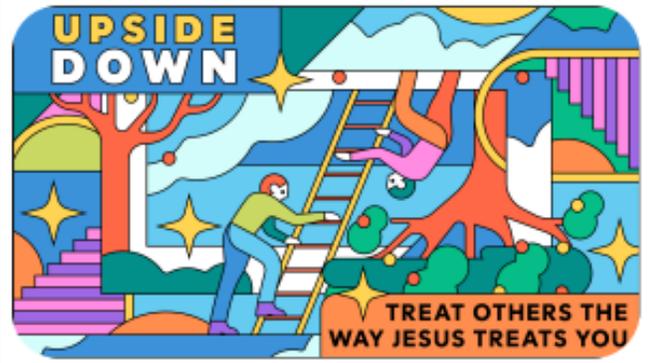


LOWER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- STARTER



Activity Name: Simon Says

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Explain that you're going to play a version of "Simon Says."
- Say, "In this game, Simon is in charge. If I say, 'Simon says ...' you do the action. If I don't say 'Simon says,' you stay still!"
- Play a few rounds with simple commands:
 - "Simon says touch your nose."
 - "Simon says hop on one foot."
 - "Wave your hands!" (Try to trick them.)
 - "Simon says make a silly face."
 - Continue playing with simple commands, letting kids who are "out" help you spot others who move at the wrong time.
 - Play as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

You are all great listeners! You knew that Simon was the one in charge of the game, and you had to listen to Simon's words to know what to do.

In our true story from the Bible today, we'll meet a Roman commander who was really important and was in charge of many soldiers. But he knew who was REALLY in charge of everything. The commander had a servant who was really sick, but he knew there was Someone who had the power to heal him and make him all better. Let's go find out who it was!

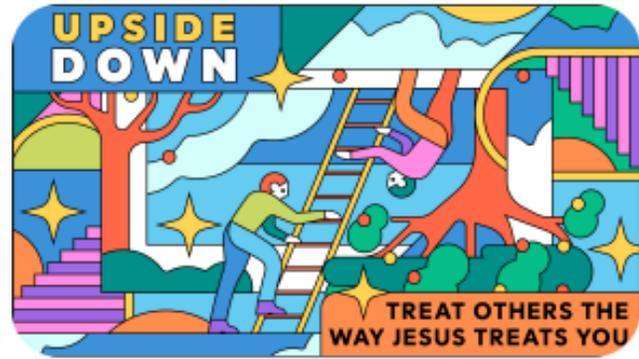
Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- SMALL GROUP

Discussion Questions:

- The Roman commander had a lot of power, but he still asked Jesus for help. What does that tell us about what it means to be strong or in charge in God’s eyes?
- Jesus was amazed by the commander’s faith. What do you think it means to have the kind of faith that “amazes” Jesus?
- The commander believed Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking. What are some things in your life that you need to trust God can handle—without you having to control it?
- The Roman commander humbled himself, even though he was important. What are some ways you can show humility and remember that God is most important in your own life?
- Jesus said people from all over would be part of God’s kingdom—not just a certain group. How does that change the way you think about who God’s love is for and how we should treat others?



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*

Activity Name: Memory Verse Fun

What You Need: Bibles Memory Verse Action page Coloring supplies
 Color by Number activity pages

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Read the verse and repeat together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Use the Memory Verse Motion page to teach the kids the actions for the verse.
- Practice the actions together as a group.
- Give each kid a “Memory Verse Color by Number” Activity Page and make the crayons or markers that match the colors on the page available.
 - Explain that the kids will color the picture by matching the number in each space to the color in the key.
 - Help them find the numbers and the right colors.

What You Say:

Your pictures look so great! This verse helps us remember to be humble, which means putting others first. The Roman commander was not proud; he was humble when he said, ‘Lord, I am not good enough’ (Matthew 8:8 NIV). When we are humble, it shows that we **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**—not us!

KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP