

February Week 3

Backyard
Candy Hearts

February 19th

CRAFT

Memory Verse Measuring

SUPPLIES: Measuring tape pieces, crayons, heart stampers, heart stickers, clear tape

PREP: **Important to do BEFORE craft time.** Assemble the measuring tapes by taping together with clear tape pieces.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children take a seat. Pass out the measuring tapes.**

Practice memory verse.

- *“Friends, gather round. Do you see what I have here? It is called a measuring tape. It is a tool used for measuring to find out how long or tall something is.*
- *And look! It says our memory verse on here. Let’s set out measuring tapes on the table and say it together with the motions:*
 - *How wide (hold arms out wide) and long (hold arms up and down) and high (jump high) and deep (crouch low) is the love (hug yourself) of Christ,’ (point up) Ephesians 3:18. (Open hands like a book.)*

⇒ **Pass out crayons, heart stampers, heart stickers**

- *“Let’s decorate these measuring tapes! I have crayons, stampers, and heart stickers for you. Let’s fill them up and make them beautiful. All of these hearts remind me how very much God loves us!”*

⇒ **Use measuring tapes to say the memory verse.**

- *“Let’s do our memory verse one more time and use our measuring tape. We can stretch it out in all the directions:*
 - *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:18”*

⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“Nice work, friends! Jesus’ love for you is wide and long and high and deep. And he wants to be your friend forever! I’m so glad to know that Jesus loves me and you!*
- ***Who loves you? Jesus loves me!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Centurion Says

SUPPLIES: No supplies needed

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children spread out in the open area of the room. Introduce the game (similar to Simon Says).**
 - *“Friends, join me over here and spread out so you aren’t too close to your neighbor.*
 - *Today in our true Bible story we learned about the Centurion. He was a very powerful man and everyone who he was in charge of listened to him. Let’s play a fun game called Centurion Says.*
 - *So when I say Centurion Says – I want you to do whatever I say! Are you ready?*

- ⇒ **Call out commands.**
 - *“Centurion says...*
 - Clap your hands.
 - Touch your toes.
 - Give a friend a high five.
 - Rub your belly.
 - Hop up and down.
 - Reach up high to the sky.
 - Touch the ground.
 - Spin around in a circle.
 - Any others you come up with 😊

- ⇒ **Optional: In older classes you can consider throwing in some commands where you don’t say Centurion says to “trick them.” 😊**

- ⇒ **Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Today in our true Bible story, we heard about a centurion. He was powerful and important, but he knew that Jesus was even more important, and he needed Jesus’ help. Jesus loved the centurion and wanted to help him. Jesus loves you and wants to help you, too! That’s right! Jesus loves you and he wants to be your friend forever!*
 - ***Who loves you? Jesus loves me!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Pass the Heart Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Squishy or Plush heart, CD player, worship music cd

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the middle of the room.**
 - *“In our true Bible story today, we heard about how Jesus LOVES us! I have a heart here to help remind us of Jesus’ love. We are going to play some music and pass the heart around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the heart will say our memory verse!”*

- ⇒ **Play music and pass the heart around. Pause music. Have the child holding the heart say the memory verse.**
 - *“It’s your turn to say the memory verse – we can help you!”*
 - *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”*
Ephesians 3:18.

- ⇒ **Let the children play until every child has had a turn.**

- ⇒ **Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Wow, boys and girls! Jesus loves every single one of you so very much!*
 - ***Who loves you?***
 - ***Jesus loves me!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Hula Hoop Hop

SUPPLIES: 3 hula Hoops, Heart sticker

SET-UP: Put 3 hula hoops in a row on the floor within child hopping distance

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Bring children over to the hula hoops. Have them sit in a line next to the hula hoops. Demonstrate hopping from hoop to hoop.**
 - *“Today we are going to practice our big questions as we move our bodies! Each of you are going to get a turn to hop from hoop to hoop as you answer our big question. So when I say, “who loves you?” you are going to jump in each hoop as you answer, like this:*
 - (Hop in hoop 1) **Jesus** (hop to hoop 2) **Loves** (hop to hoop 3) **Me!**
 - *Then, when you reach the end, I am going to give you a heart sticker!”*
- ⇒ **Have each child take a turn jumping from hoop to hoop.**
 - *“Alright let’s do this! Who wants to go first? Come on up! Who loves you? (Some kids may need you to hold their hand or say the answer with them as they hop!) Jesus loves me!*
 - *Great job! Here is your heart sticker to remind you how much Jesus loves you! Who is next?”*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If you want to keep playing you can have them: jump like a frog, jump really fast, jump really slow, etc.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends! That was fun!*
 - **Who loves you?**
 - **Jesus loves me!”**

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY

FEBRUARY WEEK 3

SANITIZE HANDS AND PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- ⇒ Read from the Bible.
 - *The Beginner's Bible: A Captain's Faith*, p. 324
- ⇒ Read the picture book:
 - *How Do I Love You* by P.K. Hallinan
 - Tell the children, "This reminds me of Jesus' love for us. Only Jesus' love for us is even MORE! He loves us more than we could ever guess or imagine!"

REVIEW *Pass out stickers as kids answer the questions!*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - Who loves you?**
 - Jesus loves me!**
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - **"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18**

CONNECT IT

- ⇒ "Friends, today we learned that Jesus loves us and wants to help us. Let's make a list of things we need help with! When I say your name, tell me one thing that you need help with.
 - *Write each child's answer on the white board or paper.*

PRAY

- ⇒ "Thank you for telling me what you need help with. Let's pray about it.
 - "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us and help us. Please help [child's name] with (what child listed). Please help [child's name] with (what child listed). Please help . . . (continue with each child). We trust You to give us what we need when we need it. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."