



**WEEK THREE – MARCH 2026 – KINDER/FIRST**

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

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

**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)*

**Conversation Starter:** *How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?*

**Application:** *Humility: Putting others first by giving up what you want*

**Series Overview:**

Since Jesus instructs us to live in a way that's opposite of culture, this month's theme is "Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you." Fun upside-down visuals are a great reminder that the way we're called to live and serve with humility may "feel" upside down. But in reality, it's right side up!

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**8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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**Connection Centers**

*Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders*

**What You Need:** Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

**What You Do:**

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time and for the kids that show up each week! Pray over their time here and the lessons they learn, relationships they build.*
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
  - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
    - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
  - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
  - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these:
    - *Have you ever been so mad you made a silly or grumpy face? Show us your best one.*
    - *What helps you feel better when you're upset?*
    - *What's something kind someone did for you this week?*
    - *If someone was having a really bad day, what's one nice thing you could do for them?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
    - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
  - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

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**9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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**OPENING ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Hula Hoop

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle, holding hands.
- Place a Hula Hoop over one pair of clasped hands.
- 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:**

“Great teamwork, everyone! That was tricky! You had to work together very closely with your friends. It can be hard to work that closely with people, 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!”

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

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We follow up in Week 3 with Jesus’ teaching to “turn the other cheek” and “go the extra mile.” Rather than paying back our enemies in kind, we show they can’t control us when we choose to love like Jesus ... and trust God to make things right. Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it’s hard. [BOTTOM LINE] Love like Jesus even when it’s hard.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP**

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**UPSIDE DOWN HEARTS**

## [Live for God | Application Activity]

**What You Need:** 15 Plastic Cups; Heart Sticker

### **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.
- 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.**"

## **PRAYER TIME**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

**What You Need:** Paper Strips; Coloring Supplies; Stapler or Tape

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a strip of paper and make coloring supplies available.
- 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 NIRV*). 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.”