jesus taught a man named Nicodemus about God's love. Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello have ever heard of Nicodemus. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read the storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 8.



Jesus told Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." Sing: "His One and Only Son."



God loves the world

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 3:16a, picture of the Bible story or the world, globe or inflatable globe

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold up globe. **This is a globe. We use globes to see what our world looks like. Let's see if we can find where we live on our globe.** Find and point to your location. **Does God love all the people who live in your location?** (Yes.) **Let's find another spot on the globe.** Point out a few countries or continents in the world. Each time ask the children, **"Does God love all the people in point to several countries or continents?"** **Does God love all the people in the world?** (Yes.) Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 3:16a.



WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 3:1-5, 16

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story or the world from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **There once was a man named Nicodemus.**
- **He came at night to talk to Jesus.**
- **He said, "You come from God, we know,**
- **Because that is what your miracles show."**

- **Jesus taught him about a brand new start,**
- **That comes when Jesus is in our heart.**
- **Jesus said, "God so loved everyone**
- **That He sent His One and only Son."**

- **Whoever believes in Jesus,**
- **Will live forever with Him.**
- **Believers start a brand new life,**
- **As if we were born again.**

Who does God love? (The world and you.) **God loves the whole world so much He sent His Son to us. Who is God's Son?** (Jesus!)



God loves you **THE WAY**

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: GOD'S LOVE RULER

Purpose: Children make a ruler to see Jesus' love is bigger than they can measure.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper, heart sticker, crayons or markers

Prepare: On a 2-inch x 6-inch piece of sturdy white paper, draw or print measuring marks for a ruler. On the front of the paper strip, print:

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?"

Ephesians 3:18

On the back of the paper strip, write the Bible Memory Verse substituting the outline of a heart in place of the word "love": **"His [heart outline] endures forever." Psalm 100:5.**

Optional: Use an extra-large craft stick on the back of the paper strip to strengthen the ruler. Print **"His [heart outline] endures forever." Psalm 100:5** on a separate piece of paper or a label to attach to the craft stick.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Let's spend time with Jesus now by thinking about His love. It lasts forever!

Directions:

1. Children color the ruler.
2. Children place a heart sticker on the heart outline in the Bible Memory Verse.

Craft Discussion:

- **God loves the world and God loves you. Who did God send to show He loved the world?** (His Son, Jesus.)
- **God's love is very, very big! Use your rulers to show me how big His love is.** Children motion with their rulers to show the size of God's love.
- **How long will He love you? (Forever.) Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together, "His love endures forever."**

Teacher Tip: Do not put away the children's rulers. They will need them for the first game.
Be sure to write their names on their rulers.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: MEASURE OF LOVE

Purpose: Children will use their rulers to think about how Jesus' love is bigger than they can measure.

Supplies: "God's Love Ruler" crafts

Let's use our rulers to measure some things in our classroom.

Directions:

1. **Let's find something that is shorter than our God's Love Rulers.** Guide the children in finding an object that is shorter than their God's Love Ruler.
2. **Let's find something that is longer than our God's Love Rulers.** Guide the children in finding an object that is longer than their God's Love Ruler.
3. **Can you measure your foot (or shoe)? Is it shorter or longer than your ruler?**
4. Allow the children time to find other objects that are shorter or longer than their rulers.

What did you measure that was small? (Children respond.) **What did you measure that was big?** (Children respond.) **Is God's love bigger or smaller than the things you measured?** (Bigger.) **God's love is much bigger than anything you can ever measure!**

GAME: JESUS LOVES ME

Purpose: Children will remember Jesus loves them.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Tell the children when you call their name, they are to stand in the middle of the circle and say, **"God loves child's name!"**
3. Choose a child whose name you will call but don't let them know who it is. As you say the following rhyme, walk around the circle. When you get to the last line of the rhyme, stand near the child you've chosen. Before they reply, lead them into the middle of the circle.
God loves us all.
He loves you, too.
God loves the whole world.
Child's name, does God love you?
Child called stands in the middle of the circle and replies, **"God loves child's name!"**
4. Have the class clap for the child as they return to their spot in the circle.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 for each child. If a child doesn't want to stand in the middle or say the reply, have the whole class say it together.

Teacher Tip: If you have a large class, the children may get restless waiting for their turn. Keep them engaged by keeping them in suspense as to who you will pick next or have the last child who was chosen help pick the next child.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: MOONLIGHT SNACK

Purpose: Children enjoy a moon-shaped snack as they discuss Nicodemus and the talk he had with Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Moon-shaped (round or crescent) cookies or crackers

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Nicodemus knew Jesus could teach him about God. Did Nicodemus go to see Jesus in the daytime or at night?** (At night.)
 - **Jesus told Nicodemus how to be friends with God. Who did Jesus say God loved?** (The whole world.)
 - **God loves everyone in the world very much. Who did God give to the world to show His love?** (His Son, Jesus.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

**"His
love
endures forever."
Psalm 100:5**

The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOHN 3:1-5, 16

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There once was a man named Nicodemus.** (Fists on hips.)
- **He came at night to talk to Jesus.** (Cup hands around mouth to speak.)
- **He said, "You come from God, we know,** (Point to heaven.)
- **Because that is what your miracles show."** (Palms up.)

- **Jesus taught him about a brand new start,** (Raise index finger.)
- **That comes when Jesus is in our heart.** (Both hands on heart.)
- **Jesus said, "God so loved everyone** (Point to everyone.)
- **That He sent His One and only Son."** (Point to heaven.)

- **Whoever believes in Jesus,** (Both hands on heart.)
- **Will live forever with Him.** (Point to heaven.)
- **Believers start a brand new life,** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **As if we were born again.** (Pretend to rock baby in arms.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

GAME: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

Purpose: Children move a sheet to discover the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beach ball or other soft ball for tossing

Paul was one of Jesus' followers. He prayed that those who loved Jesus would know "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18). Our Bible Memory Verse tells us "His love endures forever." That means it never ends. Let's see how big Jesus' love is.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle. Toss the ball to one of the children.
2. **Jesus' love is wider than** child make a suggestion (e.g. a house, the ocean). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
3. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is longer than** child make a suggestion (e.g. my arms, a river). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
4. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is higher than** child make a suggestion (e.g. a mountain, a skyscraper). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
5. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is deeper than** child make a suggestion (e.g. the ocean, the deepest hole). Lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
6. Repeat until each child has a turn making a suggestion.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CIRCLE OF LOVE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse and Ephesians 3:18.

Supplies: None

Teacher's Tip: In this game, children will be learning the two Bible Memory Verses that are in the Bible Memory Verse Song and are being learned by ages 4-5.

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Can you show me how big Jesus' love is? Encourage children to stretch their arms wide and high to show the size of Jesus' love. **Our Bible Memory Verse tells us Jesus' love lasts forever!**

Directions:

1. Form a circle and hold hands.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together while doing the corresponding actions:

"How wide and long	Stretch circle outward.
and high	Hold each other's hands high to sky.
and deep	Hold each other's hands low to ground.
is the love of Christ."	Let go of hands and hug arms over chest.
"His love endures forever."	Hold hands again and walk in a circle.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's love.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 8: Jesus and Nicodemus

PONDER! Nicodemus went to visit Jesus (John 3:1-5, 16). Who does God love? (The world and you.) God loves the whole world so much He sent His Son to us. Who is God's Son? (Jesus!)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for sending Jesus to show how much You love us. Amen."

PLAY! Ask your family to help you use your "God's Love Ruler" at home. Talk about how God's love is bigger than everything you measure. Think about how God is going to love you forever!

UNIT 2 BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"His	The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
endures forever."	Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Psalm 100:5	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.