

Spring Unit 2

Weeks of: February 7 - February 21

Bible Focus: Jesus Shows His Love

Bible Verse: *“This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you.”* John 15:12

Bottom Line: Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- God’s Son, Jesus, loved everyone and wanted everyone to know that God made them and loves them.
- Jesus showed love to God by praying to God, worshipping God, teaching others about God and His Word, and obeying God.
- Jesus showed love to others by being a good friend, being kind, and being a good helper to everyone.
- We can show love for God and others the same ways that Jesus did.
- We can thank Jesus for His love and tell others that He loves them, too.



Sunday	Bible Story	Music
Feb. 7	Woman at the Well John 4:3-42	<p>Unit Bible Verse Song: <i>“Love each Other”</i></p> <p>Other Suggested Songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jesus Said</i> • <i>I Know Jesus Loves You and Me</i> • <i>God Wants us to Love One Another</i> • <i>Jesus Loves Me, Me, Me</i> • <i>Jesus Loves the Little Children</i> • <i>We Can Praise Jesus</i> • <i>I Want to Be Like Jesus</i> • <i>Jesus I Will Follow</i> • <i>Yes! Jesus Loves Me</i> • <i>Oh, How I Love Jesus</i>
Feb. 14 Jesus Loves You Parties	Jesus Loves Children Matthew 19:13-15	
Feb. 21	Jesus Loves Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10	

Woman at the Well

February 7

Bible Story

John 4:3-42

Teacher Challenge

When the Samaritan woman came to the well, it had been hours since the other village women had come. But noon was the safest time for this outcast, a known sinner, to come. A Samaritan, she was also despised by self-respecting Jews!

Jesus not only talked with this despised woman but also showed His love for her and revealed Himself more fully than He had ever done to any other person! It did not matter to Jesus that she was female, a half-breed or a socially outcast sinner. Jesus let it be known that this measure of her value was not God's. His grace extends to everyone who will receive it.

- ➔ When have you felt like an outsider?
- ➔ What did Jesus do to show you love? To heal and restore you?

Take time to remember how great a thing the Lord has done for you and in you. As you teach, reflect the joy of the redeemed Samaritan woman to your children. It is not only her story—it is the story we all tell!

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I will be glad and rejoice in your love."
Psalm 31:7

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, 🕒 please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (John 15:12), the Monthly Bottom Line (Jesus loves and cares for me every day), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 2 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

February 7

Art Center: Portrait of Me ★

Collect

Bible, white paper, scissors, markers or crayons, construction paper in a variety of colors, glue, bulletin board border strips, collage materials (foam shapes, stickers, etc.).

Prepare

Cut white paper to measure 6x9 inches (15x22.5 cm).

Do

1. Give each child a sheet of white paper. Children use markers or crayons to draw picture of themselves on paper. Children then glue portrait onto construction paper and glue four border strips around portrait to form a frame.
2. Print "Jesus knows and loves (Michael)" on top frame of each child's portrait. Children glue collage materials to frames for decorations.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." We can be glad because Jesus loves us! Let's make pictures that remind us that Jesus loves and knows all about us.**
- ➔ **Seth, you have brown hair. Who else in our class has brown hair? That's right, Devin has brown hair! Jesus knows you have brown hair. Jesus loves you!**
- ➔ **Isabella, what is your favorite food? I like apples, too! Jesus knows that you like apples. Jesus knows everything about you!**
- ➔ **Jesus knows all about us. Jesus loves us just the way we are. Owen, what are some ways you can show Jesus that you're glad He loves you? (Pray and tell Jesus thanks. Sing to Jesus.)**



Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"I will be glad and rejoice in your love."
Psalm 31:7*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

For Younger Children

Instead of drawing portraits, children glue border strips around construction paper and decorate using collage materials. Send frames home with instructions for parents to place a photo of their child in the frame.

For Older Children

Provide several handheld mirrors for children to look at while drawing their portraits.

Play to Learn

February 7

Construction Center: Favorite Places



Collect

Bible, blocks.

Do

Children use blocks to build some of the places where they like to go (store, church, park, etc.).

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus and His friends went on a long, long walk. They walked to a town. Let's make some of the places we like to go.**
- ➔ **Mia, tell me about the place you are building. What kind of store are you building? A toy store! Who takes you to the toy store? Why do you like going to the toy store?**
- ➔ **Sam, here is a long block for the library you're building. What do you like about going to the library? Jesus knows you like to look at books. Jesus knows all about you and He loves you!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." I'm glad that Jesus loves us. Jesus loves and knows all of us.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. I'm glad that You know all about us and love us.**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"I will be glad and rejoice in your love."
Psalm 31:7*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Younger children may have difficulty building specific places. Provide a bucket or basket for children to use in block play. Children will be happy simply placing blocks in bucket or basket, carrying them around and then taking blocks out of the bucket or basket again. Talk with children about places they go, using the conversation above.

For Older Children

After building places they like to go, older children play a stacking game. Each child places one block on top of another, forming a tower. As each block is placed, the child tells one thing about him- or herself. **My name is Sydney. I like to swim. My dog's name is Buster.**



Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

Listen to Learn

February 7

John 4:3-42

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 34 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, rhythm instruments.

Greet Each Other

Children stand in a circle. **Did you have cereal for breakfast?** Children who can answer yes to your question, clap hands. Repeat with other questions, varying the response for each question (wave, stomp foot, jump, turn around, etc.). **Do you have a brother? Are you the oldest child in your family? Do you have a baby in your family? Are you wearing jeans today?** Be sure every child has an opportunity to move. **Jesus knows all about us and loves us!**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I will be glad and rejoice in your love."
Psalm 31:7

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to John 4. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 34 pictures.

Where are some of the places you go with your friends? Let's listen to a story about when Jesus went to a town with His friends.



Step, step, step. Jesus and His friends walked and walked along the hot, dusty road. Soon they came to a well of cool water. A well is a deep hole in the ground. People dip buckets in the well to get water. Jesus stopped by the well to rest. His friends walked into a nearby town to buy **food**.



While Jesus was resting, a woman came to the well. She was carrying a big jar. The woman came to get water from the well. "Will you please give me a drink of water?" Jesus asked her.



The woman was **surprised** when Jesus talked to her. She did not know who Jesus was. Then Jesus began to talk about God. The woman listened carefully. Jesus knew all about this woman. Jesus told her about things she had done.

The woman wondered how this man knew all about her. She said, "I know that God will send someone to help us understand what is true."

Jesus said, "I am the One that God promised to send."

The woman was so happy to hear this good news! She left her water jar by the well. She **hurried** into town.

"Come!" she told the people. "Come see a man who knows all about me! Do you think He was sent by God?"



Many people came with the woman. They wanted to see Jesus. They wanted to hear what He said. "Stay and tell us more," the people said to Jesus.

Jesus stayed in their town two days. Jesus told them about God's **love**. Many people believed what Jesus said, and they loved Jesus, too.

Talk About the Story

Who learned good news about Jesus in this story? (The woman. All the people in the town.) **When we ask, Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we do. Jesus knows all about us and He loves us! What is a way we can show we are glad that Jesus loves us?** (Sing songs about Jesus. Pray and give our thanks to Jesus. Tell others about Jesus.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about Jesus' love. Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves You and Me" (on DVD or track 8 on CD). **Jesus knows all about us and loves us. What are some of the other things this song tells that Jesus does for us?** (Jesus takes care of us. Jesus listens when we pray.)

Option: With parents' permission, videotape children as they sing songs and do the motions. Show recording at the end of the session when children are dismissed.

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 31:7, say verse aloud. **I'm glad Jesus knows all about me and loves me. Jesus knows and loves all of us.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse together a few times. Ask all children with a certain characteristic to say the verse together (everyone wearing green, everyone with red hair, everyone wearing black shoes, etc.). Choose several categories and repeat the Bible verse several times.

Pray to God

Pray the following prayer, inserting the name of one or more children into the prayer: **Dear Jesus, we're glad that You know all about us and love us. Thank You for loving Austin and Sabrina.** Continue, naming each child in your class.

Praise to God

I'm glad that Jesus knows all about me and loves me! One way to show I'm glad is to sing songs to Jesus. Let's form a marching band as we sing to show our love for Jesus. Distribute rhythm instruments. Walk around the room and invite children to join you while you play "Welcome, Hello!" (track 1 on CD). **If you have bells, come join in the march. If you have a tambourine, walk behind those with bells.** Continue until all children are marching behind you. After a few moments, allow children to exchange instruments and repeat the invitations.

CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

Jesus Loves Children

February 14

Bible Story

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Teacher Challenge

Adults might not treat children with the same respect with which they treat other adults. But Jesus' attitude toward children is radically different!

On at least one occasion, parents came to Jesus because they wanted His blessing on their children. When the disciples turned these parents and children away, Jesus became angry. He was indignant about this wrong done to children. Jesus made it very clear to His disciples that children are as important and as worthy of respect and attention as any adult.

- ➔ What do you do to welcome and respect the children who come to your class?
- ➔ How can you show you value the most troubled child you know? How can you help that child learn he or she matters to Jesus?

Jesus still has that same heart of love for every child! Ask Him to empower you to love them as He does so that they know Jesus loves and longs to bless each one of them.

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (John 15:12), the Monthly Bottom Line (Jesus loves and cares for me every day), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 2 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

February 14

Active Game Center: Red Light, Green Light



Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Children play a game like Red Light, Green Light. Stand at a wall in your classroom. Children stand in a line at the opposite side of the playing area. Say "Come!" Children walk towards the wall. After a few moments, say "Stop!" Children freeze in place.
2. Continue saying "Come!" and "Stop!" until all the children reach the wall. Children return to starting place. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus told His friends to let children come to see Him. Jesus loves all the children! Let's play a game where we are invited to "Come!"**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Jesus said this because Jesus loves all children.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We love You, too!**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Children stand in a circle. When you say "Come!" children walk in a circle. When you say "Stop!" children freeze in place.

For Older Children

Let a child stand at the wall with a sheet of red and a sheet of green paper. Child shows appropriate papers instead of saying "Stop" and "Go."



Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

Play to Learn

February 14

Art Center: Heart Art



Collect

Bible, construction paper, marker, pink and red tissue paper, scissors, glue; optional—Lesson 24 Heart Art Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, card stock.

Prepare

Print “Jesus loves me” on sheets of construction paper, one for each child. Cut tissue paper into a variety of shapes and sizes. (Optional: Copy Heart Art Pattern onto card stock and cut out to use as a template.)

Do

Children glue pieces of tissue paper on construction paper, without covering up the words “Jesus loves me.” Teacher or helper cuts the construction paper into a heart shape. (Optional: Use the Heart Art Pattern as a template.)

Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, Jesus told His friends to let children come to see Him. Jesus loves and cares for all the children in the world! Let’s make heart pictures to remind us of Jesus’ love.**
- ➔ **Ian, thank you for handing Julian the scissors. Being kind to others is a way to show we love Jesus!**
- ➔ **We say “Jesus loves me” to remind us of Jesus’ love. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving all the children in the world!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’” Jesus wanted to see the children because He loves all children! Jesus loves and cares for us each day.**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
“This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’” Matthew 19:14

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Special “Jesus Loves You” Craft”



For Younger Children

Instead of using tissue paper, cut heart shapes from construction paper. Children glue heart shapes to decorate a sheet of construction paper.

For Older Children

Children use heart-shaped cookie cutters to trace hearts onto construction paper, cut out hearts and use hearts to make designs on their sheets of construction paper.

Play to Learn

February 14

Dramatic Play Center: Getting Ready



Collect

Bible, dress-up items (dresses, shirts, hats, purses, etc.), toy food, toy dishes.

Do

Children pretend to be a family and act out getting ready to go to church (get dressed and eat breakfast, ride in car, etc.).

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, many parents were excited to bring their children to see Jesus. Today, your moms and dads brought you to church so that you could learn about Jesus' love! Let's pretend to be a family getting ready to go to church.**
- ➔ **Makayla, what do you usually eat for breakfast before going to church? What are some things we do at church to learn about Jesus' love?** (Sing songs and hear Bible stories about Jesus. Hear and say Bible verses.)
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Jesus wanted everyone to know that He loves children. Jesus loves and cares for each of you every day.**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Provide several mirrors so children can look at themselves in the mirror.

For Older Children

Provide Bible-times costumes instead of modern clothing. Older children act out the story events as you briefly retell the story. Expect to retell the story several times as children come and go from the Dramatic Play Center.

Listen to Learn

February 14

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 40 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 CD* and player, 10 items that show Jesus' care for us (toy food, children's or doll clothing, dollhouse furniture, plastic or paper cup, bottle of water or pitcher, etc.).

Greet Each Other

Children stand in a circle. Sing these words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," using names of children. Clap as you sing.

Who is here today? Who is here today?

Let's all clap our hands and see who is here today.

Audrey's here today. Chase is here today.

Autumn, Jeff and Xavier, they're all here today.

Each child sits down as you sing his or her name. Repeat song until all children have been named and are seated.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 19. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 40 pictures.

What do you do to get ready to visit a friend? Let's listen to hear what some people did before they went to see Jesus.



One day, some parents had heard that Jesus was coming. They wanted their children to meet Jesus! So they called their children. They probably washed the children's faces. They combed the children's hair. The mothers probably made sure their children were wearing clean clothes. Then off the families **went** toward the place where Jesus was.

As these families walked closer, they could see that Jesus was busy. He was talking to some grown-ups.



But those mothers and fathers wanted their children to meet Jesus! They probably took their children's hands. They went in and out and around the crowd of people. Soon they were close to Jesus. They must have been happy and excited!

But just then, some of Jesus' friends **stopped** the families. "Stand back!" they said. "Jesus is too busy to see children."

The children and their mothers and fathers must have felt so sad! They turned to walk away. But wait! They **heard** Jesus say something.



"Let the children come to Me!" Jesus said. "Do not send the children away. I love children. I want to see them!" Jesus had not wanted His friends to send the children away at all!

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"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'"
Matthew 19:14

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



Jesus' friends must have felt a little silly. They were surprised that Jesus cared so much about children. Jesus thought that children were just as important as grown-ups.

So the children came to Jesus. Some children probably ran to **hug** him. Some children may have stood shyly near Him. A few probably climbed right up onto His lap. Jesus put His arms around them. He prayed for each child. The children must have felt very happy! The children knew that Jesus loved them.

Talk About the Story

How did Jesus show that He loves children? (He told His helpers to let the children come to Him.) **Every day, Jesus loves us and cares for us. One way Jesus shows His love is by giving us people to care for us. What are some other ways Jesus shows love for us?** (Listens when we pray. Helps us do good things.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about the people Jesus loves. Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves You and Me" (on DVD or track 8 on CD). **Every day, Jesus loves and cares for you and me—everyone!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 19:14, say verse aloud. **Jesus wanted the children to come to Him to show that He loves children. Jesus loves and cares for each one of us.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse in the following manner: When children say the words "Jesus said," they clap their hands on each syllable of the words. When children say the words "Let the little children," they pat their thighs on each syllable of the words. Finally, when children say the words "come to me," they stomp a foot on each word. Repeat as time allows.

Pray to God

Let's thank God for His love. Repeat the following prayer several times, each time allowing two or three volunteers to name someone he or she knows: **Dear God, thank You for loving Jason, Ariana and Sara's moms.** Repeat as needed and then close the prayer by saying, **Thank You, God, for loving everyone! We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option: As part of the prayer activity, ask the children to name ways that Jesus cares for us. Volunteers then choose one of the things mentioned and pray aloud to Jesus.

Praise to God

Children sit in a circle. In the center of the circle, place five items that show Jesus' care (toy food, children's or doll clothing, dollhouse furniture, plastic or paper cup, bottle of water or pitcher, etc.). Children close their eyes while you remove one object. Children identify the missing object. Repeat, increasing the number of items as children become familiar with the game.

CD Note:

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Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

February 21

Bible Story

Luke 19:1-10

Teacher Challenge

Zacchaeus probably wasn't religious; being the chief tax collector for the city of Jericho (and cheating its taxpayers) likely took up most of his time and kept him in a category all by himself! But when Jesus' love surprised Zacchaeus, he was changed completely!

The power of Jesus' surprising love picked Zacchaeus out of the crowd by name. It astounded the crowd as He invited Himself to the home of the one man in town NO ONE wanted to visit! Jesus said nothing about Zacchaeus' sin. His loving acceptance brought such a change to Zacchaeus' heart that repentance followed!

- ➔ When has Jesus stopped you to surprise you with His amazing love?
- ➔ What's a way to show that same gracious love to those you know regardless of others' opinions?

It's easy to feel unloved and unworthy of Jesus because of things we've done or things we haven't done. But let Him stop you with His love and forgiveness! Then freely live out His loving acceptance and surprising love to the little ones you teach!

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
"You are kind and forgiving, O Lord."
Psalm 86:5

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚ please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (John 15:12), the Monthly Bottom Line (Jesus loves and cares for me every day), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 2 Overview Sheet.



Taken from Gospel Light's *Growing with God*, Lesson 25, pages 225-231

Active Game Center: Circle Toss



Collect

Bible, beanbag.

Do

1. Children sit in a circle. Say, “**Jesus loves (Evan).**” Toss the beanbag to Evan. Evan then says “**Jesus loves** (another child’s name)” and tosses beanbag to that child.
2. Continue until all children have been named.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “You are kind and forgiving, O Lord.” “Lord” is another name for Jesus. Jesus loves us and when we ask, He forgives us for the wrong things we do. Let’s play a game that will help us remember Jesus’ love.**
- ➔ **Alexandra, has anyone ever been unkind to you? Sometimes it’s hard to be forgiving when people are unkind. But Jesus always forgives us when we do wrong things.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Thank You for forgiving us when we do wrong things. We love You.**



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Weekly Bible Verse:
*“You are kind and forgiving, O Lord.”
Psalm 86:5*

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

For Younger Children

Toss beanbag to child, who then tosses beanbag back to you. Continue in this way until you have tossed beanbag to all children.

For Older Children

After each round, change the phrase children say, incorporating words from the Bible verse (“Jesus is kind to . . .,” “Jesus forgives . . .,” etc.).



Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today’s Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

Play to Learn

February 21

Construction Center: Road to Jericho



Collect



Bible, blocks, small leafy branch, play dough, toy people.

Do

1. Children use blocks to outline a long road. Children place end of branch in a lump of play dough and place next to road.
2. Children use toy people to act out the Bible story. (Be prepared to retell the Bible story several times as children come and go from the Construction Center.)

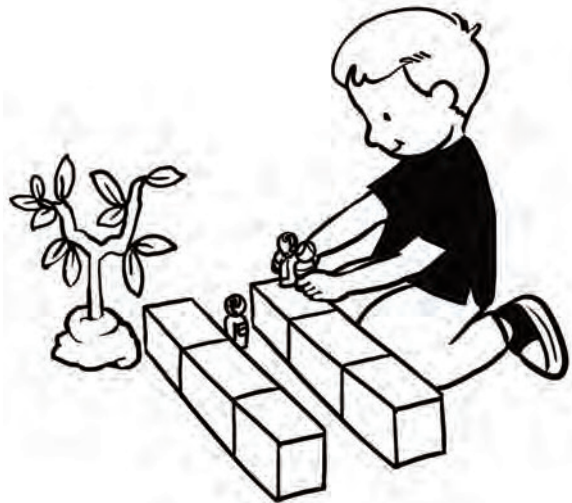
Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Jesus came walking down the road into Jericho. There were many people wanting to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree. Zacchaeus had done wrong things. But Jesus wanted to come to his house anyway. Jesus was kind and forgave Zacchaeus. Let's build the road that Jesus walked along.**
- ➔ **Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus. We can be kind to others, too. Savannah, Jack needs a long block. What can you do to be kind to Jack? You can pass Jack some blocks!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "You are kind and forgiving, O Lord." "Lord" is another name for Jesus. Jesus will forgive us when we do unkind things. All we have to do is be sorry and ask Him to forgive us.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we're sorry for the unkind things we do. Please forgive us.**

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"You are kind and forgiving, O Lord."
Psalm 86:5*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Children use blocks to build constructions of their own choice. For young children, joy comes from the process of arranging the blocks and not in the quality of the finished product. Use conversation ideas above to link children's activity to being kind and loving.

For Older Children

Provide cardboard boxes and empty cereal boxes. Children use boxes to build the town of Jericho.

Play to Learn

February 21

Dramatic Play Center: Money Matters



Collect

Bible, toy money, empty grocery containers and boxes, shopping bags; optional—Lesson 25 Money Matters Patterns from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, green card stock, scissors.

Prepare

(Optional: Make several copies of Money Matters Patterns on green card stock and cut out.)

Do

Children play with money, acting out situations when money would be used. Children can pretend to be moms or dads giving children an allowance. Other children can set up a store, while others set up a bank where children can deposit and withdraw money.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a man named Zacchaeus had a LOT of money. Zacchaeus had done wrong by taking this money from other people. But Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus and forgave Zacchaeus for the wrong things he had done. Let's use this pretend money to do good!**
- ➔ **Steven, you are buying a lot of groceries! How can you do good with all the food you bought? You can invite others to share in the meal!**
- ➔ **Jenny, how will you use your money? It is good to give money to our church to help people who are in need.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "You are kind and forgiving, O Lord." Jesus loves and forgives us when we do wrong. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We're glad that when we ask, You forgive us for the wrong things we do.**



Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"You are kind and forgiving, O Lord."
Psalm 86:5*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

For Younger Children

Provide several money banks (that can be easily opened) or cardboard boxes with slits for children to put money into.

For Older Children

Children use toy clothing and toy dishes to set up a yard sale. Provide stickers and markers for children to make price tags. Children take turns being sellers and buyers.

Listen to Learn

Luke 19:1-10

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 42 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, small leafy branch or classroom object.

Greet Each Other

Lead children in a game similar to Hot Potato. Children sit cross-legged in a circle and pass the branch or classroom object around the circle while you play "Jesus Loves Me" (track 7 on CD). When you stop the music, the child with the branch or classroom object says, "Jesus loves me and you!" Repeat several times.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 19. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 42 pictures.

What would you do if you had lots of money? Let's listen to hear about a man who had lots of money.



Zacchaeus had a LOT of money. He had a lot of money because he took money that did NOT belong to him!

Zacchaeus had done many wrong things by **taking** this money. People did not like him because of all the times he had taken money that was not his.



One day Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. *I want to go see Jesus*, he decided. Off he hurried to the road where Jesus was walking.

A large crowd of people had come to see Jesus. So when Zacchaeus got there, he **couldn't see** Jesus! Zacchaeus was very short. Even on tiptoe he could not see over the crowd of people.

But then Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran to a big tree. And he climbed up-up-UP the tree. Now he could see over all the people!



Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Jesus came closer and closer—until Jesus was right under the tree! Jesus stopped and looked **up** at Zacchaeus.

"Come down, Zacchaeus," said Jesus. "I want to stay at your house today." Zacchaeus climbed down-down-down from that tree. He was surprised that Jesus talked to him! But Zacchaeus was very glad to have Jesus come to his house.



Jesus loves me! Zacchaeus must have thought. He thought about the wrong things he had done. He thought about the money he had wrongly taken away from people. Zacchaeus told Jesus he wanted to give back the money he had taken. And he wanted to give money to the poor people, too! Zacchaeus had learned to love Jesus. Jesus was not angry at him, even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus was kind and forgiving to him.

Spring Unit 2 Bible Verse:
"This is my commandment: that you love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12

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God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
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Talk About the Story

What wrong thing did Zacchaeus do? (Zacchaeus had taken money that did not belong to him.) **Jesus showed Zacchaeus that He loved him, even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus loves us, too! Jesus will forgive us for the wrong things we do. When we feel sorry we did something wrong, what should we do?** (Tell Jesus we are sorry. Ask Jesus to forgive us.) **What will Jesus do?** (Forgive us.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about Jesus. Lead children in singing song "Jesus Loves You and Me" (on DVD or track 8 on CD). **This song tells us that Jesus listens when we pray. That means when we pray and ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we do, Jesus is listening! Jesus loves us and forgives us when we ask Him to.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 86:5, say verse aloud. **"Lord" is another name for Jesus. This verse tells us that Jesus is kind and forgiving. He will forgive us when we do wrong. All we have to do is ask.** Lead children in repeating the verse by echoing phrases after you: "You are kind/and forgiving/O Lord." Repeat several times.

Option: Vary the manner in which you and the children speak (loudly, softly, whispering, low, high, etc.).

Pray to God

Dear God, sometimes we do wrong things. But we want to do what is right. Thank You for loving us always. Thank You for forgiving us when we are sorry for the wrong things we do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Praise to God

Stand in a circle with the children and say, **I'm so glad that Jesus is kind and forgiving. I'm going to jump up and down!** Children copy your motion. The child standing next to you says, **I'm so glad that Jesus is kind and forgiving. I'm going to** (wiggle my fingers). Continue going around the circle until each child has had a turn. (Younger children copy your motions instead of suggesting their own.)

ART: Zacchaeus in a Tree
Craft Provided



CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.