

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2026

WEEK 3

### Notes

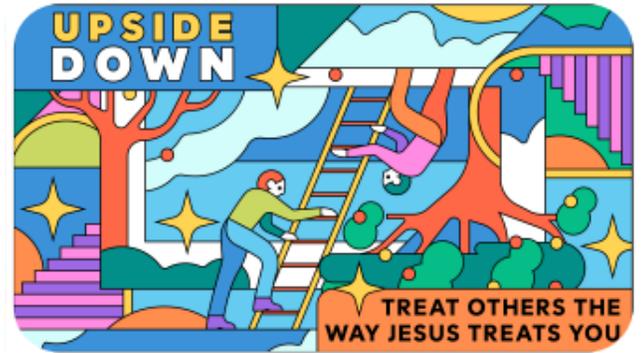
- **Yellow highlighted text** are cues for audio and visual slides.
- Game, Worship, and the Bible verse from the stage
- Intro and Bible story are on video.

### GAME/STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible

### WORSHIP

- **That's Who I Praise**
- **Reckless Love**



### 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*

## WELCOME

(Welcome kids)

Hi everyone! Welcome to Flatirons Kids! I'm so excited to see you here today!

### Show Series Graphic: Upside Down

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.

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## GAME TIME

Today's game is 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!

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. Ready? Clap!

*Watch kids intentionally NOT clap. 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. "Okay, now the challenge begins!

Sit!

Walk forward!

Freeze!

Shout!

Whisper!

Be scared!

Be tired!

Stand still!

Jumo

Whew! You all did awesome! Before we jump into the Bible story, let's stand up and worship together.

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## WORSHIP

One of the ways we worship is by giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. Now, it's your time to jump in and give all you've got as we worship! You can follow along with the moves or worship in your own way. Let's sing!

**Show Worship: That's Who I Praise**

**Show Worship: Reckless Love**

You all did an amazing job singing! Those songs remind us that God's love isn't something we just keep to ourselves; it's something we live and share. Let's go ahead and sit down and get ready for our Bible Story today.

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## INTRO

**Show Series Graphic: Upside Down**

Before we dive into that true story from the Bible, let me tell you something amazing: we've been 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! 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 intention is to learn more about God.

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. **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)** Let's check out our Bible lesson!

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## BIBLE TRUTH

**Show Video: Wk3 StoryLab**

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## APPLICATION

### Show Series Graphic: Upside Down

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.. Our Bottom Line for this week says:

### Show Graphic: WK 3\_Bottom Line

**[BOTTOM LINE] Love like Jesus even when it's hard.**

Say that with me! (Repeat with leaders and kids)

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!

Let's take a moment to look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's such a good reminder.

### Show Verse: Philippian 2:3

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

Let's say it together! (Repeat with leaders and kids)

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!

Let's pray together now.

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## PRAYER

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.

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## **SMALL GROUPS**

**Show Graphic: Small Group**

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)