



WEEK TWO – MARCH 2026 – KINDER/FIRST

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 :
 - *Have you ever hung upside down on the playground? How did it feel? (Dizzy? Funny? Cool? Scary?)*
 - *If you had to do one whole day upside down, what would be the hardest part?*
 - *What's something nice someone did for you this week? How did it make you feel?*
 - *Would you rather be the first in line or let someone else go first? Why? (Simple intro to humility.)*
- *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 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, 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. *[Transition]* **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!"**

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

ACT IT OUT

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask for volunteers to act out the story as you tell it. You'll need:
 - Jesus
 - The Roman commander (centurion)
 - The sick person (can lie on the floor)
 - A few disciples
- Retell the story simply, pausing to let the kids act out the parts.
 - “Jesus came into a town called Capernaum with His disciples.” (*Have Jesus and the disciples walk into the group space.*)
 - “A Roman commander came up to Jesus. The Roman commander was very worried.” (*Have the commander approach Jesus with a worried face.*)
 - “The commander said, ‘Lord ... my servant lies at home and can’t move. He is suffering terribly.’” (*Matthew 8:6 NIV*). (*Commander can point to the sick person lying on the floor.*)
 - “Jesus said, ‘Shall I come and heal him?’” (*Matthew 8:7 NIV*) (*Jesus can take a step toward the sick person.*)
 - “But the commander said: ‘Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.’” (*Matthew 8:8 NIV*). (*Commander holds up his hand to stop Jesus.*)
 - “Jesus was amazed! He said he had not seen faith like that in all of Israel. Then he said to the commander, ‘Go! It will be done just as you believed it would’” (*Matthew 8:13 NIV*). (*And the servant was healed that very moment!*)” (*Sick person can jump up and be all better!*)
- Give all your actors a big round of applause.

What You Say:

“Great job acting out our story! The commander was a very important person—he was in charge of more than one hundred soldiers. But he knew who was the MOST important. He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word. He knew we should *[Bottom Line]* **remember God is most important.**”

“The commander knew that even though he commanded things to happen in his own job, Jesus is in charge of *everything*. Absolutely everything! The commander might have seen Jesus heal people already. And he got it: Jesus had the power to simply speak and change things with His word. The commander was an important person, but he knew who was the MOST important. Jesus! He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word and that we should *[Bottom Line]* **remember God is most important.**”

COLOR BY NUMBER

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; “Verse Motions” Activity Page; Coloring Supplies; Color by Number Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible to find 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.
- 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.
- As they color, read the Memory Verse that is on the page to the group: *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).*
- 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 NIrV). When we are humble, it shows that we **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**—not us!”

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Remind the kids that the Roman commander asked Jesus for help. And Jesus helped!

- Say, “God is most important, and He is also the most powerful. He can help us with anything. Let’s take a turn telling God something we need help with.”
- Go around the group and let each kid finish this sentence: “God, please help me with ... ”
- If a kid is shy, they can whisper it to you or just say “pass.”
 - ***[Make It Personal]*** Share something simple you need God’s help with too.

What You Say:

“It’s so good to ask God for help. He loves to hear from us! God is always with us and will always help us. Nothing is too big or too hard for God. The commander had faith, and Jesus healed his servant right at that moment. Let’s close our time by praying for everyone in our group.

“Dear God, thank You that You are the most important and the most powerful. You are in charge of everything. Thank You for listening when we ask for help. Please help everyone in our group this week. Help us to always [Bottom Line] remember God is most important. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”