



WEEK FOUR – MARCH 2026 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Mary and Martha | Luke 10:38-42*

Bottom Line: *Make time for Jesus first.*

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 NIRV)*

Conversation Starter: *How can you make time for Jesus?*

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 usually gets most of your attention right now?(Sports, friends, phone, games, school, etc.)**
 - **Have you ever been so focused on one thing that you missed something important? What happened?**
 - **Who is someone you make time for no matter what? Why?**
 - **What's one thing you could do this week to put someone else first, even if it costs you something?**
- *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: Floor Tape, Paper Plates, Paper

What You Do:

- Create two start lines using floor tape at one end of the room.
- Create two finish lines using floor tape at the other end of the room.
- Divide the group into two teams and instruct each team to line up behind the start line on one end of the room.
- Give the first kid in each line a crumpled paper ball and a paper plate.
- Explain the relay race: One at a time, the kids are to use the paper plate as a fan to “blow” their paper “trash” across the room to the finish line, and then run back and hand the plate to the next kid in line.
- The first team to have all its players finish wins.
- Play a second round where the kids have to fan the paper ball while walking backward.

What You Say:

“That was a lot of work! You were all so busy fanning that paper across the room. And you definitely didn’t want to stop because you wanted to get to the finish line! It’s easy to get busy with tasks and forget what’s most important. *[Transition]* Today’s true story from the Bible is about two sisters, Mary and Martha. One of them was very, very busy ... Let’s go find out what Jesus thought about all her work.”

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

Week 4 brings us to the story of Mary and Martha. While Martha whips up a frenzy of activity to prepare for their guests, Mary simply sits at the feet of Jesus. When Martha finally explodes about her sister, Jesus doesn’t send Mary to work.

Instead, Jesus affirms that what Mary has done in spending time with Him is even more important than doing things for Him. [BOTTOM LINE] Make time for Jesus first.

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: My Week Activity Page, Coloring/Writing Supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a page from the “My Week” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Instruct them to fill in their typical weekly schedule. Encourage them to write down things like school, sports practice, homework, chores, and screen time.
- Once the kids have their busy week filled in, invite them to look for the empty spaces.
- Challenge them to find specific times this week where they can intentionally “make time for Jesus.”
- Instruct them to write “Time with Jesus” in some of the empty slots on their calendar.
- Invite them to share with a partner what time they chose and what they plan to do during that time (e.g., pray, read a devotional, listen to worship music).

What You Say:

“It’s easy for our schedules to fill up, isn’t it? If we aren’t intentional, time with Jesus can get squeezed out. Martha spent time being busy making everything wonderful for Jesus’ visit. She was doing good things, but Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary spent time sitting at the feet of Jesus and listened to Him.

“Our days can get very busy. We can get busy with sports practice, music lessons, clubs, playing with friends, or doing chores. These are all good things, but Jesus taught us that it’s most important to spend time with Jesus. When we spend time with Jesus before we do all of those activities, the awareness that He is with us makes all of those activities better! We can spend time with Jesus by praying, reading the Bible, listening to worship music, or singing praises to Him. Making an actual plan on a calendar is a great way to make sure we **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time of how you make time for Jesus first. For example: “My week can get super-crazy, and if I don’t decide ahead of time when I’m going to connect with God, it often doesn’t happen. For me, the best time is right in the morning before everyone else gets up. I schedule it just like any other appointment, because Jesus said only one thing is needed, and that time with Him is the most important thing I can do.”)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: Coloring Pages

What You Do:

- Give out coloring pages to any kid who wants one.
- If kids don’t want to color but need help focusing in on the conversation, let them use a fidget toy.
- Ask your group these questions:
 - Martha was busy serving, and Mary chose to sit and listen to Jesus. Why do you think Jesus said that Mary had chosen “what is better”?
 - It’s easy to get caught up in doing good things and forget about God. What are some ways your day can get so busy that you forget to spend time with Jesus?
 - How could making time for Jesus first actually help you do other things better?

- Mary didn't have to do anything to earn Jesus' attention—she just chose to be with Him. How does that show the way God wants us to connect with Him?
- Jesus is always with us, even when we are busy. What are some small ways you could acknowledge Jesus' presence with you—at school, at home, or with friends?

What You Say:

Close in prayer OR invite a kid to pray!