



Jesus and Nicodemus— Part 1

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 answers Nicodemus' questions 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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE (Challenge Verse for older children)

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 16:24; 4:19

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—Part 1, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus answers Nicodemus' questions about salvation.	To know God loves the world.
9	Jesus and Nicodemus—Part 2, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus answers Nicodemus' questions about salvation.	To know Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.
10	Jesus and Zacchaeus—Part 1, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.	To know Jesus see us and calls each of us by name.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus—Part 2, 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."



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		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 Songs: "How Wide?" or (Challenge) "Follow Me" 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 Song Suggestions: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Kings & Kingdoms Lesson 8 Delbert & Lello or Kingdom Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 3:1-5, 16	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 3:16a Visual: Globe or heart Flannel board and figures: Jesus, Nicodemus, moon or stars Clay/play-dough: Star
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: God's Love Ruler	Sturdy, colored paper, crayons or markers, pencil, optional: heart stickers
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Moonlight Snack	Moon-shaped cookies or crackers
		Unit 2 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, cross, heart-shaped toy, small plastic mirror
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		"God Loves You" Ball Roll	Soft, textured ball
		Circle of Love	None
		How Big Is Jesus' Love?	One large sheet, cloth, or tarp
		Freeze Dance	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "How Wide" or "Follow Me," CD player, optional: musical instruments
		Scenes from Kingdom Adventures	The Kingdom Adventures scripts for Lessons 7, 8, and 11
	Act it Out	Bible times clothing or stick puppets of Jesus, crowd of people, Nicodemus, Zacchaeus in tree	
Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 2, Lesson 8 Color This Story: "Jesus Talks with Nicodemus"	

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God loves you

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. **Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.**

Open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart or world. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember God loves the world. Today's Whisper Verse is "God loves you."** Teach the 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group setting with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.

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 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."

* May substitute Lesson 8 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook.



Jesus teaches Nicodemus

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

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, display a globe or heart. Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a star from clay or play-dough as they listen.

- **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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

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"x 6" 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.**

Teacher Tip: If a child needs assistance, try the hand over hand technique by placing your hand over the child's hand to guide his or her movements. Always encourage artistic self-expression whenever possible.

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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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 today's Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "God loves you."
 - **Nicodemus knew Jesus could teach him about God. Did Nicodemus go to see Jesus in the day 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.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

UNIT 2 GAME OPTIONS

Choose one or more of the activities below. Play until the final five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > **GAMES** > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The love theme can be used to introduce Jesus' teaching on forgiveness (Lesson 7), and God's love (Lessons 8-11).

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, cross, heart-shaped toy, small plastic mirror

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children place the items in order (cross + heart + mirror) as symbols for the phrase: "God loves you."

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say, "Thumbs up or thumbs down?"
 - If retelling the Bible study, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, "**Jesus climbed the tree with Zacchaeus. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**Jesus told Nicodemus God loved the world. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.
 - If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "**How wide and long and high and deep is the puddle? Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ? Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: "GOD LOVES YOU" BALL ROLL

Purpose: This game reminds the children that they are each loved by God.

Supplies: Soft, textured ball

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child and says,
"Child's name, child's name, **God loves you.**
Roll it to a friend to show God loves them, too!"
3. Teacher assists child in choosing another child and rolling the ball to that child.
4. Repeat chant to each child as he or she receives the ball.
5. Be sure each child has a turn receiving and rolling the ball.

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 show the size of Jesus' love with their arms. **Let's learn our new 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.

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. Children stand in a square around the sheet.
2. Children pick up the sheet by the edges. **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!**
3. **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!**
4. **Now let's lower the sheet to the ground. See how low the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even deeper!**
5. **Move into the middle and squeeze together as close as you can. Jesus will be close to you forever. He will love you forever!**

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: FREEZE DANCE!

Purpose: Children listen carefully as they dance to the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "How Wide" or "Follow Me," CD player, optional: musical instruments

Let's listen carefully to our Bible Memory Verse Song. Dance or play along until the music stops, then stop by "freezing" in place! We will all start and stop together.

Directions:

1. Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse song "How Wide" or "Follow Me" and encourage children to dance or play instruments.
2. Stop the music and remind the children to "freeze" (stop in place).
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2.

GAME: SCENES FROM KINGDOM ADVENTURES

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 2 Bible stories, older children act out the Kingdom Adventures scripts.

Supplies: The Kingdom Adventures scripts for Lessons 7, 8, and 11

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's Bible story.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: To help learn the Unit 2 stories, children act them out in costumes or with stick puppets.

Supplies: Bible times clothing or pictures of the following characters attached to craft sticks: Jesus, crowd of people, Nicodemus (man), Zacchaeus (very short man in a tree)

Directions: With each phrase, teacher says phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats same phrase and motions with children, or children wear costumes and act it out, or children hold craft sticks with characters. You may choose one or more stories.

JESUS TEACHES: SHOWING MERCY

- **Jesus went up on the mountainside,** (Walk in place.)
- **And He sat right down.** (Sit down.)
- **This is what He taught the crowd,** (Point finger as if teaching.)
- **That gathered all around.** (Point to everyone in the room.)

Continued on the next page.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

Act It Out continued

- **"Blessed are those who show mercy,** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **For God's mercy they will see."** (Point to heaven.)
- **When you show mercy that means you forgive.** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **Blessed means happy you'll be!** (Smile and clap.)

- **When you forgive everyone,** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **In all you say and do,** (Open arms wide.)
- **You'll be happy because you'll see** (Smile and point to eyes.)
- **God show the same to you!** (Point to heaven.)

JESUS AND NICODEMUS

- **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.)

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

- **Zacchaeus lived in Jericho;** (Hands on hips.)
- **He was rich and very short.** (Bend knees to be shorter.)
- **When he heard Jesus was coming,** (Cup hand at ear.)
- **He wanted to see the Lord.** (Use fists as binoculars.)

- **He had to climb up in a tree,** (Pretend to climb a tree.)
- **To see above the crowd.** (Stand on tip toes.)
- **Jesus called his name,** (Cup hands at mouth to call.)
- **"Zacchaeus, you come down.** (Point to ground.)

- **I'm staying at your house today."** (Point as if pointing to a person.)
- **So Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.** (Pretend to climb down.)
- **Jesus had come for Zacchaeus,** (Point to heaven.)
- **And He came for you and me.** (Point to someone and then to self.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "God's Love Ruler" craft. Use your ruler to show someone how much God loves us.

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way to your family. Talk about how God loves the whole world and God loves you!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus teaches about mercy." Discuss Bible Story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "How Wide?" or "Follow Me" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

Unit 2, Lesson 8: Jesus and Nicodemus—Part 1

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

Unit 2 Bible Memory Challenge Verse:

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

"'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 16:24; 4:19