

PRETEEN
MARCH 2026
WEEK 3

Notes

- **Yellow highlighted text** are cues for audio and visual slides.
- *Red text is for nonverbal cues.*

GAME/STORY SUPPLIES

- BIBLE

WORSHIP

- **THAT'S WHO I PRAISE**
- **PRAISE**



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

**Preteen
Large Group**

**MARCH 2026
Week 3**

WELCOME

(Welcome kids)

PLAY: 2 Minute Countdown to dismiss from Small Groups to Large Group

As kids are coming in from small group, high five, walk around room, and welcome them!

WELCOME IN! I'm so glad YOU are here today.

While we wait for the rest of our small groups to come on in, I have a question for you to answer with the person next to you...

Would you rather eat ice cream for EVERY meal or NEVER eat dessert again...

Only the deepest questions to start off our time, you know? OK seriously though, talk about it with your small group for a minute and I'll come around and see who has an answer for me.

As kids are answering in their small groups, welcome in the rest of the groups coming in and give them the question! Walk around and find a few people to answer. Make sure you engage with those who don't have a partner.

Show Series Graphic: UPSIDE DOWN

Ok, now for those of you who chose ice cream every meal? You're crazy, and your stomach aches will be SO real...

For those who chose to NEVER have dessert again... that would be tough for me. But you'd be saving yourself a lotttttttt of pain.

Now choosing to never have dessert again so you don't have belly aches all the time, THAT is hard.

But today, we're going to be talking about something that may be even harder to do than never eat dessert again...

We're learning all about LOVING people, even when they aren't loving to us.

We're continuing our series **UPSIDE DOWN** where we learn how Jesus asks us to live a lot differently, a little upside down, from the world. Like loving someone who isn't loving to us.

So, obviously we're going to play a game that reminds us of this UPSIDE DOWN theme, and it's called...

GAME: THE OPPOSITE GAME

Game: THE OPPOSITE GAME

Show THE OPPOSITE GAME Slide

THE OPPOSITE GAME.

Has anyone ever played Simon says?

Ok, good, mostly everyone. So, this is kind of like that, except without the Simon, AND instead of DOING what I say, you need to do the OPPOSITE.

Ok, so it's nothing like Simon says, but you get the point.

FIRST, I'm going to have my small group leaders as referees throughout the room to make sure no one is cheating... not that you would ever do that...

So, here's how to play...

During the game, PLAY MUSIC LOOP

HOW TO PLAY:

- All kids STAND and spread out so they have some room
- The host will SAY an action
- The kids will then do the OPPOSITE of the action
- If the kids DO the action, they are out (*This SHOULD be hard – make it a point to make it fun when kids mess up, not discouraging*)

Note: Small group leaders help referee!

- Play until a finalist/a few finalists are left!
- Continue as many rounds as time allows.

Show Series Graphic: UPSIDE DOWN

Ok, now THAT was fun. And now it's time for something even MORE fun that we do every week together...
WORSHIP.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP INTRO: PRAISE means showing God how much we love Him. And one of our favorite ways to do that at Flatirons Kids is by singing what is true about God and how he loves us.

So everybody stand up, get ready, and let's PRAISE God together.

Play: THAT'S WHO I PRAISE

Play: PRAISE

Show Series Graphic: UPSIDE DOWN

I love worshipping with you guys, and God loves it EVEN MORE. Let's take a seat and get ready for our bible story together.

INTRO

Alright, big question for you guys...

Has anyone ever had someone do something to them that was unkind? *Raise your hand.*

Yep. Me too.

Has anyone ever had anyone be REALLY mean to them? *Raise your hand.* Yep. Same.

You know who experienced this too? And the worst of all of us? Jesus. And instead of responding like the world does, Jesus does something upside down, and asks us to do what we would never think to do to people who mistreat us.

BIBLE NAVIGATION TIME FROM STAGE: (HOLD UP BIBLE.) Our story is found in the Book of MATTHEW, which is in the New Testament (Flip to the book of MATTHEW in your bible on stage). If you have your bibles, let's open those together now!

Now, we're going to Chapter 5 the BIG number 5.

Now we're starting in verse 38, the teeny tiny number 38 under the big number 5.

Let's keep our bibles open, and learn more about our story for today.

BIBLE STORY

Show Video: Wk3 So&So Show

APPLICATION

Show Series Graphic: UPSIDE DOWN

Woah. Now THAT is a totally upside down way of treating those who don't treat us well, but that's exactly how Jesus calls us to live.

We can't wait for people to be loving to us before WE love them, because THAT is how Jesus loved those who mistreated him. We love FIRST.

We're going to learn in just 3 weeks the story of EASTER and how Jesus did the most loving thing anyone could do for people who treated him the worst.

But how do you and I do this?

Share personal story of how YOU have loved people who were not kind to you (AGE APPROPRIATE).

Now THIS is really hard to do, but you don't have to do it alone. Jesus is WITH you as you love those who are hard to love.

That brings us to our memory verse, which reminds us to put OTHERS first, especially when it's hard...

Show Verse: Philippians 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

Let's say that all together. *Repeat several times with kids and leaders.*

Show Graphic: WK3_Conversation Starter

Now as we head into our small groups, I want you to be thinking about THIS question...

How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?

Before we head to our small groups to talk more about this, I'd love for someone to pray for us! Anyone want to pray for our group?

PRAYER

HAVE A KID PRAY!!

SMALL GROUPS

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)

PLAY: Small Group Loop