

**WEEK**

**ONE**

# K3 | W1

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 1

**Bible Story:** John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

**Bottom Line:** Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

### Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

### Large Group (35 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

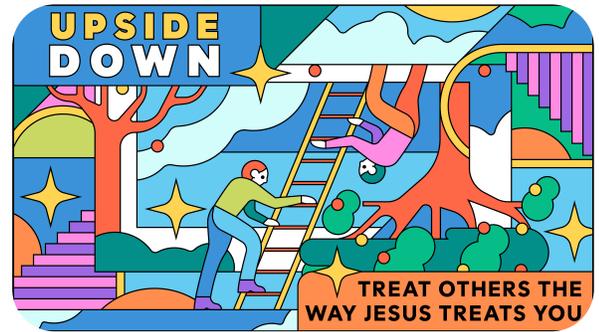
### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

- Bible Story Review: Bible Story Ring Toss (K-1st grade), Jesus Is #1 (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)
- Application Activity: Upside Down Craft (K-1st grade), Jesus at the Top (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)
- Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K-1st grade), Memory Verse Motions (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)
- Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

### Conversation Starter

How can I show others that Jesus is better?

### Bottom Line

Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## Opener

### What You Need

 Host	1
 red paper plates	20
 blue paper plates	20
 Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
 Floor tape	1

### What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. *Note: Legally, a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.*
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Create a starting line with floor tape.
- Mix up both colors of paper plates, and lay them face down all around the floor.

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we're starting a brand-new theme called *Upside Down!* Everyone say: 'Upside Down!'"

**KIDS:** "Upside down!"

**HOST:** "Great job!! The full title of the series this month is: 'Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you!'"

"So this month, we're going to learn how to live the way Jesus did, to treat others the way He treats us. And that might look a little different from what we're used to. It might even look ... upside down!"

"Now, to kick things off, I have a super fun game called 'Flip It!'"

*SLIDE: Flip It! Title*

"I need two teams of five people to play our game. If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!"

*Choose 10 kids from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them on stage and create two teams of five. Designate one team of five as Team Red and the other five kids for Team Blue. Encourage both teams to form two separate lines behind the tape start line you have created.*

"Here's how this game works. On the floor, you can see a bunch of paper plates scattered all over. Some are red, some are blue, and all are flipped over. We've got two teams, Team Red and Team Blue.

"When I say 'Go,' one kid from each team will run out, flip over one plate that matches their team color, and then run back to tag the next person. Then the next kid on that team gets to go! You'll keep flipping plates until time runs out. When the timer ends, we'll see which team has the most plates showing their color! Sound good?"

"Awesome! Everyone, find your team and get ready. We'll have two minutes on the timer. Everybody else, let's cheer them on!"

"Is everybody ready? (Make sure the two teams are lined up and ready to go.) Awesome! Let's get our game started! Ready ... set ... GO!"

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start the timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) and start the game. After two minutes, stop the music and say:*

"And STOP! Everyone, freeze where you are. Let's count and see which team flipped the most plates.

*Invite the audience to help count with you as you are counting. Reset for another round if time allows.*

"You know, that game reminded me of what we're learning today. Everything kept flipping back and forth, down to up, and that's kind of like what happens when we follow Jesus.

"We are going to unpack all this month on how to live 'Upside Down!' It's going to be great!

"Today's Bible Story is about a man named John the Baptist. He was really popular; everyone came to hear him speak. But when Jesus showed up, John showed us something important: 'Jesus must increase, and I must decrease.' That's our Bottom Line for today!

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

"Can you say that with me?"

**KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Jesus must increase, I must decrease!"**

11 min

# Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

## Praise | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## I'm Free! | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"That means more of Jesus in our lives, and less of us trying to be the most important. When we put Jesus first, everything else in our lives starts to make sense!"

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

"Hey, everyone! Welcome to our first week of 'Upside Down!' This whole month, we're discovering how to live in an upside-down way—the Jesus way! A great way to start is by just praising Him for how good He is! Let's go!"

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today—worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!"

"This whole month, we're learning how to live *Upside Down!* We're discovering what it means to treat others the way Jesus treats us. When we live with humility, when we think of others first, we show everyone that Jesus loves them.

"Our Memory Verse for this month reminds us how to do that. It's found in Philippians 2:3. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!"

10 min

## Worship Option 2 | Orange Kids Music

5 min

### O Priase

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

### Thank Yout God | Worship song

#### SLIDE: Memory Verse

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.—Philippians 2:3 NIV"

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

"Great job! That's such a powerful reminder that following Jesus means putting others first. When we do that, we make Jesus more important than anything else in our lives."

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

**Worship Closer****What You Need**

No supplies needed

24 min

**Bible Story  
(Video)**

12 min

**StoryLab Bible Story | Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

12 min

**So and So Show Bible Story |  
Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

33 min

**Bible Story (Live)**

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today—worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

*Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!*

*If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the*

3 min

## INTRODUCTION

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!*

*Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!*

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Make sure all of the props are ready on the table.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we're learning what it means to live *Upside Down!* Our theme of this month is called: 'Upside Down!' Living Upside Down means we do things God's way, even when it looks different from what everyone else is doing.

"This week, in our true story from the Bible, we're going to hear a story about someone who lived that way. His name was John the Baptist. Lots of people thought John was amazing, but when Jesus came along, John showed us something really special: **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus must increase. I must decrease.'**

"And we're going to find out what that means for us today! But before we start our story, let's remember something really awesome we're doing this year. We're going to read the key stories from the Bible together as we go through it cover to cover!

"Why? Why are we going through the Bible? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! Every story we read in the Bible helps us see who God is and how much He loves us.

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God, saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "So we're continuing our journey through the Bible. We're right at the part of the Bible when Jesus was on Earth. He came to Earth to show us who God is! So let's see what He had to teach us about living upside down!

"To get started, let me ask you a question for you to think about: Have you ever been part of something where you wanted to be the one who got noticed? Like maybe you worked hard on a project and really wanted everyone to see it ... or maybe you scored a goal and hoped people were cheering *your* name. Raise your hand if you like being noticed sometimes! (*Raise your hand and acknowledge the other kids who have their hands raised too.*)

"Yeah, that's totally normal! It feels good when people notice us. But today's story shows us something *upside down*, something that feels backward at first.

"It's about what happens when we stop trying to make ourselves look the biggest and the most important ... and instead, make *Jesus* the biggest.

5 min

## JOHN'S FOLLOWERS GET JEALOUS

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"As we go through our story, I am going to need your help. Can you hold up your pointer finger, like this?"

*Demonstrate how to hold up your pointer finger like you are saying that something is number one.*

"Great! Now, hold up that pointer finger as you say this: 'Jesus is number one!'"

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Awesome! At certain points in our story, I will hold up my finger and we can say that cheer together!"

"Because today's true story from the Bible is about a man named John the Baptist, who had to make a choice: did he want people to see him, or see Jesus? He wanted the whole world to know that (*hold up your pointer finger and lead the kids to say ...* )

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great! You guys are ready! Let's get into our story."

**STORYTELLER:** "John the Baptist was kind of a big deal. God gave him a special job—to help people get ready for Jesus. John lived out in the desert, wore clothes made of camel hair, and even ate locusts! Sounds a little gross, right? But people didn't care, they were so amazed about what John was saying and doing!"

"Crowds came from all over to hear John speak. They wanted to learn how to live God's way. And when they decided they wanted to follow God, John would baptize them in the Jordan River as a sign of their new beginning following the Lord. John even baptized Jesus!"

"So imagine this: huge crowds of people were listening to John, asking questions, following him, cheering for him. Everyone was talking about him. John was kind of famous!"

"But then Jesus came on the scene. And pretty soon, more and more people started following *Jesus* instead of *John*. Can you imagine how that felt for John's followers? They had been part of something big! But now, it felt like someone else was getting all the attention. One day, John's followers came to him. They looked frustrated and jealous, and they said this:

*Open the Bible to John 3:26 (NirV) and read.*

*"Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."*

5 min

**JOHN CHOOSES HUMILITY****What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Whoa! They were talking about Jesus! John's friends were upset because they thought this was bad news. They thought John was losing followers, losing his spotlight.

"Let's all make a jealous face, like someone just took your turn on the best swing at recess AND is playing with your best friend.

*Make a jealous face and comment on the kid's faces.*

"Yeah. That's how John's followers felt.

"But John didn't see it that way at all. He didn't get jealous or try to get the crowd back. He didn't say, 'Hey, wait! What about me?' Instead, John was calm.

"Because John knew something his followers didn't. He knew *his job wasn't to be the most important*. His job was to point people to *the most important Person, Jesus*. He wanted the whole world to know that (*hold up your pointer finger and lead the kids to say ...*)

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great job! Listen to how John responded to what his followers said:

*Open the Bible to John 3:27 (NirV) and read.*

*John replied, "A person can receive only what God gives them from heaven."*

"That means John knew everything he had—his job, his followers, his abilities—all came from God. And if God wanted people to follow Jesus, that was *good*. John wasn't upset that his time in the spotlight was ending. He was *glad* that more people were starting to see Jesus for who He really was, the Rescuer God had promised.

"That's why this part of the story is so upside down. Normally, when we lose attention, it feels bad. But John taught us something powerful—life isn't about keeping the spotlight on *us*. It's about shining the light on *Jesus*. God wants us to show the world (*hold up your pointer finger and lead the kids to say ...*)

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great! You got it! Let me carry on with our story. John could see that his friends were upset, but he wanted them to understand something bigger, something they couldn't see yet.

"He turned to them and said:

*Open the Bible to John 3:28-29 (NirV) and read.*

*"You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is full of joy when he hears the groom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."*

"So ... what did that mean? Well, back in Bible times, a wedding was a really big deal. The groom was the star of the celebration, and his friend's job was to help him get everything ready.

"John said he was like that friend. His job was to help get everyone ready for Jesus. He wasn't the star—Jesus was. And when Jesus finally arrived, John wasn't jealous. He was *full of joy!* Because God was at work and the plan He had told everyone about for such a long time was finally coming true! The One John had been talking about, the One who would save the world, was finally here! John knew that his job was to show everyone that *(hold up your pointer finger and lead the kids to say ... )*

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "You got it! John was just pointing to the greatest one! Now, let's look at what John said next.

*Open the Bible to John 3:30-31 (NIV) and read.*

*"He must become more important. I must become less important. The one who comes from above is above everything. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks like someone from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above everything."*

"John didn't want to keep people's attention on himself. He wanted to point to Jesus! And the reason why is because Jesus is from heaven. He is above everything. John wanted to help everyone understand who Jesus really was, and why Jesus deserved to be the one everyone followed. John shared this about Jesus:

*Open the Bible to John 3:34-36 (NIV) and read.*

*"The one whom God has sent speaks God's words. That's because God gives the Holy Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands. Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who does not believe in the Son will not have life."*

"Wow. That's what John wanted everyone to know—that Jesus isn't just another teacher, or another prophet, or another important person. He's *God's own Son.*

"That's why John was so happy when people started following Jesus instead of him. Because that's exactly what was supposed to happen! Jesus is the Savior from heaven, John wasn't! John didn't need to be the one everyone followed. He didn't need to be the biggest, the best, or the most important. He just wanted everyone to see Jesus. He wanted

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

everyone to see that (*hold up your pointer finger and lead the kids to say ...*)

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is number one!"

**STORYTELLER:** "You guys got it! So let's think about what we learned from John the Baptist today. Everyone knew who John was, but when Jesus came, John didn't try to stay in the spotlight. Instead, he said:

*Open the Bible to John 3:30 (NirV) and read.*

*"He must become more important. I must become less important" (John 3:30 NirV).*

"That's humility. John wanted everyone to see how amazing Jesus was, not how great *he* was. And because he pointed people to Jesus, people were able to see Jesus!

"That's living upside down. And when we live like that, when we make a big deal of Jesus, people don't just see *us*, they see *Jesus* through us. And we want everyone to see Jesus!"

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

"That's why our Bottom Line for this week is: **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** Say that with me."

*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line] "Jesus must increase. I must decrease."**

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we talked about a very important person in Jesus' life—Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist! John the Baptist taught us so much about Jesus. His whole life was an arrow that pointed to Jesus! One of the important ideas that John the Baptist taught was this: 'Jesus came from heaven, and He tells us all about heavenly things.' That's a big reason why God sent Jesus. He came to teach us heavenly things. Jesus came to show us who God is and what God is like! And while Jesus was here on Earth showing us what God is like, Jesus also lived a perfect life. He did not sin at all. Then He gave up that perfect life to break the awful

8 min

## Closing

5 min

### WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### PRAYER

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

curse of sin that we were under. The King of heaven died and rose again to set us free, so that we could be close friends with God again—forever!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

*SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"This week we learned from John the Baptist how Jesus must increase and we must decrease!"

**HOST:** "So what about us? What's our part in this story? Well, John's job was to point people to Jesus—and that's our job too! We can't baptize people in a river like John did, but we can show people who Jesus is by the way we live every day.

"So let's point people to Jesus! When we share what we have, we aren't just being kind, we are showing people Jesus! He is kind too! When we tell the truth, we aren't just being honest, we're showing people what Jesus is like! He is truthful too! When we bring a bandage to someone who is hurt, we aren't just showing compassion, we are showing what Jesus is like! He is compassionate too!

"So as you go throughout this week, be like John, and be a big arrow that points to Jesus! Jesus is number one! In the morning, you can ask Jesus, 'Jesus, I want to live pointing to You today. Please show me how!' And when He nudges your heart throughout the day—at school, at the playground, at home—do what He says.

"As you are a big arrow that points to Jesus, people will see Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's take a moment to talk to God together. Everyone, bow your heads and close your eyes so we can focus on Him."  
 "Dear Jesus, we want to live with humility. We want to make You number one in our lives every day. We want our lives to be a big arrow that points to you! When we start to think too much about ourselves, remind us to point to You. Thank You for loving us so much. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. red paper plates	20
3. blue paper plates	20
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
5. Floor tape	1

**WEEK**

**TWO**

# K3 | W2

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 2

**Bible Story:** A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

**Bottom Line:** Remember God is most important.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

### Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

### Large Group (35 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Act It Out (K-1st grade), Puppet Show Retell (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Who's Who (K-1st grade), Application Roll (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Color by Number (K-1st grade), Memory Verse Balloon Bop (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

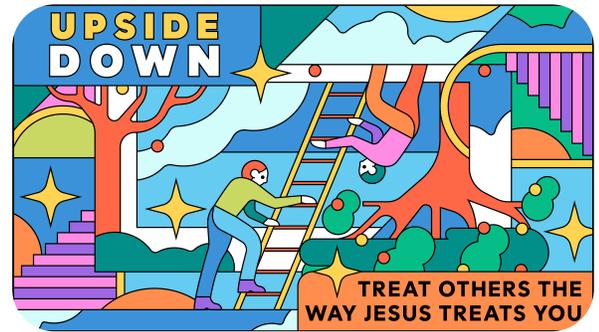
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

### Conversation Starter

How do you show that God is important?

### Bottom Line

Remember God is most important.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## OPENER

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Floor Tape	1
 Rubber chicken	1
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You'll ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2

### What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- Use floor tape to create two starting lines directly across from each other, around 20 feet apart or whatever a reasonable distance is for your space.
- Place the rubber chicken directly in the middle of the two starting lines. The distance to the rubber chicken should be equal from both starting lines.

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another incredible week of our series called 'Upside Down!' All month long, we're learning how Jesus flips things around and shows us a totally different way to live—HIS way!

"And speaking of upside down ... today's game is completely ridiculous in the best way. It's called 'Upside-Down Trivia'!

*SLIDE: "Upside-Down Trivia Title"*

"In this game, the WRONG answer is the RIGHT answer. You score points by giving the silliest, craziest, most upside-down answer you can think of!

"But before you can answer, you have to race for THIS rubber chicken. Each round, I'll call up two players. When I ask the question, those two players will run to the chicken. Whoever grabs it first gets to give the upside-down answer. That means your answer should be incorrect, not correct. It should be something that DOESN'T make sense. For example, if I asked, 'What do you use to keep the rain off you?' you might say, 'Swiss cheese!'

"Okay, let's pick our first two players! If you'd like to volunteer to play, raise your hand!

*Choose two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Position each kid at the start lines on either side of the rubber chicken.*

### ROUND 1

"All right, here we go. Remember, I will ask the question first, and when I shout, 'Upside down,' you will race to the chicken! Ready? Here's the first question: What do you use to brush your teeth?"

"Ready ... set ... UPSIDE DOWN!"

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*The kids race. First kid grabs the chicken.*

"Okay, [kid's name] grabbed the rubber chicken first. So what's your upside-down answer?"

*Kid who grabbed the chicken gives their upside-down answer.*

*Respond to the kid's upside-down answer. For example, if the kid responded with "Breadstick," you could say something like: "A breadstick? I'm pretty sure that's not dentist-approved ... but that IS an upside-down answer!" Then give them a ridiculous point amount for their answer.*

"Great job! Okay, let's bring up two different players! Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!"

*Pause to select two new volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Position each kid at the start lines.*

### **ROUND 2**

"Okay, next question: What do you wear on your feet? Ready ... set ... UPSIDE DOWN!"

*The kids race to grab the chicken.*

"What's your upside-down answer?"

*Kid who grabbed the chicken gives their upside-down answer.*

*Respond to the kid's upside-down answer. For example, if the kid responded with "Spaghetti noodles," you could say something like:*

*"Spaghetti noodles? Slippery AND stylish. And definitely upside-down!" Then give them a ridiculous point amount for their answer.*

"Great job!"

*If time allows, continue with more rounds of new questions.*

**Ideas for Possible Future Rounds** (Feel free to come up with your own!)

- What do you sleep on at night?
- What do you put on a sandwich?
- What do you write with?
- What do you drink?

"Wow, you all rocked those upside-down answers! I love how your brain can flip things around so fast. And THAT is exactly what this month is all about. We're learning how living for Jesus sometimes feels upside down or different from what everyone else expects.

"Like when we choose kindness ... when we choose forgiveness ... when we choose to follow Jesus, it might not always be what everyone else is doing, but it's always the BEST way. Today, we'll be learning how someone who was very important realized that God is the One who is MOST important. And that's our Bottom Line today!"

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** "Remember God is most important! Say that with me, friends!"

**KIDS & HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Remember God is most important!"

**HOST:** "Awesome! Let's learn what that's all about!"

11 min

# Worship Option 1 (Amazing Music)

3 min

## Praise | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## Waiting Here for You | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Our first song today is called 'Praise!' This song reminds us that we can praise God no matter where we are or what's going on. He's the most important one in our lives, and He deserves all our thanks! So let's stand up, get our hands ready, and give our biggest praise to God!"

"This next song reminds us that even when we have to wait or when things don't make sense, God is always with us. He hears our prayers, and we can trust Him because He's the one who's in charge. Let's sing 'Waiting Here for You.'"

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today, worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!"

"You all did such an amazing job worshipping today! Now, we're going to look at our Memory Verse for this month. This verse reminds us how to live the way Jesus did, with humility, which means putting others first and remembering that God is most important. It's found in Philippians 2:3. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!"

*SLIDE: Memory Verse*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. —Philippians 2:3 NIV"

3 min

## Worship Option 2 (Orange Kids Music)

3 min

### O Praise | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

### Thank You God | Worship Song

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

"Great job, everyone! When we remember this verse, it helps us live upside down—not just thinking about ourselves, but putting God and others first."

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through."

When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

24 min

**Bible Story  
(Video)**

12 min

**StoryLab Bible Story | Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

12 min

**So and So Show Bible Story |  
Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

43 min

**Bible Story (Live)**

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him—not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

*Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!*

*If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!*

*Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend.*

3 min

## INTRODUCTION

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Storyteller	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 Large Flashlight	1

*Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!*

### What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Set up the large flashlight on a table. Position it in a way for the room to see your shadow. (You could also have a leader hold the flashlight for you.)
- Throughout the teaching, get closer and farther from the light to emphasize the point of wanting God to be most important. Feel free to practice making your shadow prior to Large Group time!

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have a big flashlight set up on a table positioned in a way for kids to see your shadow. If possible, dim lights when using the flashlight.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we're talking about what it means to live *Upside Down*—to follow Jesus even when it looks different from what everyone else is doing. 'Upside Down' is our theme this month! Jesus doesn't just want us to act like everyone else. He teaches us a whole new way to live.

"Today, we're going to hear about someone who understood something really important about Jesus. He was a Roman commander—a big, powerful leader who gave orders to lots of soldiers. Everyone expected someone like him to be the most important person in the room. But when this commander met Jesus, he showed that Jesus is the most important! He is in charge!

"But before we get into our true story about what we can learn about God today, let me tell you about something amazing that we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### *SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're continuing right in our journey through the Bible. We are right at the part where Jesus was on Earth!

"Before we jump into our true story from the Bible, I want to show you something really cool. I've got a flashlight right here.

5 min

## A SURPRISING VISITOR

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Shine the flashlight toward the wall so kids can see your shadow grow larger.*

"Check out my shadow! When I stand way back here, my shadow looks HUGE. It makes me look like I'm the most important thing in the room!

*Take a small step closer to the flashlight so the shadow shrinks.*

"But watch what happens when I move closer to the light. My shadow gets smaller. The closer I get to the light, the less I look like the biggest thing.

*Take another step closer. The shadow should become even smaller.*

"This is a great picture of what we're learning today. Sometimes we like to feel big, strong, and important. But when we get closer to Jesus, the Light, we remember something true: God is the most important. Not me. Not anyone else. Only Him."

"In our story today, we're going to meet someone who showed us this truth. He was really powerful! He was a commander of about 100 Roman soldiers! People listened to him. He gave orders, and people would obey. But when he came to Jesus, he showed that he wasn't the biggest one at all. Jesus was.

"Let's take a look at what happened when that Roman commander met Jesus. Jesus said the Roman commander's response to Him was one of the most faith-filled He had ever seen!

"Jesus had just finished teaching a huge crowd of people. He had been up on a mountain sharing some really important things. When He and His friends came back into the town of Capernaum, something surprising happened.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:5-6 (NIRV) and read.*

*When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman commander came to him. He asked Jesus for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering terribly."*

"Now, this wasn't just ANY soldier. This man was a Roman commander. He was in charge of about one hundred soldiers! When he said, 'Go,' they went. When he said, 'Come here,' they came running. Everyone knew he was important. You'd expect someone like him to act big and strong and proud, right? But instead of acting like he was the most important person ... he came to Jesus for help. He knew that even with all his strength and power, he couldn't fix what was happening to his servant.

"Jesus listened to him right away. Jesus cared about every person He met, even people others didn't expect Him to help. This is how Jesus responded:

5 min

## A COMMANDER WHO UNDERSTOOD REAL POWER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:7 (NIRV) and read.*

*Jesus said, "Shall I come and heal him?"*

*Use the flashlight to create the big shadow.*

"Look how big my shadow is right now. That's kind of like what the commander could have done. He could have acted like the biggest, most important person.

*Take one slow step closer to the flashlight so the shadow gets smaller.*

"But instead, he came close in a humble way, just like a shadow that gets smaller when you move toward the light. By asking Jesus for help, the commander was showing something amazing—He knew Jesus was more important than he was."

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus had just offered to go to the commander's house and heal the servant. That was a HUGE deal. Most people expected a powerful Roman leader to boss people around, not ask politely for help. But what the commander said next showed that he understood something incredibly important about Jesus.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:8-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*The commander replied, "Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. I myself am a man under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

"Did you hear that? The commander wasn't trying to act impressive. He wasn't trying to prove how important he was. Instead, he explained something he understood from his own job: when someone has real authority, things happen just because they say so.

*Use the flashlight to make the biggest shadow you can.*

"When I hold the light like this, my shadow looks huge again. Sometimes people think being the 'biggest' or the 'most important' is what matters most.

*Slowly shrink your shadow.*

"But that's not what the commander did. He didn't try to make himself look bigger. He moved closer to the Light, closer to the truth that Jesus is the greatest of all.

"He believed Jesus could heal his servant from far away, with just a word. Not because the commander was awesome. But because Jesus is the One with real authority. Not a little authority. Not some authority. ALL authority. Jesus is in charge!

5 min

## JESUS SEES A FAITH LIKE NO OTHER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Kids, that's HUGE. The commander could have tried to fix things his own way. He could have acted like he was the most important. But he didn't. He trusted that Jesus' power was greater.

"This was real faith, the kind that says, 'Jesus, You can do what I can't. I trust You. You are God!'

**STORYTELLER:** "When Jesus heard what the commander said, He didn't just smile ... He didn't just nod ... He was AMAZED. Think about that! This commander amazed Jesus! This is what happened:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:10 (NIRV) and read.*

*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those following him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. In Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong."*

"Wow. Jesus had met so many people—people who followed Him, people who listened to His teachings, people who saw His miracles. But this commander stood out. Not because he was powerful. Not because he was important. But because he trusted Jesus completely.

"Remember how our shadows look big when we stand far from the light, and small when we're close? The commander wasn't trying to make himself look big. He wasn't trying to look strong or important. He stepped close to the truth, close to the Light, and trusted Jesus more than himself.

"Jesus then told everyone listening that people from all over the world would come to God's kingdom, but the ones who *thought* they were important, the ones who thought they didn't need God's help, would miss out. Jesus said:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:11-12 (NIRV) and read.*

*"I say to you that many will come from the east and the west. They will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of heaven. They will sit with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But those who think they belong in the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness. There they will weep and grind their teeth."*

"Jesus was explaining something big: Being close to God isn't about being famous. It isn't about being powerful. It isn't about being the 'biggest' or the 'best.' It's about faith in God. It's about knowing that **[Bottom Line] God is the most important** and has all authority.

*Slowly make your shadow shrink again.*

"This is what the commander did. He made himself small by coming close to Jesus. And Jesus saw that his faith was real.

5 min

## THE MOMENT JESUS SPOKE

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

**STORYTELLER:** "After the commander showed his incredible faith, Jesus did something amazing. He didn't travel to the commander's house. He didn't walk through the streets. He didn't even ask for someone to lead the way. Jesus simply spoke.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:13 (NIV) and read.*

*Then Jesus said to the Roman commander, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.*

"Right in that very moment ... the servant was healed.

"The Roman commander stepped close to Jesus, he asked Jesus for help, and he trusted that Jesus' power was bigger than anything he could ever do.

"And Jesus didn't just hear him ... Jesus acted. Jesus didn't need to see the servant. He didn't need to touch him. He didn't need to walk to the Roman commander's house. All He needed to do was speak. And when Jesus speaks ... things change. The servant was healed immediately because Jesus is in charge. Everything answers to Him.

"The Roman commander believed that Jesus had the greatest authority, and Jesus showed that He did.

"And all of this happened because one man remembered something we're learning today too: **[Bottom Line] God is the most important.**

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus showed the Roman commander, and all of us, that real power belongs to God. When we try to be the most important, it's like standing far from the light and making our shadow look big. But when we come close to Jesus and trust Him, we remember what's true: God is the most important. He's the One we can rely on, the One who leads us, and the One who can do what we can't.

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line] "Remember God is most important.** Say that with me."

*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Remember God is most important.**

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

8 min

**Closing**

5 min

**WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?****What You Need**

No supplies needed

3 min

**PRAYER****What You Need**

No supplies needed

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we talked about a super-important truth that's true over all of life—Jesus is in charge! The Roman commander showed that he knew Jesus was in charge, and Jesus was so impressed! Jesus really is in charge ... of everything. Darkness and evil must answer to Him. And that dark curse of sin answers to Him too. As we learned throughout God's Big Story, God has been working and working and working to send us Jesus! Then once Jesus came, He lived a perfect life, and died on a cross to pay for our sins. Now, we can be close to God again. And one day, when Jesus returns, the curse of sin and death that infects this world will be no more! The God who is in charge loves us so much!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

*SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"This week we learned from the Roman commander coming to Jesus!"

**HOST:** "When we hear a story like this, it helps us remember something really important: God isn't just powerful in the Bible, He's powerful in *our* lives too. And our part in the story is to remember that God is most important every day. That means we can choose to trust Him when things feel big or confusing. We can pray and ask for His help instead of trying to figure everything out on our own. It means we can let God lead us—at school, at home, with our friends—because He knows what's best. When we put God first, we're choosing to live in a way that might look a little upside down to others, but it's the best way to live."

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's talk to the God who is in charge together. Everyone, close your eyes."

"God, You are the most important One in our lives. Sometimes we forget, and we try to do everything by ourselves. But You are strong, You are good, and You always know what we need. Help us remember to come to You first. Help us trust You when things feel big or confusing. And help us live in a way that shows You are the most important and have all power. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Kids**

**252 Kids And Preteen**

**March - Week 2**

# Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Floor Tape	1
3. Rubber chicken	1
4. kid volunteers for each round you do (You'll ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Storyteller	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. Large Flashlight	1

**WEEK**

**THREE**

# K3 | W3

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

**Bible Story:** Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

**Bottom Line:** Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

### **Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience**

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Note: This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. ([joinamazing.com/everychild](http://joinamazing.com/everychild))

### **Small Group (15 minutes)**

#### **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

Opening Activity

### **Large Group (35 minutes)**

#### **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

#### **Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### **Small Group (25 minutes)**

#### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Light the Story

Application Activity: Upside Down Hearts

Memory Verse Activity: Prayer Chain

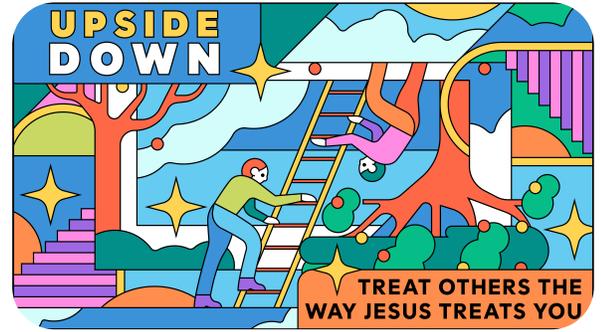
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### **Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### **Bible Story**

Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

### **Conversation Starter**

How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?

### **Bottom Line**

Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

### **Monthly Memory Verse**

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

10 min

# Social

5 min

## K1 Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  Hula Hoops® (per pair) 1
-  Cones (or other soft objects to mark a spot) (Per Pair) 1



### EveryChild Tips

- *If a kid is uncomfortable with close physical contact, allow them to use their hands with their partner, focusing on the cooperative goal of moving the Hula Hoop together.*

5 min

## 23 Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Offering Container 1
-  Hula Hoops® (1 for every 5 kids) 1

### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Set up a cone a few feet away from each pair.
- Give each pair one Hula Hoop.
- Explain the challenge: They are to work with their friend to get the Hula Hoop from where they're standing to the cone and back.
- The catch: They can't use their hands! They must hold the Hula Hoop between their bodies (e.g., back-to-back, side-to-side) and walk together to move it.
- If they drop the Hula Hoop, allow them to just pick it up (with their hands is okay for picking it up) and try again.
- Cheer for each pair as they work together to complete the challenge.

### What You Say:

"Great teamwork, everyone! That was tricky! You had to work together very closely with your friend. It can be hard to work that closely with someone, especially if you disagree."

**[Transition]** "In our true story from the Bible today, from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught a brand-new way to treat people. He told us to love everyone even when it's really, really hard. Let's go find out what He said!"

### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle, holding hands.
- Place a Hula Hoop over one pair of clasped hands.
- (If you have a larger group, feel free to make smaller groups and give each group a Hula Hoop. Groups of five work great!)
- Challenge the group to move the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle without anyone letting go of their friends' hands. (The kids will have to step through the Hula Hoop and move their bodies to pass it along.)
- Cheer them on as they work together to get the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle.

### What You Say:

"You did it! That was a real challenge, but you worked together! Sometimes, being friends and loving each other can be a little tricky! **[Transition]** Today, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is



## EveryChild Tips

- If a kid has mobility challenges, the group can gently help guide the Hula Hoop over them while they remain stationary.

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## OPENER

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Table	1
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for three new kid volunteers at the start of each round!)	3
 sets of blocks, enough for three kids to make an object	3
 small containers of Play-Doh®	3
 sheets of aluminum foil, long enough to make an object (may need more depending on how many rounds you do)	4

going to teach us a brand-new way to do something that can feel upside-down: how to love people who are unkind to us. Let's go listen!"

- Set up the blocks, Play-Doh®, and 2 sheets of aluminum foil on the table.

### OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! Welcome back to another week of our series called 'Upside Down!' I'm so glad you're here today. This month, we're learning something HUGE—that following Jesus doesn't always look the way the world expects. In fact, sometimes it feels backward ... opposite ... and totally upside down!"

"Think about it, there are times when the normal way to act is to get even, get angry, or only be kind to people who are kind to you. But Jesus doesn't teach the 'normal' way. He teaches us a BETTER way ... a way that feels different, surprising, and yes, upside down.

"And today's game? It's going to get us thinking in that upside-down, opposite kind of way. Because nothing in this game works the normal way! If you do what you *think* you should do ... you'll be wrong. If you do the opposite ... you'll win! Today's game is called: 'Get Backwards!'

*SLIDE: Get Backwards! Title*

"All right, here's how it works. I'm going to give you super simple instructions. Stuff like 'Sit!' or 'Clap!' or 'Walk!' But in this game ... you must NOT do what I say. You have to do the opposite.

"Let me give you an example. If I say, 'Sit!' ... you should stand up or stretch tall. If I say, 'Freeze!' ... you should move around quickly. If I say, 'Walk!'... you should stand still. Got it?

"Okay, everybody up on your feet with some space around you. Let's warm up with a few practice rounds.

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

### **Round 1 (Practice)**

"Ready? Clap!

*Watch kids intentionally NOT clap. If needed, reiterate that they're supposed to do the opposite of what you say.*

"Nice! Now, be angry!

*Watch kids intentionally NOT be angry and instead act happy, sad, etc. If needed, reiterate that they're supposed to do the opposite of what you say.*

"Perfect! You guys are already getting the hang of it.

### **Round 2 (Game Begins)**

"Okay, now the challenge begins!

"Sit!

"Walk forward!

"Freeze!

"Shout!

"Whisper!

"Be scared!

"Be tired!

"Stand still!

"Great job, everyone! Okay, now let's try a fast round ...

### **Round 3: Lightning Round**

"Clap!

"Sit!

"Walk!

"Freeze!

"Be angry!

"Be excited!

11 min

# Worship Option 1 (Amazing Music)

"Stand!

"Be sad!

"Whisper!

"Shout!

"Whew! You all did awesome! Give yourselves a round of ... wait, don't clap, give yourselves a round of *opposite applause*! Everyone give baby claps!

*Pause while kids give baby claps.*

"You know, doing everything the opposite way feels weird, right? It feels backwards. It feels upside down. And honestly ... sometimes that's what it feels like when we follow Jesus.

"Jesus teaches us to do things that aren't always easy—things that other people might not expect. And one of the hardest things Jesus tells us to do is to show love to people who aren't kind to us. To choose kindness when someone makes us mad. To respond with love even when it feels like the total opposite of what we want to do.

"That's upside-down love, and it's exactly what we're going to learn about today! Okay, let's take a look at our Bottom Line.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** "Love like Jesus even when it's hard! Let's say that together, everyone!"

**KIDS AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Love like Jesus even when it's hard!"

**HOST:** "Woohoo! Let's learn what that means!"

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com) or for free with APlay.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, everyone! Are you ready to worship? Today, our first song is called 'Praise.' It's all about lifting our voices to say, 'God,

3 min

## Praise | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## I'm Free! | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

You're amazing!' There's *never* a bad time to thank God for His love. So let's stand tall, clap those hands, and show God how thankful we are!

"Now, let's sing another song that fits perfectly with what we're learning today. It's called 'I'm Free!' When we follow Jesus, we don't have to be stuck worrying about what people think or trying to be the best all the time. Jesus helps us live with joy and peace, even when it's hard. So let's jump, dance, and sing loud, because in Jesus, we are free!

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today, worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

"Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's one of my favorites because it reminds us how to live *Upside Down*, the way Jesus wants us to live."

"Let's break it down so we can understand it better, and then we'll all say it together!

### *SLIDE: Memory Verse*

*Don't do anything only to get ahead.* That means, don't just think about yourself.

*Don't do it because you are proud.* That means, don't brag or try to look better than someone else.

*Instead, be humble.* 'Humble' means putting others first.

*Value others more than yourselves.* That means treating people like they matter ... because they *do!*

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Don't do anything only to get ahead."*

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Don't do anything only to get ahead."*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Don't do it because you are proud."*

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Don't do it because you are proud."*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Instead, be humble."*

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Instead, be humble."*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Value others more than yourselves."*

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Value others more than yourselves."*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *"Philippians 2:3!"*

6 min

## Worship Option 2 (Orange Kids Music)

3 min

### O Praise | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### Thank You God | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

24 min

## Bible Story (Video)

12 min

### StoryLab Bible Story | Video

#### KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 2:3!"

"Awesome job! You just said the Memory Verse like pros! This verse reminds us to put others before ourselves. We can start with even the small things, like sharing a toy or asking if you can help someone clean. Ask God this week to help you be humble and value others this week! That's what living *Upside Down* looks like!"

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

12 min

**So and So Show Bible Story | Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

38 min

**Bible Story (Live)**

3 min

**INTRODUCTION****What You Need**

 Storyteller	1
 Host	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 Adult volunteers	2

*Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!*

*If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!*

*Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!*

*Make sure a table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Put the two bowls (one filled with cotton balls), the spoon, the small whiteboard, the dry-erase marker, the dry-erase eraser, the paper, and the scissors on the table too!*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm really glad you're here today, because we're learning something incredibly important about the upside-down way Jesus teaches us to live. That's what our series is called this month—'Upside Down!'"

"When Jesus came to Earth, He didn't just tell people to be nice; He taught a whole new way of treating others that shocked everyone who heard it.

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"One day, Jesus went up on a mountainside and a huge crowd of people tuned in to listen. What He said sounded completely different from the way people were used to living. He talked about humility, kindness, and loving others ... even people who were difficult to love."

"Today we're going to look at one part of that teaching where Jesus explained what it means to love like Him, even when it's hard. And friends, this is a teaching that flips everything upside down."

"Our Bottom Line today is: **[Bottom Line] Love like Jesus even when it's hard.** And by the time we finish this story, you'll see exactly what Jesus meant.

"But before we get into that teaching from Jesus, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Today we're continuing our journey through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth. And we're going to look at an important truth He taught while He was on a mountainside.

"But before we look at what Jesus taught on the mountainside, I want to show you something. I've got a few everyday items here and specifically, some tools I use with them—a spoon, a dry-erase marker, a pair of scissors. Nothing fancy."

*Hold up the tools (the spoon, the dry-erase marker, and the pair of scissors) and show them to the kids. Change the following text depending if you're right or left-handed.*

"Now, usually, I use my right hand when I use these kinds of things. But today, I'm going to use my LEFT hand. And let me tell you ... this is going to feel weird."

*Using the spoon, try to scoop a cotton ball with your non-dominant hand from the full bowl to the empty bowl. Make it a little funny and over the top.*

"Whoa ... okay ... this already feels strange. My hand doesn't know what it's doing!"

*Use the dry-erase marker to write your name or draw a simple shape on the small whiteboard, and show it to the kids.*

"Look at this! I promise I'm trying ... but it doesn't look anything like what I normally write!"

5 min

## A NEW WAY TO RESPOND

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Use the scissors and cut a simple straight line on a piece of paper, showing effort.*

"This is way harder than I expected. You know what? Doing these things with the wrong hand feels uncomfortable, awkward, and honestly kind of frustrating. It doesn't come naturally at all. And that's exactly what it can feel like to love someone who's hard to love. It doesn't feel smooth. It doesn't feel easy. It feels... off. Like you're using the wrong hand.

"But here's something cool: when you practice something uncomfortable, you get better at it. You build new muscles. And when you practice loving people who aren't easy to love, you slowly start learning how to love like Jesus.

"That's what today's upside-down lesson is all about. Jesus taught us a way of living that doesn't always feel natural at first ... but it grows us into people who love like He does. Let's take a look at what Jesus taught that surprised everyone listening."

**STORYTELLER:** "After sitting down on the mountainside, Jesus began teaching His followers about what life in God's Kingdom is really like. A bunch of people tuned in to listen. And right away, He said something that sounded totally upside down to everyone listening.

"Back then, people followed a rule that was basically this: *'If someone hurts you, you hurt them back the same way.'* That was the normal way. The expected way.

"BUT Jesus came to teach a new way, a better way. This is what He said: *Open the Bible to Matthew 5:38-42 (NIRV) and read.*

*"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.' But here is what I tell you. Do not fight against an evil person. Suppose someone slaps you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to them also. Suppose someone takes you to court to get your shirt. Let them have your coat also. Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with them. Give to the one who asks you for something. Don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow something from you."*

"Can you imagine how surprising that sounded? Instead of just getting even or protecting yourself, Jesus was saying you could choose something else ... you could choose kindness. You could choose patience. You could choose love, even when the other person was unkind first.

"It's kind of like that 'wrong hand' feeling. The moment someone is mean to you, your *natural* reaction might be to snap back or get even. But Jesus showed us an upside-down way of responding, a way that feels different, awkward, and hard at first ... but grows something strong inside us.

"And that's the kind of love Jesus wanted His followers to learn, not love that waits for kindness first, but love that chooses kindness *even when it's hard.*

5 min

## LOVE THAT LOOKS DIFFERENT

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## LOVING LIKE JESUS

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**STORYTELLER:** "Then Jesus taught something that probably surprised people even more. He said there's a difference between the kind of love everyone already knows ... and the kind of love God shows.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-45 (NIRV) and read.*

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.' But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't."*

"Jesus was saying, 'You've heard the old way, love the people who love you back, and ignore or hate the people who don't.' That was normal. That was expected.

"But Jesus said something upside down: 'Love your enemies.' Not 'be nice only to your friends.' Not 'wait until they change.' Not even 'ignore them.' No, Jesus said, 'love them.' Pray for them. Care about them. Show kindness even when they don't deserve it.

*Use the dry-erase eraser and erase the small whiteboard. Then use the dry-erase marker to write your name again on the whiteboard with your non-dominant hand. Struggle as you do it, and show the kids the result.*

"Using this hand is hard to do. Sometimes loving someone who hurts your feelings or makes you mad feels just like that—uncomfortable and definitely not natural. But the more we practice it, the more we learn to love like Jesus.

"And then Jesus gave us this amazing picture: God sends sunshine and rain to everyone, the kind people and the unkind people. He shows love to all people.

"That's the kind of love Jesus wants His followers to show. A love that doesn't wait until someone is easy to love. A love that doesn't disappear when things get hard. A love that looks just like God's love for us.

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus wasn't done yet. He wanted His followers to really understand how upside down His way of loving is.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 5:46-48 (NIRV) and read.*

*"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that. So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

"Jesus was saying, 'Anybody can love people who are nice to them.' That doesn't take work. That doesn't take courage. That doesn't take strength.

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"But loving people who *aren't* nice to you? Being kind when someone hurts your feelings? Showing patience when someone is frustrating?"

"That takes the kind of love that Jesus gives.

*Point gently to the items that you used your opposite hand on.*

"And just like using your non-dominant hand feels awkward at first, loving people when it's hard feels the same way. It doesn't come naturally. It feels like you're doing something opposite.

"But even though loving people who hurt you is so hard, you don't have to do it on your own! When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, who loves His enemies, comes to live inside of you. Ask for His help! He will help you!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus showed us a totally upside-down way to live, a way that doesn't wait for people to be nice first, but chooses love even when it's hard. Just like practicing something that feels awkward at first makes you stronger, choosing kindness when someone frustrates you is actually obedience to Jesus. And every time we choose that upside-down kind of love, we look a little more like Him.

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** "Love like Jesus even when it's hard. Say that with me."

*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Love like Jesus even when it's hard."

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week we learned a hard, hard truth that Jesus taught. Jesus taught us that when someone hurts us, we are to show them love back. But Jesus wasn't teaching us something that He didn't live out. In fact, He lived it out on the biggest scale ever. We had so many sins, and sins grieve God. Not only that, but all people for all time had sinned and grieved God. But on the cross, even though Jesus had lived a perfect life, Jesus took on all of that sin, and paid for it. Jesus said, 'Forgiven!' It is the ultimate power when love defeats sin, and that's exactly what Jesus did, for all of us.

8 min

## Closing

5 min

### WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### PRAYER

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

*SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"And this week, we learned how Jesus taught us that we should love our enemies!"

**HOST:** "So, what's our part in the story? Well, Jesus showed us that love isn't just for the people who treat us kindly. Real, upside-down love means choosing to be kind even when someone frustrates us or hurts our feelings. And that's not something we can do on our own. We need God's help.

"When someone is hard to love, we can pause and talk to God. We can ask Him to give us patience instead of anger. We don't have to show His love on our own! When we began following Jesus, His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, came to live inside of us. He shows love to His enemies, so He can help us do that too!

"And then, we can do what we can do to show God's love. We can choose to say something kind instead of something mean. We can pray for people who upset us.

"When people see you choosing to love when it's hard, they'll know that you're different. They'll feel the power of what you're doing—you're pouring out love in response to hurt—and they'll see that you're a follower of Jesus.

"Loving people you don't get along with is tough. But it's one of the most powerful ways that you can live like Jesus. And He will help you as you try!"

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's talk to the God who will help us live in this upside-down way!

"God, thank You for loving us with a love that never gives up. Sometimes it's really hard to show love to people who hurt our feelings or make us mad. But You understand that, and You promise to help us. Please give us the strength to choose kindness, to be patient, and to love like You even when it's hard. Help our hearts grow stronger as we follow You. We love You, God. Amen."

10 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## K1 - Light the Story | Made to Explore

### What You Need

-  Print "Bible Story Pictures Front" Activity 1 Page on paper
-  Print "Bible Story Pictures Back" Activity 1 Page on paper
-  Flashlights 1
-  Glue Several

*AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*  
*SLIDE: Theme*

- *Before group time:*
  - *Glue "Bible Story Pictures Front" to "Bible Story Pictures Back."*
  - *Cut along the dotted lines.*
  - *Strategically "hide" the four images around your Small Group space so the kids can find them with a flashlight. (Or for a game with less running around, place the images in the center of the circle and instruct the kids to shine their light to pick an image. Then instruct one kid to hold the image above their flashlight so they can see through it.)*

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a flashlight.
- Tell the kids that you're going to be detectives and find the parts of our story that are hidden around the room.
- Call out something from today's Bible Story and have the kids find the picture that matches by shining their flashlight from underneath to show the image through the heart shape.
- "Jesus was teaching people on a mountainside! Find the picture of **Jesus teaching.**"
- "Jesus said the old way was to hurt people back when they've been mean to you. Use your light to find the picture of **someone who looks like they might have just been mean.**"
- "Jesus said to love your enemies, the people who are hard to love. Use your light to find the picture of **two people giving one another a hug.**"
- "Jesus said that loving our enemies is how we can be like our Father in heaven! Shine your light to find the picture of the **sun.**"

### What You Say:

"Great job, detectives! You lit up our whole story. Jesus taught us some things that can feel hard. He said not to be mean to people who hurt us. Instead, He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.** Jesus explained how God's Kingdom is quite different from the way we usually live. Jesus didn't just say: 'Don't be mean to your enemies.' He told us to *love* our enemies. That's completely upside down, right?! But showing love to an enemy—that's just what God does. God shows kindness to everyone, even to people who hate Him! And God says He wants us to show the world that we are His children by doing the same. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"

5 min

## 23 – Bible Story Telephone | Made to Play

### What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

## Application Activity

5 min

## K1 - Upside Down Hearts | Made to Play

### What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to join you and sit in a circle.
- Explain the game of Telephone. You'll whisper a short sentence from the story into one kid's ear, and they'll whisper it to the next, and so on.
- Use these simple sentences from the story:
  - "Jesus said, 'Love your enemies.'"
  - "Be kind to people who are mean."
  - "Pray for people who hurt you."
  - "This shows you are children of your Father in heaven."
  - **"[Bottom Line] Love like Jesus even when it's hard."**
- Whisper the first sentence to the first kid.
- When the sentence gets to the end of the circle, encourage the last kid to say it out loud.
- Talk about whether the message stayed the same. Play again with the next sentence.

### What You Say:

"Great job! It can be tricky to get the message right. The message Jesus gave us in our story is so important, we want to get it right! Jesus said: *'Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't'* (Matthew 5:44-45 NIV).

"Did you hear that? Jesus didn't just say: 'Don't be mean to your enemies.' He told us to love our enemies. That's completely upside down, right?! But showing love to an enemy—that's just what God does. God shows kindness to everyone. And God says He wants us to show the world that we are His children by doing the same. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"

### Before group time:

- Place the heart sticker on the bottom of the inside of one of the plastic cups.

### What You Do:

- Scatter all the cups upside down on the floor.
- Tell the kids that you've hidden a special heart on the bottom of one of the cups.
-

**What You Need**

👤	Plastic cups, enough to cover a small area of the floor	Several
👤	Heart sticker	1

5 min

**23 – Rhythm Repeat | Made to Play****What You Need**

No supplies needed

Instruct the kids to take turns flipping over one cup at a time, looking for the heart.

- When a kid finds the cup with the heart sticker, celebrate!
- Ask that kid to name one way they can show love to someone this week, especially someone who might be hard to love. (e.g., "I can share with my brother even when I don't want to," "I can say something nice to the kid who was mean to me.")
- Hide the heart again, turn the cups over, and play another round.

**What You Say:**

"You found the heart! Finding that heart reminds us to find ways to show love to others. Jesus taught us that our Father in heaven sends the sun and rain on everyone, not just nice people. That can seem upside down!

"So what does this look like for us? Loving your enemies is so hard, but God hasn't left you to do it alone! When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will help you. Ask for His help! And then, do what you can do to show God's love. Choose kindness instead of getting back at someone. It takes true humility to put others first and **[Bottom Line]love like Jesus even when it's hard."**

**What You Do:**

- Encourage the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Explain that you are going to build a rhythm together.
- Start by doing one simple action, like clapping twice.
- The kid to your right is to repeat your action (clapping twice) and add their own simple action (like snapping once).
- The next kid in the circle is to do both actions in order (clapping twice, snapping once) and add a new one (like patting their knees twice).
- Continue around the group, with each kid repeating the whole pattern and adding one new move.
- See how long you can keep the pattern going!

**What You Say:**

"That was amazing! It got really hard to remember the whole pattern! It can also be hard to remember to be kind when someone is not kind to us. Showing love to someone you don't get along with feels upside-down. But that's why it's so important and so powerful. God loves everyone. When people see you choosing to love when it's hard, they'll know that you're different. They'll see that you're a follower of Jesus.

"Loving people who are hard to love is one of the most powerful ways that you can live like Jesus. It's not always easy, but you can pray and ask God for help. When you began to follow Jesus, His Holy Spirit, Jesus' very Spirit, who loves His enemies, moved inside of you. And He can help you so you can **[Bottom Line]love like Jesus even when it's hard."**

10 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## K1 – Beanbag Verse | Made to Move

### What You Need

 Bibles, marked at Philippians 2:3	1
 Beanbag	1
 Stickers or small prizes	Several

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

**Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

**Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside and sit in a circle with you.
- Explain that you will pass the beanbag around the circle as you all say words of the verse together, and the Bible reference.
- Start passing the beanbag and reciting the verse.
- The kid who is holding the beanbag when you say the last word of the reference ("three!") gets the sticker or small prize.
- Play several times so more kids have a chance to win.

### What You Say:

"Great job! This verse is all about being humble. Being humble means putting others first. And when we choose to love our enemies or go two miles instead of one, we are definitely putting them first! That's a great way to **[Bottom Line]love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"

### Before group time:

- Use the floor tape to create a large Tic-Tac-Toe board on the floor.
-

5 min

## 23 – Tic Tac Memory Verse | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Print "Tic Tac Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock	1
 Floor tape	1
 Beanbags or other small toys to use as markers, in two different colors	5

Tape the four verse papers from the "Tic Tac Memory Verse" into four of the Tic-Tac-Toe squares.

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**Finding verses for 2-3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two teams, "X" and "O."
- Give both teams five beanbags (or markers).
- Encourage a kid from the first team to toss a beanbag onto the board.
- If the beanbag (or marker) lands on a square with part of the verse, instruct the whole group to read that part aloud.
- If the beanbag (or marker) lands on a blank square, encourage the team to leave their beanbag (or marker) there.
- Teams take turns trying to get three in a row.
- After the game, say the whole Memory Verse together. (Don't forget to add the verse reference—Philippians 2:3!)
- Play several rounds if desired.

### What You Say:

"Great game, everyone! Our Memory Verse tells us to be humble and put others first. That's a huge part of how we can **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**. That's what humility looks like. Be humble and value others more than yourselves. When we do that, we **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**."

10 min

## Prayer

### What To Do:

- Give each kid a strip of paper and make coloring supplies available.

5 min

## K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

 Strips of paper (about 1" x 6")	1
 Coloring supplies	Several
 Tape or a stapler	1

5 min

## 23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

No supplies needed

- Ask them to think of one person whom it is sometimes hard for them to love. They don't have to say the name out loud.
- Instruct them to draw a picture of that person on their paper strip.
- When they are done, help them tape or staple their strip into a loop.
- Then, link all the loops together to form a paper chain.
- Hold up the chain for everyone to see.

### What You Say:

"Look at our prayer chain. There are so many people we can pray for. People we love and people who are hard to love. It can be hard to love everyone, but Jesus told us to '*pray for those who hurt you*' (*Matthew 8:44 NIV*). Let's pray for the people on our chain right now.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us, no matter what. Please help us to be like You, our Father in heaven. Help us to love the people we drew on our prayer chain today. Give us the strength to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**. We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

### What To Do:

- Say, "Let's take a minute to have a quiet talk with God. I want you to think about one person who is sometimes hard to love. You don't have to say their name out loud. Just picture them in your mind."
- Give the kids a few moments of quiet.
- Say, "Now, let's ask God to help us love that person. You can just think the words in your heart."
- After another moment of quiet, close the time in prayer.

### What You Say:

"It can feel really hard to love people who are not kind to us. But Jesus told us to '*pray for those who hurt you*' (*Matthew 8:44 NIV*). He gives us the strength to love even our enemies. And we can ask Him for help! Let's finish praying."

"Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us to love others the way You do, sending sun and rain on everyone. Give us Your strength so we can **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**. We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Supplies

## K1 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Offering container                                      | 1 |
| 2. | Hula Hoops® (per pair)                                  | 1 |
| 3. | Cones (or other soft objects to mark a spot) (Per Pair) | 1 |

## 23 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- |    |                                  |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Offering Container               | 1 |
| 2. | Hula Hoops® (1 for every 5 kids) | 1 |

## OPENER Quantity

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Host   | 1 |
| 2. | Table  | 1 |
| 3. | kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for three new kid volunteers at the start of each round!) | 3 |
| 4. | sets of blocks, enough for three kids to make an object  | 3 |
| 5. | small containers of Play-Doh®  | 3 |
| 6. | sheets of aluminum foil, long enough to make an object (may need more depending on how many rounds you do)   | 4 |

## K1 - Upside Down Hearts | Made to Play Quantity

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Plastic cups, enough to cover a small area of the floor | Several |
| 2. | Heart sticker   | 1       |

## K1 - Beanbag Verse | Made to Move Quantity

- |    |                                   |         |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Bibles, marked at Philippians 2:3 | 1       |
| 2. | Beanbag                           | 1       |
| 3. | Stickers or small prizes          | Several |

## 23 - Tic Tac Memory Verse | Made to Play Quantity

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Bibles  | 1 |
| 2. | Print "Tic Tac Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock                 | 1 |
| 3. | Floor tape  | 1 |
| 4. | Beanbags or other small toys to use as markers, in two different colors | 5 |

## K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- |    |                                 |         |
|----|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Strips of paper (about 1" x 6") | 1       |
| 2. | Coloring supplies               | Several |
| 3. | Tape or a stapler               | 1       |

**INTRODUCTION****Quantity**

- |    |                  |   |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1. | Storyteller      | 1 |
| 2. | Host             | 1 |
| 3. | Bible            | 1 |
| 4. | Table            | 1 |
| 5. | Adult volunteers | 2 |

**K1 - Light the Story | Made to Explore****Quantity**

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Print "Bible Story Pictures Front"<br>Activity Page on paper | 1       |
| 2. | Print "Bible Story Pictures Back"<br>Activity Page on paper  | 1       |
| 3. | Flashlights  | 1       |
| 4. | Glue   | Several |

**WEEK**

**FOUR**

# K3 | W4

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 4

**Bible Story:** Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

**Bottom Line:** Make time for Jesus first.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

### **Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience**

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Note: This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. ([joinamazing.com/everychild](http://joinamazing.com/everychild))

### **Small Group (15 minutes)**

#### **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

Opening Activity

### **Large Group (35 minutes)**

#### **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

#### **Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### **Small Group (25 minutes)**

#### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Parachute Story

Application Activity: Jesus Above All

Memory Verse Activity: Quiet Line Up

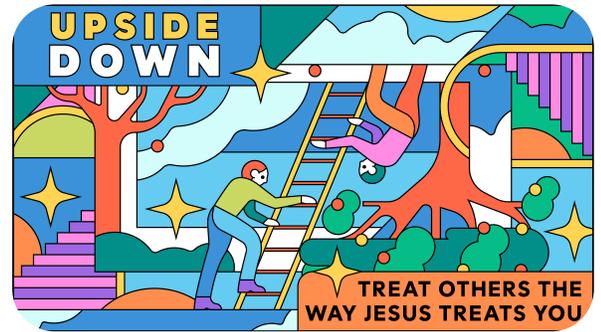
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### **Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### **Bible Story**

Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

### **Conversation Starter**

How can you make time for Jesus?

### **Bottom Line**

Make time for Jesus first.

### **Monthly Memory Verse**

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## OPENER

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Costume items (Examples: Construction vests, scarves, shirts, hats, sunglasses, gloves, anything silly and colorful)	Several
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2
 Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
 Optional: Floor tape (to make a "runway")	1

### What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- Have a pre-determined song ready for the Backward Freeze Dance game.

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! Welcome, welcome! I'm so glad you're here. This whole month, we've been learning what it means to live upside down—our series is called 'Upside Down!' That means doing things the way Jesus does them, and sometimes, that looks totally different from what everyone else is doing.

"Today, we're learning that Jesus wants us to *make time for Him first*. But before we hear our Bible Story, we're going to do something that's also a little upside down. We're going to have our very own ...

*SLIDE: Backward Fashion Show Title*

"Fashion show!

"Yep, you heard me right ... but today, we're going to make it backward!

"Here's how it's going to work. I've got one big pile of costume pieces right here.

*Gesture to pile of costume pieces.*

"Each round, I'm going to pick two volunteers. They'll run to this pile of costumes, grab a few items, and put them on backward or inside out, as fast as they can! You can mix and match anything you want. Then you'll take a walk down our 'Upside Down Runway' while everyone cheers you on! (*Gesture to the "runway" that works best for your group.*)

"Are you ready to get silly? Let's get started!

### ROUND 1

"Okay, I need two volunteers for our first round! Raise your hand if you want to be a model in our Backward Fashion Show!  
*Pick two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, and invite them to come to the front of the room.*

"Okay, models, when the countdown starts, you have 30 seconds to grab whatever you want from this pile and put it on backwards or inside out. You can wear hats on your feet or shirts on your head—get creative with it!

"Ready ... set ... go!

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown). The two kids will have 30 seconds to pick the most random pieces to wear—the more creative, the better.*

"Time's up! All right, let's see your best runway walk!

*AUDIO: Fun, upbeat runway music*

*Start the fashion show. Kids walk back and forth a few times across the stage or the front of the room or where you have marked with tape lines—whatever is suitable for your space. Cheer them on as they walk and encourage the audience to cheer them on too.*

"Give it up for our first two models! That was amazing! You guys can put your costumes back in the pile now.

## ROUND 2

"Okay, now it's time for round two! I need two new volunteers. If you'd like to participate in our Backward Fashion Show, raise your hand! Pick two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room.

"Remember, models, you only have 30 seconds to pick your outfits and get dressed backward or inside out. Be creative and a little bit silly! Ready? Go!

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown). The two kids will have 30 seconds to pick the most random pieces to wear—the more creative, the better.*

"Okay, stop! Let's see that runway strut!

*AUDIO: Fun, upbeat runway music*

*Start the fashion show, and let the kids walk for 15-20 seconds. Kids walk back and forth across the stage or the front of the room or where you have marked a runway with tape lines—whatever is suitable for your space. Cheer them on as they walk and encourage the audience to cheer them on too.*

"Nice job! You two look totally awesome!

11 min

# Worship Option 1 (Amazing Music)

3 min

## Praise | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Play as many rounds as time allows. Ask for two new volunteers at the start of each round.*

"Give it up for our last two models! You all looked amazing!

"Wow! Everyone did such a great job. That was so much fun to watch! We saw some inside-out shirts, backward hats, and even a few socks that might never be the same again.

"You know, this game reminds me of what we've been learning all month and how sometimes, following Jesus seems upside down or backwards because it looks totally different from what other people are doing. That's why it's so important to make time for Jesus so that we can learn how HE wants us to live!

"That sounds a lot like our Bottom Line for today! Let's check it out!

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** "Make time for Jesus first. That's what we're learning about today—how we can make Jesus first in our lives! Can you say that with me?"

**KIDS AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Make time for Jesus first!"

**HOST:** "Great job, everyone."

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, everyone! It's so good to see you! I love that we get to spend this time together worshipping God. You know, worship is one of the best ways we can make time for Jesus. When we sing, dance, or even just listen, we're showing God that He's the most important part of our day."

"Let's start with a song that helps us focus on how great He is. Go ahead and stand up, stretch those arms, and get ready to praise!

3 min

## Waiting Here for You | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Wow, that was awesome! You all bring so much joy when you sing. Worship is powerful because it helps us remember who God is and how much He loves us. When we stop and spend time with Him, everything else fades away, and we recognize that He is number 1 in our lives!

"This next song reminds us that even when we have to wait, Jesus is with us. We can take a breath, slow down, and remember to trust Him. Let's sing 'Waiting Here for You!'

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today: worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

"Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's such a good reminder of what it means to live the *upside-down* way, God's way. It's not about being first or trying to get ahead. It's about slowing down, being humble, and putting others first, just like Jesus. It's Philippians 2:3! I'll read it, and then we'll all say it together!

### *SLIDE: Memory Verse*

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

"Awesome job! This verse helps us remember how to treat people in the best way. When it says, 'Don't do anything only to get ahead,' it means we shouldn't do things that are wrong or hurtful just to be first or to win. We don't have to always be better than everyone else. Philippians 2:3 also says, 'Don't do it because you are proud.' That means we don't need to brag or show off. Instead, we can be humble, which means we can share, take turns, and let others go first.

"Then it says, 'Value others more than yourselves.' That means we can think about other people and care about them as much as we care about ourselves. We can help someone when they need it, be kind when someone feels sad, and notice ways to make others feel special. When we live this way, we are showing the world the love of Jesus!"

6 min

## Worship Option 2 (Orange Kids Music)

3 min

### O Praise | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### Thank You God | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

24 min

## Bible Story (Video)

12 min

### StoryLab Bible Story | Video

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!

12 min

## So and So Show Bible Story | Video

### What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

## Bible Story (Live)

3 min

### INTRODUCTION

#### What You Need

-  Storyteller 1
-  Host 1
-  Bible 1
-  Table 1
-  Cardboard or posterboard (big enough to make a circle for a "Pause" button) Thick, black permanent marker 1
-  Optional: Instead of making a Pause Button, use an unmarked "Easy" button without batteries, like this (<http://bit.ly/455GIWE>) 1

5 min

### GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it. Have the "Pause" Button ready. (Optional: Use an unmarked "Easy" Button without any batteries in place of the "Pause" Button.)*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we've been learning what it means to live Upside Down! That's our theme for this month—'Upside Down!'

"Today, we're learning the most important thing we can do with our entire lives. We're going to learn how we can **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. Our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing in our life!

"Today, we're going to look at a story from the Bible where Jesus showed that spending time with Him is the most important thing we can do! But before we get into that true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing all year long!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Today we're continuing our journey through the Bible. We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth! So let's see what we can learn from something that happened in His life!

"And we'll start with a question. Have you ever had a day where you were really, really busy? You had to get ready fast, hurry to school, clean your room, or finish a lot of things all at once? When we get that busy, it's easy to feel rushed and tired, right?

"Well, today's story is about two sisters who had one of those super-busy days. But one of them learned something really important about resting in Jesus.

"Let me show you something really important I brought today!

5 min

## JESUS VISITS HIS FRIENDS

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Hold up your Pause Button.*

"This is our special Pause Button! Every time I press it, everyone in the room will freeze completely. No talking. No moving. Just still. During those few seconds, we'll think about what's happening in the story. "Are you ready to try it?"

*Press the Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause!

*Wait silently for five seconds.*

"Unpause!

"You did it! You're amazing at pausing. Now let's find out how this pause can help in today's true story from the Bible about two sisters named Mary and Martha."

**STORYTELLER:** "Before we hear what happened with Mary and Martha, let's imagine what it might have been like when Jesus came to visit. Jesus had been walking from town to town with His friends, the disciples. Jesus was teaching people about God's love and showing kindness wherever He went. Everywhere Jesus went, people followed Him because they wanted to see His miracles and hear what He had to say.

"One day, Jesus and His disciples came to a small town called Bethany. There lived two sisters named Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. They were some of Jesus' closest friends.

*Open the Bible to Luke 10:38 (NIRV) and read.*

*Jesus and his disciples went on their way. Jesus came to a village where a woman named Martha lived. She welcomed him into her home.*

"When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Martha welcomed Him and His friends. She opened her home with joy and said something like, 'Come in, Jesus. We're so glad You're here!' She wanted everything to be perfect for Him and for His friends. So Martha jumped into action. Martha was busy doing all of the things necessary to make their visit wonderful. Martha may have been preparing a meal or getting the house ready for all those guests.

"Now, Martha had a sister named Mary. Let's see what Mary was doing while Martha was so busy.

*Open the Bible to Luke 10:39 (NIRV) and read.*

*She had a sister named Mary. Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.*

5 min

## MARTHA GETS FRUSTRATED

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## JESUS RESPONDS

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"While Martha hurried around, Mary made a different choice. She sat down at Jesus' feet and listened carefully to His words. She did not worry about the food or the house. She wanted to be close to Jesus and hear every word He said.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause."

"Mary paused. She spent time with Jesus. Unpause.

**STORYTELLER:** "As Mary sat and listened, Martha kept working. She was busy, busy, busy trying to make everything perfect for Jesus and His friends. She wanted the best food and the cleanest house. She wanted everything to go just right. But as she looked around, she saw her sister sitting quietly, not helping her work. Mary was just sitting there at Jesus' feet, listening.

"The longer Martha worked, the more she noticed that her sister wasn't working. She began to feel upset inside. Martha thought, 'Why isn't Mary helping me to do all of this?'

*Open the Bible to Luke 10:40 (NirV) and read.*

*But Martha was busy with all the things that had to be done. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don't you care? Tell her to help me!"*

"Martha told Jesus exactly how she felt. She was tired and frustrated. She wanted to do her best for Jesus, but she forgot something very important. Sometimes, the best thing we can do is stop and take a breath, and be with Jesus.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

*Wait silently for five seconds. Then speak softly.*

"When we pause, we can connect with Jesus, and that can help us calm down. Martha forgot to pause and connect with Jesus, she was just focused on all she had to do, and that made her heart feel heavy. Unpause.

"Jesus was listening carefully to Martha. He could see that she was so worried about everything and focused on getting everything perfect. He wanted to help her understand something important."

**STORYTELLER:** "Martha stood there waiting for Jesus to answer her. She probably thought Jesus would agree and tell Mary to get up and help. But Jesus saw something deeper. He saw how worried and tired Martha felt, and He wanted to help her understand what was most important.

*Open the Bible to Luke 10:41-42 (NirV) and read.*

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered. "You are worried and upset about many things. But few things are needed. Really, only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her."*

"Jesus was kind and loving when He spoke to Martha. He said her name twice to show that He cared. Jesus wanted Martha to see that even though all her work was good, it was not the most important thing. The most important thing was to connect with Him.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

"When we pause, we can turn to Jesus and remember He is with us, even if we are really busy. When we pause, we can turn our hearts to Jesus because being with Him is the most important thing. Unpause.

"Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary chose to be with Jesus. Martha thought doing things was the best way to love Jesus, but Mary learned that listening and being close to Him was even better.

"Jesus didn't tell Martha to stop caring or helping. He just wanted her to enjoy being with Him. Sometimes, we get so busy trying to do everything right that we forget to be with Him.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

"When we pause, we have time to turn to Jesus, and in Him, we can find peace. Unpause.

"Both sisters loved Jesus very much. Martha showed love by serving. Mary showed love by sitting and listening. Jesus loved both of them, and He loves it when we take time to pause and be with Him too."

**STORYTELLER:** "So what did we learn from our story today? Both Mary and Martha loved Jesus. Martha showed her love by working hard and serving. Mary showed her love by being with Jesus. Both sisters were doing good things, but Jesus wanted Martha to understand that the best thing we can do is be with Him.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

"When we pause, we remember that being with God matters more than doing things for God. Unpause.

"Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary made time to be with Jesus. She wasn't worried about being perfect. She just wanted

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

to be close to Jesus. And being with Jesus calmed her heart and filled her with peace.

"This story reminds us that being with Jesus is the most important thing.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

"When we pause, we can see things more clearly. We can remember that God is with us and that He loves us. We can feel peace instead of worry because He will give peace to us as we connect to Him. Unpause.

"That's part of the reason why God wants us to make time for Him first. Because He'll give us peace no matter what we face. That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today!

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first. Say that with me."**

*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, AND HOST, AND STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first."**

**HOST:** "This week, you can make time for Jesus first by simply by turning your thoughts toward Him since He's always with you. You can pray a quick prayer, asking Him to remind you of His presence. You can pause at any moment in your day to thank Jesus or to ask Him to guide what you do and say.

"That is how we make time for Jesus first.

*Press your Pause Button dramatically.*

"Pause.

"When we pause to turn our heart to Jesus, we are choosing to make time for Jesus first. Unpause."

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we learned that deepening our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing we can do in our lives. Well, God feels that way too.

That curse of sin that everyone was put under after the Garden of Eden kept us from being close to God. But that didn't stop God! He spent years and years and years—look how faithful He was (*gesture to the God's Big Story slide and the Timeline Images*)—to set the stage of human history for Jesus to come. And then when Jesus came, He lived a perfect life, and paid for that sin. And by paying for that sin, He made a way for us to be close friends with God again! God worked throughout human history so we could be close to Him again! Our friendship with God is so important to Him that Jesus gave His life for it!

"Let's put our image on our timeline!"

*SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"This week, we learned about Mary and Martha and that our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing!"

# Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Costume items (Examples: Construction vests, scarves, shirts, hats, sunglasses, gloves, anything silly and colorful)	Several
3. kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
5. Optional: Floor tape (to make a "runway")	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. Cardboard or posterboard (big enough to make a circle for a "Pause" button) Thick, black permanent marker	1
6. Optional: Instead of making a Pause Button, use an unmarked "Easy" button without batteries, like this ( <a href="http://bit.ly/455GIWE">http://bit.ly/455GIWE</a> )	1

**WEEK**

**FIVE**

# K3 | W5

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

**Bible Story:** Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

**Bottom Line:** Jesus showed us how to be humble.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

### Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

### Large Group (35 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Jesus Thaumatrope (K-1st grade), Build the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Humble Feet (K-1st grade), Cheer for Jesus (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Your Best Foot Forward (K-1st grade), Hopscotch Memory (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

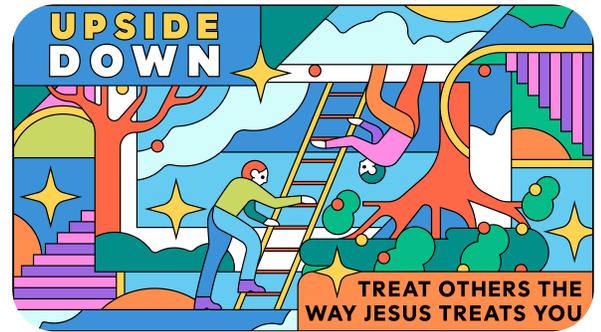
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet  
• *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

### Conversation Starter

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

### Bottom Line

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## OPENER

### What You Need

👤	Host	1
👤	Floor tape	1
👤	whiteboards	2
👤	dry-erase markers	2
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
👤	Optional: Use easel pads and markers instead of whiteboards and dry-erase markers.	1

### OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here for our last week of our series called 'Upside Down!' All month long, we've been learning how to live in an upside-down kinda way. The Jesus way! And guess what? Jesus' way sometimes looks totally *different* from what people expect. It's kind of like living upside down!"

"In our Bible Story today, we're going to see how Jesus showed His friends what true humility looks like. But first, let's play a fun game called 'The Upside Down Draw!'"

*SLIDE: The Upside Down Draw Title*

"Here's how it works. I'm going to pick a volunteer to come up and draw something on this whiteboard. I'll whisper what you need to draw—but no one in the crowd will know what it is!"

"You'll have 30 seconds to draw your picture *facing away from the crowd* so nobody can see it yet. And since we're all about upside down, when time's up, I'm gonna flip the whiteboard *upside down*, show it to everyone, and everyone can try to guess what you drew!"

"Think you can handle it?"

### ROUND 1

"Okay, let's pick our first artist! If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!"

*Pick one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room.*

"Okay, first volunteer, come on up!"

*Hand them the dry-erase marker and the handheld whiteboard. Whisper "House" to them so they know what to draw.*

"You'll have 30 seconds to draw that. Ready ... set ... GO!"

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start the timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) and the music. As the kid draws, hype up the crowd. If needed, remind them to turn away from the crowd while they're drawing.*

*When the 30-second timer is up, stop the music and say ...*

"Time's up! Okay, let's see what happens when we flip it upside down!

*Flip the whiteboard upside down and show it to the audience.*

"Oh wow! Interesting ... what could this be? Alright, friends, shout out your guesses!

*Kids shout out guesses until someone guesses what the drawing is.*

"Correct! It's a house! Great job, artist! Let's give them a big cheer as they return to their seats!

*Erase the whiteboard to prepare for the next artist.*

## ROUND 2

"Alright, I need another artist! If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!

*Pick one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room. Hand them the marker and whiteboard. Whisper "Cat" to them so they know what to draw.*

"Okay, are you ready? You've got 30 seconds to draw. 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

**AUDIO:** *Upbeat music*

*Start the timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) and the music. As the kid draws, hype up the crowd. If needed, remind them to turn away from the crowd while they're drawing.*

*When the 30-second timer is up, stop the music and say ...*

"Time's up! Alright, time to flip this drawing upside down.

*Flip the whiteboard upside down and show it to the audience.*

"What do you think it is? Keep those guesses coming!

*Kids shout out guesses until someone guesses what the drawing is.*

"That's right, it's a cat! And it looks like the cat is standing on its head! That's awesome! Great job! Let's cheer for our volunteer as they head to their seat!

*If time allows, continue with more rounds. Ask for one new volunteer at the start of each round. Other suggestions for the kids to draw: A laptop, milk and cookies, an elephant, the kids' pastor, etc.*

"You know, this game reminds me of what we've been talking about all month—how living our lives following Jesus can feel different and upside down. Today, we're going to learn about humility, which is another way we can live our lives upside down. Jesus lived His life with humility, and He shows us how we can live our lives with humility too!

11 min

# Worship

3 min

## Praise | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## Hosanna (Praise Is Rising) | Worship Song

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

"It's good to see you all! It's time for worship! Worship is one of the ways we show God how much we love Him. When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're telling God, 'You are the most important.' And today, we're going to start by singing a song that helps us do exactly that."  
"Let's get on our feet, shake out your arms, and get ready to move as we sing 'Praise!'"

"Great job! You sound incredible! I love hearing you shout out praise to God. Now, our next song is extra special, it reminds us of the story we're learning today. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna!' which means: 'Save us, we pray!'"  
"So as we sing 'Hosanna (Praise Is Rising),' imagine being in that crowd, cheering for Jesus, the humble King, who came to serve and save us. Let's give Him our best praise!"

"I love worshipping God with you all! Let's move on to looking at our Memory Verse we have been learning about all month! It's one of my favorites because it reminds us how to live *upside down*, the way Jesus taught us to live. When we're humble, we stop trying to be the most important and start looking for ways to lift others up instead. That's what Jesus did every day, and it's what we can do too! Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's Philippians 2:3! I'll read it, and then I will lead you through it!"

### *SLIDE: Memory Verse*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. —Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)"

"Now, I'll lead you through it. Say it after me—nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

6 min

## Worship Option 2 (Orange Kids Music)

3 min

### O Praise | Worship Song

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### Thank You God | Worship Song

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Awesome job, everyone! You just said that verse like pros! This verse reminds us that we can live like Jesus—kind, humble, and full of love. It's not about trying to get ahead or look the best. It's about seeing others the way Jesus sees them and choosing to care first. This week, you can show humility in simple ways: let someone else go first in line, help a friend who's having a hard day, or say something kind instead of something mean. When you do, you're living *upside down*—just like Jesus!"

*Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.*

*We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com). Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!"

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

24 min

# Bible Story (Video)

12 min

## StoryLab Bible Story | Video

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

12 min

## So and So Show Bible Story | Video

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

33 min

# Bible Story (Live)

*Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!*

*If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!*

*Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend.*

3 min

## INTRODUCTION

### What You Need

 Host	0
 Storyteller	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 palm fronds	1
 Towel or cloth	1

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!*

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have the eight palm fronds ready, and the towel or cloth.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! Can you believe it's already our last week of our theme of 'Upside Down'? All month long, we've been learning what it means to treat others the way Jesus treats us, and living in a way that is a little upside down, a little different from what the world expects!

"Today, we're going to hear an incredible story about Jesus. It's one of the most famous moments in the whole Bible, when people celebrated Jesus as their King by waving palm branches and shouting '*Hosanna!*' But this story doesn't stop there. Jesus surprised everyone by showing them what a *real* King does, not by being the most powerful, but by being humble and serving others first.

"But before we dive into that true story from the Bible where Jesus shows us this super-important truth, let me tell you about something amazing that we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "So we're continuing our journey through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on earth. So let's hear about something that happened while He was here.

"We're going to act it out together! I need eight volunteers. If you'd like to do some acting, raise your hand!"

*Choose eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to come on stage. Give each kid a palm frond.*

"Okay, friends, you're going to be part of the crowd that worshipped Jesus. Everyone else out there, you're part of the crowd too! When I say, 'Jesus is coming!' I want everyone to wave your branches or your hands and shout 'Hosanna! Hosanna!' That means 'Save us, we pray!' Ready to practice? *Jesus is coming!*"

**KIDS:** "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

*Make sure the kids on the stage are waving their palm fronds and the kids in the audience are waving their hands.*

"Perfect! That looked and sounded great! Let's find out why everyone was cheering for Jesus that day."

5 min

## JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus had been traveling all over, teaching people about God's love, healing the sick, and even raising people from the dead! In fact, just before this, He had raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. Everyone was talking about it!

*Open the Bible to John 12:9-11 (NIRV) and read.*

*Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there, so they came. But they did not come only because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. After all, Jesus had raised him from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. Because of Lazarus, many of the Jews were starting to follow Jesus. They were believing in him.*

"The religious leaders were worried. They didn't like that Jesus was becoming so popular and following Him instead of them. But that didn't stop Jesus—He knew exactly what was ahead, and He still chose to go to Jerusalem. As Jesus and His disciples got close to the city, crowds started to gather. The people were thrilled to see Him!

"Okay, friends, Jesus is getting ready to enter the city! Get those palm branches ready! *Jesus is coming!*"

**KIDS:** "*Hosanna! Hosanna!*"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great! This is what the Bible said happened:

*Open the Bible to John 12:12-13 (NIRV) and read.*

*The large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted,*

*"Hosanna!"*

*"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

*"Blessed is the king of Israel!"*

"Let's do it one more time! Jesus is coming!"

**KIDS:** "*Hosanna! Hosanna!*"

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow! Great job, everyone! You sounded just like the crowd that day. The people were cheering and celebrating because they believed Jesus was the new King who would save them. But then something surprising happened. Jesus didn't come riding in on a big warhorse or in a fancy chariot like a powerful king. Instead, He came riding on ... a donkey. A baby donkey. That might sound strange, but it was actually very important. Hundreds of years earlier, a prophet named Zechariah had written about this exact moment.

*Open the Bible to John 12:14-15 (NIRV) and read.*

*Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says,*

*"City of Zion, do not be afraid.*

*See, your king is coming.*

5 min

## JESUS WASHES HIS DISCIPLES' FEET

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*He is sitting on a donkey's colt."*

"Did you hear that? Jesus was fulfilling a promise that had been written long before His life on earth! He wasn't showing off His power, He was showing humility. He came as a peaceful King, not a fighting one.

"But not everyone was happy about what was happening.

*Open the Bible to John 12:16-19 (NirV) and read.*

*At first, Jesus' disciples did not understand all this. They realized it only after he had received glory. Then they realized that these things had been written about him. They realized that these things had been done to him. A crowd had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead. So they continued to tell everyone about what had happened. Many people went out to meet him. They had heard that he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "This isn't getting us anywhere. Look how the whole world is following him!"*

"The religious leaders didn't understand. They thought Jesus was trying to take away their power. But Jesus came to save them!

"One more time, let me see you wave those palm branches! Jesus is coming!"

**KIDS:** *"Hosanna! Hosanna!"*

**STORYTELLER:** "So the people shouted, 'Hosanna!' and welcomed Jesus like a King. But just a few days later, Jesus would show them what kind of King He really was, one who would lay down His life for everyone, so we could have life.

"Thank you, volunteers, you can take a seat! Great job crowd, you did awesome!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Not long after the people shouted 'Hosanna!' and waved palm branches to celebrate Jesus, He and His friends gathered together for a special meal. It was called the Passover, a time when God's people remembered how He rescued them from slavery long ago in Egypt.

*Open the Bible to John 13:1 (NirV) and read.*

*It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father. Jesus loved his disciples who were in the world. So he now loved them to the very end.*

"Jesus knew what was about to happen. He knew that soon He would be arrested, hurt, and killed. But even then, He wanted to show His friends

how much He loved them. Let's imagine we're walking with Jesus and His friends to the place where they would have the Passover meal.

"Everyone, stand up and march your feet in place—slowly, quietly, step, step, step. Now, sit down just like they did around the table. Actually, they reclined around tables, like this. (*Demonstrate sitting on the floor and invite the kids to do so.*) They were ready to eat together.

*Pick up a towel or cloth.*

"As everyone sat down to eat, something unexpected happened. Usually, before a meal like this, a servant would wash everyone's feet. Remember, they wore sandals, and the roads were dusty and dirty. So washing feet was a pretty stinky job! Can you hold your nose like this and say, 'Pee-yew!'?"

**KIDS:** "Pee-yew!"

**STORYTELLER:** "But this time, no servant came. And none of the disciples offered to do it either. Then Jesus did something no one saw coming."

*Open the Bible to John 13:3-5 (NirV) and read.*

*Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*"Can you imagine that? Let's pretend to pour water into a bowl. (Pretend along with the kids.)"*

*"Jesus, their Teacher, their Lord, knelt down to do the job of a servant. Each disciple must have been amazed as Jesus gently washed their feet, one by one. But then He came to Peter.*

*Open the Bible to John 13:6-9 (NirV) and read.*

*He came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter said to him, "are you going to wash my feet?"*

*Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand."*

*"No," said Peter. "You will never wash my feet."*

*Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me."*

*"Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head too!"*

*"Peter wanted to make sure he didn't miss out on what Jesus was doing! When Jesus finished washing their feet, He stood up, put His robe back on, and spoke to His friends. This is what the Bible says He said:*

*Open the Bible to John 13:10-15 (NirV) and read.*

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

Jesus answered, "People who have had a bath need to wash only their feet. The rest of their body is clean. And you are clean. But not all of you are." Jesus knew who was going to hand him over to his enemies. That was why he said not every one was clean.

When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you."

"Jesus wasn't just talking about washing feet. He was showing His friends how to serve others with love. He was saying, 'If I can humble myself and serve, you can too.' This towel became a picture of what humility looks like, not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of others first.

"When Jesus said that, He wasn't just talking to His disciples, He was talking to us too! He was showing us how to live *upside down!* That means when others expect us to want the spotlight or be first, we can follow Jesus' example and choose to serve instead.

"Then, Jesus said this:

*Open the Bible to John 13:16-17 (NIV) and read.*

*"What I'm about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them."*

"When we follow Jesus' example, when we serve others instead of waiting for someone else to go first, that's when we look the most like Him. So after being celebrated like a King, Jesus showed everyone what kind of King He truly was—a humble one who serves others out of love."

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow. What a powerful story, right? Jesus had just been welcomed into Jerusalem like a king—people were cheering, waving palm branches, and shouting 'Hosanna!' They thought He was coming to take over and rule with power.

"But instead, Jesus showed everyone what real greatness looks like. He didn't demand attention or ask others to serve Him. He chose to serve. He did the job no one else wanted to do. He knelt down and washed His friends' dirty, dusty feet.

"Jesus showed us that true power comes from humility—from putting others first.

"That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today!

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

## Closing

5 min

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** "Jesus showed us how to be humble. Say that with me."  
Host enters and joins in.

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus showed us how to be humble."

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we learned that Jesus is a humble King. And that's a truth He lived out His whole life! Jesus is a King, the King of heaven and earth. He sits at the right hand of God in heaven! He left heaven and came down to Earth to live His life with the people He created. Then, while He was on Earth, He lived an absolutely perfect life, and laid down that perfect life to pay for our sins. Humble, humble, humble. Over and over throughout history, throughout God's Big Story (*gesture to the timeline*) we kept turning our backs on Him, but He came to rescue us anyway. The King submitted Himself to an earthly life and an unfair death, all to rescue us. What a great, great love. What a great, great King.

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

*SLIDE: Week 5 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"This week, we learned about Palm Sunday and the humble King Jesus washing the disciples' feet!"

**HOST:** "So what about us? What's *our* part in this story?"

"Well, Jesus gave us a perfect example of what it looks like to love others with humility. He showed us that being great doesn't mean being first, or being the loudest, or having everyone notice you. Being great means serving others, putting them first.

"Jesus used a towel that night to wash His friends' feet. You might not have to wash anyone's feet—and let's be honest, you're probably glad

3 min

## PRAYER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

about that—but you *can* serve the people around you in lots of other ways!

“You can put others first this week by helping a friend clean up, or by letting your little brother or sister choose the game, or by saying something kind to someone who’s left out. There are lots and lots of ways to put others first!

“When you do those things, you’re showing humility, you’re doing what Jesus did.

“You see, Jesus didn’t just want His friends to remember what He said, He wanted them to *live it out*. That’s why He washed their feet. He was showing them how love works. When we follow Jesus, we get to do the same thing. Every time you choose to help instead of complain, to share instead of keep, or to listen instead of talk, you’re showing the love of Jesus.

“And that’s what living upside down is all about—it’s about loving and serving others even when it’s hard or when no one notices.

“So when you want to remember what this story means, you can think of the towel—a simple reminder that Jesus showed us how to be humble.”

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** “Let’s talk to the God who can help us be humble!

“Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us what true humility looks like. Thank You for coming as a humble King—not to be served, but to serve. Thank You for showing love to Your friends by washing their feet. Please help us remember this week to follow Your example. When we start to think only about ourselves, help us pause and think about how we can serve others instead. Help us to be kind, patient, and willing to put others first. Jesus, we want to love like You—with humble hearts and helping hands. Thank You for always loving us first. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

# Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Floor tape	1
3. whiteboards	2
4. dry-erase markers	2
5. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
6. Optional: Use easel pads and markers instead of whiteboards and dry-erase markers.	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Host	0
2. Storyteller	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. palm fronds	1
6. Towel or cloth	1