



WEEK TWO – MARCH 2026 – SECOND/THIRD

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

Bottom Line: *Remember God is most important.*

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 I show others that Jesus is better?*

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!

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

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:
 - *What's the longest you've ever hung upside down? What happened?*
 - *If school was upside down for a day, what do you think would happen? (Teachers do homework? Kids run the class?)*
 - *What's something kind someone did for you that you didn't expect?*
 - *What do you think is harder: winning... or letting someone else win sometimes? Why?*
- *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

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

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids that you are going to be the leader, and they need to copy your rhythm.
- Start a simple pattern, like patting your knees twice and then clapping once. (*pat, pat, clap*)
- Encourage the whole group to do the rhythm with you several times.
- Then, point to one kid to be the new leader. Encourage them to make up a new, simple pattern.
- Instruct the rest of the group to copy the new leader’s pattern.
- Give every kid who wants a turn the chance to be the leader.

What You Say:

“You are all fantastic at repeating the rhythm! You listened to the leader and did what they did. You followed their lead. *[Transition]* **In our true story from the Bible today, we’re going to meet a Roman commander, a leader of many soldiers, but he knew who the most important leader of all was—the One with the most authority. Let’s go find out who!”**

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

In Week 2, meet a Roman commander who comes to Jesus for help. Instead of asserting his power and status, the man humbly asks Jesus to heal his servant. The commander even trusts that Jesus is so powerful that He only needs to speak and the boy will be made well. [BOTTOM LINE] Remember God is most Important.

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

APPLICATION ROLL

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Large die

What You Do:

- Explain that the kids will take turns rolling the die. The number they roll will match a question you ask.
- Let the first kid roll the die. If they roll a 3, ask them question #3 from the list.
- Continue rolling the die and asking questions until everyone who wants a turn has had one.
- **Application Questions:**
 - Name one person who is important to you.
 - Name one thing that is important in our room.
 - Who made the whole world? (*God!*)
 - Who is more powerful than a superhero? (*God/Jesus!*)
 - Who is a very important person in the world?
 - Who is the most important person in the whole universe? (*God/Jesus!*)

What You Say:

“Those are great answers! There are lots of important people and things in our lives. But our true story from the Bible today about the important Roman commander helped us learn to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** The commander knew Jesus’ authority was bigger than anyone’s, and Jesus was so amazed by his faith!

“So what does this mean for us? It’s remembering what the Roman commander knew—God is more important and more powerful than anything. God is in charge! If there is something that you’re scared of at nighttime, you can ask God for help. If there is something bothering you at school, ask God for His help. If you are having a hard time with a friend, ask God for help. God is the King of everything! **[Bottom Line] Remember God is most important.**”

MEMORY VERSE BALLOON BOP

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; Balloon

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.
- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Toss the balloon into the air.
- Explain that the goal is to keep the balloon from touching the floor. Each time someone bops the balloon, everyone should shout one word of the Memory Verse.
- Start the game: You bop the balloon and shout, “Don’t!” Instruct the next kid to bop it and shout, “do!” and so on.
- Keep playing, working together to say the verse, and keeping the balloon up.

What You Say:

“Great job! That was fun! This verse reminds us to be humble. The Roman commander was humble when he told Jesus, ‘*Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house*’ (Matthew 8:8 NIV). Being humble means knowing God is in charge. It helps us to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** We

can learn this verse and remember it all week long. We can use this verse to remind us to be humble and put others first by giving up what we want.”

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Index Cards; writing utensils; small bag

What You Do:

- Instruct each kid to write their name on an index card.
- Place all the name cards into the bowl.
- Pass the bowl around the circle and let each kid draw one name card (make sure they don't get their own name).
- Explain that you are going to pray for each other.
- Go around the circle. When it's a kid's turn, instruct them to hold up the name card they drew, and the whole group will pray together: “Dear God, please help [name on card].”
- Continue until you have prayed for every kid.
 - ***[Make It Personal]* Include your own name card in the bowl.**

What You Say:

“It's so good to pray for our friends. Praying for others is a way to put others first and show them the love of Jesus. The Roman commander asked Jesus to help his servant. He had faith that Jesus could help, because Jesus is the most important.”

“Dear God, thank You for all my friends. Thank You for being bigger and more important than anything. Help us to remember that You have all the authority over everything and that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”