



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BLUEPRINTS

THE BIG IDEA

Love is the foundation of God's plans.

THE BIBLE

God So Loved the World: John 3:14-21;
(Ephesians 2:4-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT TODAY?

MUSIC | Plan for Praise

This month is all about Blueprints — God's plan for our lives! God's plans for us are built on God's amazing love for us.

Let's sing this song as a reminder that we can trust God and God's love for us no matter what!

INSTRUCTIONS: Lead the kids in worship and repeat your theme song for the month, (e.g., "[I Believe In Jesus](#)," "[Jeremiah 29:11](#)"). For today, use Jenga blocks and have kids stack the blocks as they listen and sing along.

ACTIVITY | Jenga Challenge

INSTRUCTIONS: Play a game of [Jenga](#), using a life-sized [Jenga](#) set if available. Have family members go around taking turns removing one block and placing it on top of the stack. Play until the tower falls over, and repeat if you have time.

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Divide the kids into two or more teams, based on the size of your group. Give them five minutes to build, with each kid taking turns removing one block at a time and placing it on top of the stack. The tower to last the longest or the tallest tower at the end of five minutes wins. Then discuss why the foundation wasn't good.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For someone with diverse dexterity needs, assign one member of each group as the 'building architect' to provide different levels of support depending on the needs of the kids. This member can help choose, remove, or stack blocks for any person on the team.

You all were concentrating so hard to make sure you didn't make the tower fall. The tower fell eventually because it didn't have a good foundation to stand on. That's what we're talking about today – the foundation of God's plan for you and me!

ACTIVITY | Pyramid Plans

INSTRUCTIONS: Split the kids into teams. Give each team a pack of [plastic cups](#) to build a tower. When the teams are done, ask one of the leaders to go around and try to knock down the towers by waving a [handheld fan](#).

What would you do differently to make your tower stronger?

It was so important to make sure your foundation was as strong as possible. We'll hear today about what the foundation of God's plan is!

POLL | Which One Will Fall?

INSTRUCTIONS: Show these pictures and ask the kids to vote for which one they think will fall first. Tell the kids to discuss with a partner to explain their choice. Then, ask for a couple of kids to share their answer.

[House on tires](#)

[Leaning apartments](#)

[Foundation of books](#)

[Floating house](#)

[Solid as a rock](#)

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids get into groups of 3-4. Each group will get a picture and answer the following questions. Do you think the structure in your picture will fall? Why or why not? What makes a good foundation?

SO WHAT? WHY DOES IT MATTER TO GOD AND TO US?

SCRIPTURE | John 3:14-21

INSTRUCTIONS: Show this [video](#).

Nicodemus had lots of questions about Jesus and what God's plan was. We might have questions, too.

Why did God send Jesus?

People had been separated from God ever since sin first entered the scene. Try as we might, humans just can't get rid of sin by ourselves. But God came up with a way so that we would no longer have to be separated from God. That's where Jesus comes in.

Why would God do that for us?

Jesus explains that love was the reason Jesus came to die for our sins. Love is also the reason why Jesus came back to life. God's love is what the whole plan is built on. God loves everyone in the world so much wants everyone to find their way back to God.

How do we do that?

God's plan was to save everyone from their sins. God does all the hard part. All people have to do is believe! The best part is . . . God's amazing love is for you, too!

THE BIG IDEA | Love is the foundation of God's plans.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Print or write the Big Idea on a piece of [blueprint paper](#), roll it up and put it in the blueprint tube from last week. Ask the same or a different volunteer to dress up as a construction worker to reveal today's Big Idea.*

This week's Big Idea is: **Love is the foundation of God's plans.**

VIDEO | Blueprints, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Tower of Hanoi Challenge

INSTRUCTIONS: *Provide a Tower of Hanoi puzzle, like [this one](#). Start with using four disks stacked on the farthest left with the biggest disk on the bottom and the smallest disk on the top. The goal is to move all of the disks as far to the right as possible. You may only move one disk at a time, and there can never be a smaller disk under a larger disk. You can only move smaller disks onto empty stacks or larger disks. Use more disks for advanced groups. You can find the solution [here](#).*

The foundation always had to be the largest piece. Just like the largest piece in God's plans, the foundation, is God's love!

OBJECT LESSON | Skip Step One

INSTRUCTIONS: *Use the [LEGO sets](#) from the first week. Build one of them as instructed. Build another by skipping step one of the instructions.*

What is wrong with one of these sets?

The most important part of the instructions is the beginning – the foundation!

These two LEGO sets might look very similar, but one of them is missing its foundation. Because its foundation isn't strong, the whole thing falls apart easily.

God's plan for us is built on the strongest foundation of all – God's love for us! It will never fail!

SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 2:4-10

INSTRUCTIONS: *Read Ephesians 2:4-10.*

What makes someone "rich?"

The Bible says God is "rich in mercy," which means God has a never-ending supply of forgiveness and love.

But there isn't anything we could do to earn it from God – not even all the money in the world. We can't earn it because God gives it to us for free.

God's love gave us a way to trust in Jesus to rescue us from sin and to give us purpose.

God has a big plan, and it's a plan to give us big hope. Not just for our day-to-day lives but the biggest hope of all – we can look forward to life with Jesus in heaven! We can trust in God's love for us. **Love is the foundation of God's plans.**

NOW WHAT? WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?**QUESTION | What Do You Love Most?**

INSTRUCTIONS: Allow the kids time to share their answers after each question. Talk about why they chose that specific thing and what they love about it.

What is the thing you love the most?

How does loving something change how you treat it?

When you love something, you look out for it and do everything you can to connect with it and protect it. God's love is why God decided to take care of everything we needed and more.

You'll never love something as much as God loves you! **Love is the foundation of God's plans.**

REFLECTION | Who Am I?

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each kid a [note card](#) and a pen. Tell them to think of five things that they are or have (e.g., fifth grader, basketball player, musician, etc.). Instruct them to list those things on their note card. Ask some of them to share what they wrote down, if they would like to.

✂ **PRETEEN HACKS:** Encourage kids to get specific in their descriptions – instead of naming vague or generic things – by having them share their quirks and unique experiences.

What kind of plans has God created in you?

What do you know about yourself that gives you clues to who God has made you to be?

Everything we have and everything we are is because God loves us! **Love is the foundation of God's plans.**

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Pieces

INSTRUCTIONS: Write Jeremiah 29:11 on [blueprint](#) paper and cut it into two- to three-word sections. Pass out one piece of the verse to each kid. Encourage the kids to put the verse together in order. This can be done as a race between teams if your group is big enough.

PRAYER

Dear God, you knew your plan would need a strong foundation. We are so happy that you love us, and that Jesus came to Earth for us. Help us to see how the way you made us uniquely is also a part of Your plan. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION**

What was the name of the man who came to talk to Jesus in John 3?

In John 3, what did God do because God loved us so much?

What can you do to receive God's gift of salvation?

Read Ephesians 2:10. What is something you've noticed God teaching you?
How does the fact that love is the foundation of God's plans change the way you think about the Bible stories you've heard?
What is most exciting to you about God having a plan for you?
Read Jeremiah 29:11. What do we usually put as the foundation of our plans? Is it love? Is it something else?

ACTIVITY | I am _____ because of God's love.

INSTRUCTIONS: Print the name tags from this week's printables folder. Have kids share a few things about how God has made them. Allow the kids some time to share with a friend or leader.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Be available to write for any student who may be unable to. As you survey the activity be on the lookout for anyone who may not necessarily open up that they need assistance writing.

Think about everything we talked about today. Write a word that describes what God's love has made you to be on your name tag. Once you are done, wear it home so people can see how awesome it is that God's love is the foundation for God's plans!

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

INSTRUCTIONS: Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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QUESTIONS

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What is most exciting to you about God having a plan for you?

Read Jeremiah 29:11. What do we usually put as the foundation of our plans? Is it love? Is it something else?

ACTIVITY

Pass out one name tag to each kid. Have kids share a few things about how God has made them. Allow the kids some time to share with a friend or leader.

Think about everything we talked about today. Write a word that describes what God's love has made you to be on your name tag. Once you are done, wear it home so people can see how awesome it is that God's love is the foundation for God's plans!

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

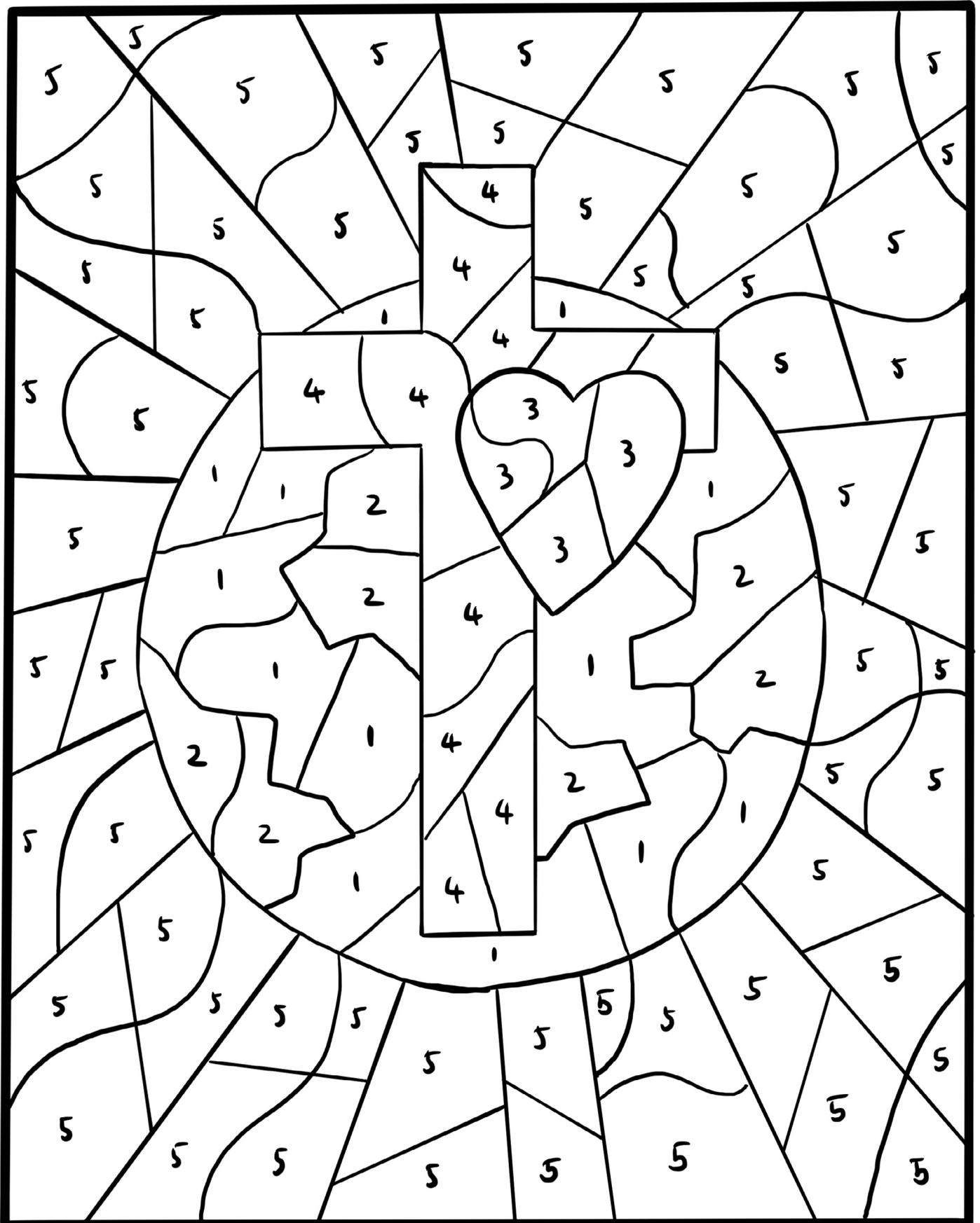
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Looking for sign language? Go to growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-11 and get memorizing!

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1 - BLUE 2 - GREEN 3 - RED 4 - BROWN 5 - YELLOW

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BLUEPRINTS

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