



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God loves everyone.

THE BIBLE

Nicodemus: John 3:1-17

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Make a Faces love?
- **ACTIVITY** | Show Love

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Sing Along
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God loves everyone.
- **VIDEO** | Real Love, Episode 1
- **BIBLE STORY** | John 3:1-17
- **ACTIVITY** | Hearts Everywhere
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Heart Snack
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Find It
- **ACTIVITY** | Heart Shaped Dough
- **MEMORY VERSE** | 1 John 4:11

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Matching Hearts
- **ACTIVITY** | Emoji Ball Play



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY KAREN ERNE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Hearts Everywhere

Most of the toddlers will most likely be able to join in this simple scavenger hunt game, as the objects are hidden in plain sight. But for especially young toddlers, try this game. Hide behind a blanket, and as you drop it say, "Peek-a-boo, God loves you!"

ACTIVITY | Matching Hearts

You could replace this activity since toddlers may have difficulty understanding how to read the shapes on a deck of cards. One suggestion is before group time, cut out a felt heart and hide it in a small box or gift bag for the kids to discover. When a kid opens the package and finds the felt heart, tell them that God loves them.

OBJECT LESSON | Find It



Some of what's presented in this lesson may be more abstract than toddlers can comprehend. During this time, you could use a handheld mirror to look at each kid and tell them God loves them! Have them hold it and find themselves in the mirror, too.

ACTIVITY | Emoji Ball Play

One way to modify this activity for younger children is to create loud sounds! Use a permanent marker to draw happy faces onto some hand sized balls. Put the balls into a really big metal bowl. When the kids drop the balls into the bowl, they make a really fun loud sound. Show the kids the happy faces on the balls and tell them that God loves them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN ERNE

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Karen is a volunteer in the preschool area of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She has about nineteen years of experience as a Preschool Minister in local churches.

Karen's passion is connecting little ones to the truths of the Bible. Kids learn when they are playing, so Karen writes fun lessons that will help teachers show kids how much Jesus loves them.

Karen is a wife and a mom. She and her husband, Ed, have four kids aged ten through seventeen. Their family loves hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting together.

When Karen is not doing a Bible study with her church friends or helping out at her kids' school, she is often sewing. Karen makes stuffed animals, blankets, toys, and even clothes with her sewing machine.

If you'd like to chat about how your church can more strategically connect parents with ways to teach babies, ones, and twos about the Bible, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God loves everyone.

THE BIBLE

Nicodemus: John 3:1-17

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Make a Face

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, print the emoji sheets found in your Printables folder. Show the kids the laughing face and make a silly giggle. Ask the kids to giggle with you. Show the grumpy emoji and make a grumpy face. Ask the kids to copy each of the emojis with you.
- Let's make a sad face for when people are mean to us. Now, let's make a super happy face for when we think about how something that makes us happy. **Can you make a sad face and then a super happy face?**
- Today, our story is about how God loves everyone. **Which emoji face shows love?**

ACTIVITY | Show Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids some blank sheets of paper and some foam heart stickers. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a while the kids stick the foam hearts on the paper. Challenge older preschoolers by drawing a big heart on the paper for the child to stick the foam hearts on to.
- God loves us with the best kind of love! Your picture can help you remember God loves you and **God loves everyone.**

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Sing Along

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play music videos of songs about God loving everyone! Here are some suggestions:

- [“Guess What”](#) by KidSpring
- [“Big Family of God”](#) by Nick and Becky Drake

BIG IDEA | God loves everyone.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show children these hand motions (or make your own) to help them remember the Big Idea.
 - **God** (Point to the sky)
 - **loves everyone.** (point around to everyone in the room)
 - God loves. . . (name each kid).
 - **Who does God love?** God loves everyone.

VIDEO | Real Love, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s [teaching video](#).

BIBLE STORY | John 3:1-17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make the sign language sign for love by crossing your arms and holding your fists on your chest in a hugging motion.
- Today, we are going to learn all about God’s love.
- One day, a man named Nicodemus went to visit Jesus. He asked Jesus how he could become a part of God’s family. Jesus said, “You have to be born again.” Nicodemus was so confused! Did that mean he had to become a baby again? No, that’s just silly!
- The Bible says God loves everyone so much that Jesus (God’s son!) came to tell everyone about God. If we believe in Jesus, we become a part of God’s family. That’s what it means to be born again!
- I am so glad that God loves us so much. Let’s do that sign for love again by holding our arms crossed across our chests and squeezing it tight while we say, **“God loves everyone.”**

ACTIVITY | Hearts Everywhere

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, make as many hearts out of construction paper as there are kids in your group (they should be colorful!). Hide them in the room at a level each of the kids can reach. Show the kids a sample construction paper heart and ask the kids to go find the rest. After all of the hearts are found, get the kids to put them in a line on the floor. Name the color of each heart together and remind the kids God loves everyone.
- There is one heart for each of you. We can color or paint on our hearts at the table to help us remember God loves everyone.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of having toddlers go searching for hearts, try this game. Hide behind a blanket, and as you drop it say, “Peek-a-boo, God loves you!”

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pray for the kids, or say the prayer together by having kids repeat after you. Invite the kids to end the prayer with a big hug for you, if you’d/they’d like.

- God, we are so very glad You love us. Thank You, God, for loving everyone.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Heart Snack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare heart-shaped cheese slices and heart-shaped fruits prior to group time or get heart-shaped cookies. Give everyone a snack.
- We learned from the Bible today that God loves us. And we are all different, but that doesn't matter to God. God made everyone different and special because God loves everyone.

OBJECT LESSON | Find It

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before church, get a big toy clock, an empty notebook or journal, a soft pillow or plush, and an "angry" toy. Put all of the things on the floor and ask the kids to help you find something in the pile that will match the ways God loves us. Repeat the activity as many times as you want (Reference for this activity is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)!
- The Bible has more to say about God's love! It says God's love is patient. God will wait a long time for us. **What do we have here that shows us time?** That's right, the clock! Let's say it together, "God's love is patient."
- God's love doesn't keep a record of how many times we did something wrong. **What do we have here that looks like no one has written in it?** Yes, good job! This notebook/journal is blank! We can say, "God's love doesn't record our wrongs."
- God's love is so kind. **Can you find something soft enough to hug?** Wow, you found it! This pillow is so soft, it makes me feel so warm and happy, just like God's love does! We can say, "God's love is kind," when we hug the pillow.
- God's love doesn't get angry really fast. **What do we have that shows us an angry face?** Ooh, this toy does look really angry! We can say, "God's love doesn't get angry fast," when we hold this toy.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Some of what's presented in this lesson may be more abstract than toddlers can comprehend. During this time, you could use a handheld mirror to look at each kid and tell them God loves them! Have them hold it and find themselves in the mirror, too.

ACTIVITY | Heart Shaped Dough

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids plastic or silicone heart-shaped cutters and Play-Doh. Ask the kids these questions about the Bible story today while they play with the Play-Doh.
- **Who went to visit Jesus?**
- **Who said you have to be born again?**
- **How do you become part of God's family?**
- **What is God's love like?**
- **Who does God love?**
- I like the heart shapes you are pushing into the Play-Doh. It helps me remember God loves everyone.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided, or making up your own motions, or setting the words to a familiar tune.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils. As they color, remind them of today's story and today's Big Idea. Point to the child's name and say, "God loves (kid's name). God loves everyone."

ACTIVITY | Matching Hearts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take all of the heart cards from two decks of playing cards. Mix up the heart cards face up on the floor. Ask the kids to help you find a match for every card. You can say things like, "This card has two hearts, we can find the other card that looks like it."
- These cards make me think about the love God has for us. **God loves everyone.**
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Before group time, cut out a felt heart and hide it in a small box or gift bag for the kids to discover. When a kid opens the package and finds the felt heart, tell them that God loves them.

ACTIVITY | Emoji Ball Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before church, gather 10 or more balls with different emoji faces on them. Put the balls into a bucket. Count to three and then throw all the balls high into the air and shout, "God loves everyone!" Laugh and invite the kids to help gather all the balls into the bucket again.
- These balls all have a face on them. This one looks so happy. This one looks so sad. This face looks like it is laughing. Do you know what? God loves everyone. Even when we are happy, sad, or even laughing.
- Say, "**God loves everyone,**" when you put the ball back into the bucket.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a permanent marker to draw happy faces onto some hand sized balls. Put the balls into a really big metal bowl. When the kids drop the balls into the bowl, they make a really fun loud sound. Show the kids the happy faces on the balls and tell them that God loves them.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.