



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

Whisper Verse: "God loves you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy, Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Jesus taught the crowd to forgive (show mercy).	To know we are blessed when we show mercy by forgiving others.
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 tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To learn how to spend time with Jesus.
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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart or world
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God loves you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "His One and Only Son" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "It's Praise Time!" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarмонт Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		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: Craft sample, globe or heart
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 Rulers" from Craft Connection
		Game: Jesus' Big Love	"God's Love Rulers" from Craft Connection
		Snack: Moonlight Snack	Moon-shaped cookies or crackers
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 8 Color This Story: "Jesus Talks with Nicodemus"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 3:1-5, 16	None
	Up to 10	Game: Circle of Love	None
	Up to 10	Game: How Big Is Jesus' Love?	One large sheet, cloth, or tarp
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's love

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God loves you

THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "God loves you."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God loves you."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "God"** The right hand is lowered and then slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and fingers together.
- "loves"** The hands hug something over the heart to indicate the concept of love.
- "you."** The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from the body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God loves you," Deuteronomy 23:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WORSHIP

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 "It's Praise Time!" 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.

How wide can you spread your arms?

All spread arms.

How long can you stretch your arms in front of you?

All reach arms forward.

How high can you reach?

All reach high.

How deep can you bend?

All squat down low.



Let's do those motions as we sing our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing: "How Wide?" Jesus taught a man named Nicodemus about God's love. Jesus told him, "For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son." Sing: "His One And Only Son."



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.



Look around and see the children God loves. Our Whisper Verse says, "God loves you." Review Whisper Verse together: "God loves you." Include sign language.

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: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" while collecting the offering.

God loves everyone in the whole world. Sing: "Jesus Loves the Little Children."



Jesus teaches Nicodemus

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God blesses us when we show mercy to others. Today, we will hear God loves the whole world so much He sent His Son to us. God's Son is Jesus! Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 3:16a.

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

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a craft sample, globe or heart. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture.

- 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? (Everyone, including you.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God loves you." Include sign language or hand motions.



Who did God give to the world? (His Son.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read John 3:16a from the teacher's Bible. **God's Son is Jesus!**



God loves us

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, colored paper, crayons or markers, pencil, optional: heart stickers

Prepare: From colored paper, cut a 2"x6" paper strip for each child. On the front of the paper strip, write the first part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?"**

Ephesians 3:18. Use a pencil to make measuring marks like on a ruler. On the back of the paper strip, write the second part of the Bible Memory Verse substituting the outline of a heart in place of the word "love": **"His [heart outline] endures forever." Psalm 100:5.**

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

Directions:

1. Trace the measuring marks with a marker or crayon.
2. On the back of the paper strip, color the heart outline (or place a heart sticker on the heart).
3. Color the ruler.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers our Bible Memory Verse? Let's say it together right now!** Lead the children in repeating the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse together.
- **God loves the world and God loves you. Who did God send to show He loved the world?** (His Son, Jesus.)
- **Who does Jesus love?** (Everyone.) **God's love is very, very big!**
- **Use your rulers to show me how big Jesus' love is.** Children motion with their rulers to show the size of Jesus' love.
- **How long is Jesus going to love you?** (Forever.) **Yes, Jesus will love us forever! We can spend time with Jesus forever!**

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 Rulers" from Craft Connection

Teacher Tip: Most children this age do not understand actual measurements. Have them measure the size of an object by showing how many of their rulers they must combine to match the length or width or simply let them decide if an object is longer or shorter than their rulers.

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

Directions:

1. Guide children to use their rulers to measure things around the room. (For example: how wide the door is, the height of a bookshelf, the length and width of the room, etc.)
2. Pass around different items for the children to measure. Suggested items include a sheet of paper, a book, a watch, a pencil, or a crayon.
3. Encourage them to measure their arms, legs, and feet.

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' BIG LOVE

Purpose: Children will discover the size of Jesus' love by learning the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: "God's Love Rulers" from Craft Connection

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

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Directions:

1. Divide the class into two groups.
2. Have the groups sit on opposite sides of the classroom.
3. Show one group how to hold up their rulers to display the first part of the Bible Memory Verse from Ephesians. Tell them their part is a question. Help them practice saying that part of the Bible Memory Verse together.
4. Show the other group how to hold up their rulers to display the second part of the Bible Memory Verse from Psalms. Tell them their part is the answer. Help them practice saying that part of the Bible Memory Verse together.
5. Have the first group stand up, hold up their rulers, and ask their question.
6. Have the second group stand up, hold up their rulers, and say the answer.
7. Continue playing several rounds, then let the groups switch parts.

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.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "God loves you."
 - **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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Thank you for coming today! Take home your "God's Love Ruler." Use your ruler to show someone how much God loves us.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God loves the whole world and God loves you!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Talks with Nicodemus." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "How Wide?" as children color.



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

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

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

GAME: CIRCLE OF LOVE

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

Supplies: None

Can you show me how big Jesus' love is? Encourage children to stretch their arms wide to show the size of Jesus' love. **Let's review our Bible Memory Verse. Our verse tells us how big Jesus' love is!**

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.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: HOW BIG IS JESUS' LOVE?

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

Supplies: One large sheet, cloth, or tarp

Jesus loves all children. That means He loves you! Let's see how big Jesus' love is.

Directions:

1. Spread the sheet on the floor in the center of the room.
2. Children stand in a square around the sheet.
3. Children pick up the sheet by the edges.
4. **Pull on the sheet until it is tight. See how wide and long the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even wider and longer!**
5. **Take one giant step into the square. Hold the sheet as high as you can reach. See how high the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even higher!**
6. **Now let's lower the sheet to the ground. See how low the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even deeper!**
7. **Move into the middle and squeeze together tight; as close as you can. Jesus will be close to you forever. He will love you forever!**



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! Read John 3:1-5, 16 with your family. Talk about how Nicodemus went to visit Jesus at night. Jesus told Nicodemus he could have life forever with God. Jesus said God loves everyone in the world. God sent His Son, Jesus, to show His love.

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

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

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

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5