

February Week 4

Backyard
Candy Hearts

February 26th

CRAFT

Fragrant Thanks

SUPPLIES: Jesus and the Woman Page, crayons, Kool-Aid packets, containers with lids, Q-tips, smocks (available if needed)

SET-UP: Prepare the Kool-Aid paint before the craft as instructed on container. Make 1- 4 containers per table, depending on the number of children you have. Seal any leftovers to use at other services.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children take a seat and review the Bible story.**

- *“In our story today, we heard about a woman who came to a dinner where Jesus was. She had made a lot of bad decisions. She sat at Jesus’ feet and cried because He forgave her for all the things she had done wrong. She was so thankful that Jesus loved her that she wanted to do something special for Him. So she washed Jesus’ feet.”*

⇒ **Pass out the coloring page to each child. Pass out crayons.**

- *“Let’s color the picture of Jesus and the woman. But do you see the spot where the perfume poured out? Let’s leave that blank because I have something special for you.”*

⇒ **Set bowls of “paint” on the table and give each child a Q-tip.**

- *“The woman washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Then she poured perfume on His feet. Perfume is a liquid with a sweet smell. Use the paint to fill in the dotted area. (Pause.) Can you smell the paint? (Pause.) Doesn’t it smell nice? (Pause.) Jesus knew everything the woman had done, and He could see how sorry she was and how much she loved Him. Jesus told her she was forgiven and to go in peace.”*

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

- *“There is absolutely nothing that you could ever do to make Jesus stop loving you. Jesus loves you, no matter what, and He wants to be your friend forever.*
- ***Who loves you? Jesus loves me.”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Thankful Game

SUPPLIES:

Bag with colored hearts, Thankful Game color guide

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children play this game seated on the floor in a circle or at the table after craft.**
 - *“Today in our true Bible story we learned about a woman who was so thankful for Jesus. We have so many things in our life to be thankful for, including Jesus! We are going to play a little Thankful game to help us remember and thank God for those things.”*
- ⇒ **Hold up the bag and show them how to pull one heart out at a time. Pass the bag around and when they pull out a heart, ask them what they are thankful for based on the corresponding color.**
 - *“Each of you is going to get a turn to reach into the bag and pull out one colored heart. When you get a heart, first tell me what color it is. Then I will look at my color guide here and tell you what it says. We are going to be thinking about a different type of thing or person we are thankful for with each different color? Are you ready?”*
 - Red: Name a PERSON you are thankful for.
 - Blue: Name a PLACE you are thankful for.
 - Yellow: Name a FOOD you are thankful for.
 - Purple: Name a THING you are thankful for.
 - Green: Name an ANIMAL you are thankful for.
- ⇒ **Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“We have so many things and people we can be thankful for, but the most important of all is....Jesus! I am so thankful for Jesus and the love he has for all of us!*
 - ***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 4

SANITIZE HANDS AND PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ Read from the Bible.

- *The Beginner's Bible: A Gift for Jesus, p. 423*

⇒ Read the picture book:

- *God's Great Love for You* by Rick Warren
 - Before reading, say this – This book is called *God's Great Love for you*, but since we are learning all about Jesus' love for us this month, let's change it to say *Jesus' Great Love for You!*

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, the woman in our story today wanted to show Jesus how thankful she was for him. So, let's make a list of things we are thankful for! When I say your name, tell me one thing that you are thankful for.

- *Write each child's answer on the white board or paper.*

PRAY

⇒ "I love this list. Let's use it when we pray.

Dear God, We have so much to be thankful for! [Child's name] wants to thank You for [what child listed]. [Child's name] wants to thank You for [what child listed]. (Continue with each child.) And we all want to thank You for how much Jesus loves us. In Jesus' name, amen."