



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### L-O-V-E

Greatest Commandment  
Matthew 22:34-40

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Stack of assorted books—ideally from different genres that kids would recognize
- Bible
- Table
- “Week 1 Timeline Image” printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline for a timeline in your room (against the wall); this should have space for 52 printed images for the entire curriculum year
- Clothespins for the timeline

### STORRY SUPPLIES

- Table
- Large box
- Clear plastic container (smaller than the box)
- Bucket with a sign on one side that says “Love God. Love Others.” (note: this bucket needs to be large enough to contain all of the ping-pong balls)
- Ping-pong balls—enough that they’ll overflow when the Storyteller pours them all into the clear plastic container
- Printed script (for reference)
- Two foam board “tablets” cut to resemble the ten commandments tablets with scribbled lines of writing on them (not legible)
- Jesus doll

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you’ll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you’ll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship (“Love One Another” from *Make a Move* and “How Amazing” from *Everything to Me*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

**Bible Story Review:** It All Comes Down to Love (*k–1st grade*), What Is the Greatest Commandment? (*2nd–3rd grade*)

**Application Activity:** Ways to Love (*k–1st grade*), Bookmark My Love (*2nd–3rd grade*)

**Memory Verse Activity:** Hop to It Verse (*k–1st grade*), Categories (*2nd–3rd grade*)

**Prayer Activity:** Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**L-O-V-E**  
Greatest Commandment  
Matthew 22:34-40

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God by loving others.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins."  
1 John 4:10, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO:**

**AUDIO:**

*Host enters.*

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hello, friends! I don't know if you know this about me, but I really LOVE to read.

*Hold up the stack of books.*

"I don't just like it—I LOVE it! (*looking through the books*) Have you ever read a really epic adventure story? An action story? Or maybe a mystery? What about a sad story? (*Pause.*) I know. Have you ever read a really great LOVE story?"

*Set the other books down and hold up the Bible.*

"Guess what? If you've ever read the Bible, you've read the greatest love story of all time! The Bible is made up of lots of different books that tell one big story: (*dramatically*) a love story . . . for the ages.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"We're actually talking about love this whole month. We're talking about God's love for US and the love we can show to other people. You see . . .

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

**"Love is showing others how much they matter to you.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

"As we start off our time today, I thought we could play a fun game called 'Love Story, Action Story, Sad Story.' For each round of the game, you'll choose one of those three categories.

"If you choose 'love story,' you'll cross your arms over your heart like you're giving yourself a big hug. (*Demonstrate.*)

"If you choose 'action story,' you'll flex your arms like you're standing up to a bad guy. (*Demonstrate.*)

"And if you choose 'sad story,' you'll put your fists up to your eyes like you're crying. (*Demonstrate.*)

"Once everyone has chosen their pose, a book will appear on the screen. If it's a love story book like this . . .

**SLIDE: LOVE STORY (BOOK WITH HEART EYES EMOJI)**

". . . then all of our friends who chose 'love story' will win that round.

"If it's an action story book like this one . . .

**SLIDE: ACTION STORY (BOOK WITH FLEXING ARM EMOJI)**

". . . then all of our friends who chose 'action story' will win that round.

"And if it's a sad story book like this one . . .

**SLIDE: SAD STORY (BOOK WITH SAD FACE EMOJI)**

". . . then all of our friends who chose 'sad story' will win that round. Everyone will keep their own score to see how many points they get.

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

"Okay, let's do this! Everybody, pick your pose!



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Wait for the kids to pick a pose. Remind them of the three poses, if needed. When everyone is ready, show one of the three slides on screen (at random). This will work best if the person running slides looks just at the computer and not at the kids.

On the Host's cue . . .

**SLIDE: LOVE STORY, ACTION STORY, OR SAD STORY (CHOOSE ONE SLIDE RANDOMLY FOR EACH ROUND)**

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND (IN BETWEEN ROUNDS)**

After each round, tell the kids to give themselves a point if they guessed right. Remind them to keep count of their score throughout the game.

Play as many rounds as time allows. At the end, ask kids to shout out how many points they got—all at once—then congratulate them for doing so well. You won't need to choose a winner for this game.

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

"Wow! That was epic and so, so fun! I love to read love stories, action stories, and even sad stories. Come to think of it, the Bible has ALL of that. (*Hold up Bible.*) In just a minute, we'll look in the Bible to find something really EPIC Jesus said that helps us understand ALL that we read in these pages.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) This year, we're going through the whole Bible—starting all the way back when God created the world. But before we get to that, we're looking at what Jesus said that helps us understand the WHOLE Bible. It'll help us see how ALL of God's story is really an epic story of love.

"To set the stage for this amazing thing that Jesus said, we need to look back near the beginning of the Bible in the book of Exodus.

*Flip the pages of the Bible to Exodus.*

"This was long before Jesus was born. At the time, there were many different nations that worshipped different gods. But there was one nation that was different. It was the nation of God's people, called the Israelites. And they worshipped only ONE God."

*Set the Bible down on the table.*

### GOD'S RULES

**STORYTELLER:** "After God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God called Moses to a mountain called Mount Sinai. Out of a deep love, God gave Moses a set of ten rules—ten commandments—so the people would know how to live now that they were free.

*Hold up the two foam board "tablets" then set them down on the table (propped up against the box).*

*Note: Make sure that you face the audience the whole time so you don't block their view of the objects you're using.*

"The ten commandments were:

*As you say each commandment, pull out a ping-pong ball from the box and place it in the clear plastic container. Do this for each commandment so you end up with ten ping-pong balls in the plastic container.*

*Take your time as you do this. Use the printed script to help you remember each paraphrased commandment from Exodus 20:3-17.*

"Don't put any other gods in place of me.

"Don't make statues of other gods to worship.

"Don't misuse the name of the Lord your God.

"Rest on the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

"Honor your father and mother.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

- "Do not murder.
- "Keep your promises to your husband or wife.
- "Do not steal.
- "Do not lie.
- "Do not be jealous or envious of what others have.

"There were ten commandments . . . and many additional laws, too.

*Pick up the box of ping-pong balls. Pour about half of the remaining ping-pong balls into the clear plastic container so it is almost full.*

"Some people looked for ways to get out of following the rules. Other people were so scared of breaking the rules that they spent their whole lives trying to live exactly the right way.

"There were 613 laws in total. And then religious leaders added even more of their OWN laws to keep people from breaking the 613 laws God gave!

*Pour the remaining ping-pong balls in the clear plastic container so it overflows.*

"Oops. (Pause.) Over hundreds of years, the religious leaders did their very best to get every detail of every single rule just right. And they spent their time making sure everyone ELSE did, too."

### JESUS ENTERS THE SCENE

**STORYTELLER:** "But everything changed when Jesus was born—many, many years later.

*Hold up the Jesus doll then set it on the table (sitting up/propped against the box).*

"We can read about Jesus in the New Testament, which is a lot farther in the Bible.

*Pick up the Bible. Flip through the pages until you reach the Gospels. Make sure the kids can see you visually navigate through the Bible.*

"Jesus traveled around and taught people about God. But He didn't act like any other teacher or rabbi. Jesus chose to be friends with the people no one else wanted to be around. He spent time with people others avoided.

"Jesus healed people, and He welcomed women and children. But the religious leaders didn't like Jesus. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God. So they tried to TRICK Jesus by looking for ways they thought He wasn't following the laws.

"For example, in the book of Matthew, we can read about a time Jesus healed a man who had a hurt hand. That's a really GOOD thing, right? Of course. It's amazing! But instead of being amazed at Jesus, the religious leaders were angry at Him. They were mad that Jesus would heal someone on the Sabbath, which the law said was supposed to be the day of rest. Right before Jesus healed the man, He said this to the leaders:

*Hold up the Jesus doll in one hand and with your other hand, hold up the Bible and read Matthew 12:11-12 (NirV).*



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

*“What if one of your sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath day? Won’t you take hold of it and lift it out? A person is worth more than sheep! So the Law allows us to do good on the Sabbath day.*

“In other words, Jesus showed LOVE by healing the man. That was the most important thing. Jesus didn’t come to take AWAY the law. Jesus came to show that the greatest thing we can do is love!”

*Hold up the Jesus doll then set it on the table (sitting up/propped up against the box).*

### THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

**STORYTELLER:** “Jesus made that clear during another conversation He had with some religious leaders, which we can find in Matthew, chapter 22. *(Hold up Bible.)* Several religious leaders came to Jesus. One of them asked, ‘Which is the most important commandment in the Law?’ *(Matthew 22:36, NIV)*

*Point to the plastic container full of ping-pong balls.*

“Of all of these—of the ten commandments and all the other rules—which one was MOST important? What would Jesus say?”

“Well, let me tell you. Jesus said . . .

*Open the Bible to Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV) and read.*

*“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments.*

“Did you hear that? Love God . . . and love your neighbor. Love God . . . and love other people.

*Pour all of the ping-pong balls into the bucket that says “Love God. Love Others.” Gather any of the overflowing ping-pong balls within reach and toss them into the bucket as well.*

*The words on the bucket should be facing away from the audience at first. After you’ve poured the ping-pong balls in, turn the bucket around so the kids can see “Love God. Love Others.”*

“Jesus took all of those laws and combined them into something so simple: love God, and love others.

“You see, it wasn’t that all of the rules weren’t important or that they didn’t matter. It was just that loving God and loving others mattered MORE than anything else. God looks at our hearts and the reasons WHY we do something, not just whether we’re obeying rules. The important thing is that we **love God by loving others**, and that’s something we can choose to do, every single day.”

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “It wasn’t always easy for Jesus’ followers then—and it’s not always easy for us now. But with God’s help, we can live a life of love.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

**“We can love God by loving others.**

*(Hold up Bible.)* “As we make our way through the Bible this year, let’s not forget what Jesus said is MOST important of all—showing love. The whole Bible is a love story for the ages. And we’re just getting started!

“Let’s pray.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for Jesus’ amazing teaching that reminds us what’s most important: loving You and loving other people. In fact, we can show how much we love You BY loving other people! Jesus made it so simple, but we know it isn’t easy. We need Your help to share love with the people You’ve put in our lives. Thank You for loving us so well. Please help us live with love because we know how wonderful it is to be loved by You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** *(Hold up Bible.)* “Some people think of the Bible as a rule book: do this, don’t do that. In the Bible, we do find rules from God, like the ten commandments, that teach us the best way to live. But then again, that isn’t the whole story.

“The Bible does have God’s good rules for our lives, but it also includes stories, letters, poems, and history. The Bible isn’t just one book. It’s a collection of lots of books that were written by lots of different writers over hundreds of years. It tells one EPIC love story about God’s love for people throughout history.

“That’s why it’s important that we start by seeing what Jesus said is most important. Jesus took all of God’s rules for our lives and made them very simple: love God and love others.

**SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 1 TIMELINE IMAGE**

*If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.*





WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

25 MINUTES

“Or, you could say it this way.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**Love God BY loving others.**

“Say that with me.”

**HOST AND KIDS: “Love God by loving others.”**

**HOST:** “We know how good it is to be loved by God. So we can then choose to SHARE God’s love with others. We can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.** We can be kind to someone in need or cheer up someone who’s sad. We can take care of someone who’s sick or even forgive someone who hurt our feelings. There are lots of ways we can love others by showing them how much they matter to us!

“Remember, God showed us what love looks like in the first place. God sent us Jesus, and that was the most epic act of love the world has ever known! That’s what we find in our memory verse for this month, First John 4:10.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)*

“Let’s head to our small groups so we can learn more about how to love the people around us. I’ll see you next time!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**