

# MARCH LG | W2



## Bible Story

A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

## Conversation Starter

How do you show that God is important?

## Bottom Line

Remember God is most important.

## 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*

5 min

# Large Group Opener

5 min

## OPENER

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Floor Tape	1
 Rubber chicken	1
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You'll ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2

### What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- Use floor tape to create two starting lines directly across from each other, around 20 feet apart or whatever a reasonable distance is for your space.
- Place the rubber chicken directly in the middle of the two starting lines. The distance to the rubber chicken should be equal from both starting lines.

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another incredible week of our series called 'Upside Down!' All month long, we're learning how Jesus flips things around and shows us a totally different way to live—HIS way!

"And speaking of upside down ... today's game is completely ridiculous in the best way. It's called 'Upside-Down Trivia'!

*SLIDE: "Upside-Down Trivia Title"*

"In this game, the **WRONG** answer is the **RIGHT** answer. You score points by giving the silliest, craziest, most upside-down answer you can think of!

"But before you can answer, you have to race for **THIS** rubber chicken. Each round, I'll call up two players. When I ask the question, those two players will run to the chicken. Whoever grabs it first gets to give the upside-down answer. That means your answer should be incorrect, not correct. It should be something that **DOESN'T** make sense. For example, if I asked, 'What do you use to keep the rain off you?' you might say, 'Swiss cheese!'

"Okay, let's pick our first two players! If you'd like to volunteer to play, raise your hand!

*Choose two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Position each kid at the start lines on either side of the rubber chicken.*

### ROUND 1

"All right, here we go. Remember, I will ask the question first, and when I shout, 'Upside down,' you will race to the chicken! Ready? Here's the first question: What do you use to brush your teeth?

"Ready ... set ... **UPSIDE DOWN!**

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*The kids race. First kid grabs the chicken.*

"Okay, [kid's name] grabbed the rubber chicken first. So what's your upside-down answer?"

*Kid who grabbed the chicken gives their upside-down answer.*

*Respond to the kid's upside-down answer. For example, if the kid responded with "Breadstick," you could say something like: "A breadstick? I'm pretty sure that's not dentist-approved ... but that IS an upside-down answer!" Then give them a ridiculous point amount for their answer.*

"Great job! Okay, let's bring up two different players! Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!"

*Pause to select two new volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Position each kid at the start lines.*

### **ROUND 2**

"Okay, next question: What do you wear on your feet? Ready ... set ... UPSIDE DOWN!"

*The kids race to grab the chicken.*

"What's your upside-down answer?"

*Kid who grabbed the chicken gives their upside-down answer.*

*Respond to the kid's upside-down answer. For example, if the kid responded with "Spaghetti noodles," you could say something like:*

*"Spaghetti noodles? Slippery AND stylish. And definitely upside-down!"*

*Then give them a ridiculous point amount for their answer.*

"Great job!"

*If time allows, continue with more rounds of new questions.*

**Ideas for Possible Future Rounds** (Feel free to come up with your own!)

- What do you sleep on at night?
- What do you put on a sandwich?
- What do you write with?
- What do you drink?

"Wow, you all rocked those upside-down answers! I love how your brain can flip things around so fast. And THAT is exactly what this month is all about. We're learning how living for Jesus sometimes feels upside down or different from what everyone else expects.

"Like when we choose kindness ... when we choose forgiveness ... when we choose to follow Jesus, it might not always be what everyone else is doing, but it's always the BEST way. Today, we'll be learning how someone who was very important realized that God is the One who is MOST important. And that's our Bottom Line today!"

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** "Remember God is most important! Say that with me, friends!"

**KIDS & HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** "Remember God is most important!"

**HOST:** "Awesome! Let's learn what that's all about!"

11 min

# Worship

3 min

## I Can't Stop Singing

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## This is Amazing Grace

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Great job in that game! You all were moving fast and thinking even faster!"

This month we're talking about living upside down — choosing God's way instead of just doing what feels normal. And today we're learning something huge: no matter how strong, smart, or important someone might be... **God is the most important.**

The Roman commander in today's story was powerful. People listened to him. But he knew something even bigger — Jesus was the one truly in charge.

When we remember that God is most important, our hearts respond with praise. So let's stand up and sing like people who know exactly who's in charge!"

"Yes! When you know who God is and how powerful He is, you can't stay quiet!"

The Roman commander believed Jesus didn't even have to come to his house — he knew Jesus could heal with just a word. That's authority. That's real power.

This next song reminds us that Jesus isn't just good... He's amazing. His grace changes everything. Let's lift it up together!"

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today, worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!"

"You all did such an amazing job worshipping today! Now, we're going to look at our Memory Verse for this month. This verse reminds us how to live the way Jesus did, with humility, which means putting others first and remembering that God is most important. It's found in Philippians 2:3. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!"

*SLIDE: Memory Verse*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "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"

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

43 min

# Bible Story (Live)

3 min

## INTRODUCTION

### What You Need

 Host	1
 Storyteller	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 Large Flashlight	1

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Don't do it because you are proud."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Instead, be humble."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "Philippians 2:3!"

"Great job, everyone! When we remember this verse, it helps us live upside down—not just thinking about ourselves, but putting God and others first."

*Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!*

*If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!*

*Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!*

### What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Set up the large flashlight on a table. Position it in a way for the room to see your shadow. (You could also have a leader hold the flashlight for you.)
- Throughout the teaching, get closer and farther from the light to emphasize the point of wanting God to be most important. Feel free to practice making your shadow prior to Large Group time!

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have a big flashlight set up on a table positioned in a way for kids to see your shadow. If possible, dim lights when using the flashlight.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we're talking about what it means to live *Upside Down*—to follow Jesus even when it looks different from what everyone else is doing. 'Upside Down' is our theme this month! Jesus doesn't just want us to act like everyone else. He teaches us a whole new way to live.

"Today, we're going to hear about someone who understood something really important about Jesus. He was a Roman commander—a big, powerful leader who gave orders to lots of soldiers. Everyone expected someone like him to be the most important person in the room. But when this commander met Jesus, he showed that Jesus is the most important! He is in charge!

"But before we get into our true story about what we can learn about God today, let me tell you about something amazing that we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "We're continuing right in our journey through the Bible. We are right at the part where Jesus was on Earth!

"Before we jump into our true story from the Bible, I want to show you something really cool. I've got a flashlight right here.

*Shine the flashlight toward the wall so kids can see your shadow grow larger.*

"Check out my shadow! When I stand way back here, my shadow looks HUGE. It makes me look like I'm the most important thing in the room!

*Take a small step closer to the flashlight so the shadow shrinks.*

"But watch what happens when I move closer to the light. My shadow gets smaller. The closer I get to the light, the less I look like the biggest thing.

*Take another step closer. The shadow should become even smaller.*

"This is a great picture of what we're learning today. Sometimes we like to feel big, strong, and important. But when we get closer to Jesus, the Light, we remember something true: God is the most important. Not me. Not anyone else. Only Him."

"In our story today, we're going to meet someone who showed us this truth. He was really powerful! He was a commander of about 100 Roman soldiers! People listened to him. He gave orders, and people would obey. But when he came to Jesus, he showed that he wasn't the biggest one at all. Jesus was.

5 min

## A SURPRISING VISITOR

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## A COMMANDER WHO UNDERSTOOD REAL POWER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"Let's take a look at what happened when that Roman commander met Jesus. Jesus said the Roman commander's response to Him was one of the most faith-filled He had ever seen!

"Jesus had just finished teaching a huge crowd of people. He had been up on a mountain sharing some really important things. When He and His friends came back into the town of Capernaum, something surprising happened.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:5-6 (NIRV) and read.*

*When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman commander came to him. He asked Jesus for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering terribly."*

"Now, this wasn't just ANY soldier. This man was a Roman commander. He was in charge of about one hundred soldiers! When he said, 'Go,' they went. When he said, 'Come here,' they came running. Everyone knew he was important. You'd expect someone like him to act big and strong and proud, right? But instead of acting like he was the most important person ... he came to Jesus for help. He knew that even with all his strength and power, he couldn't fix what was happening to his servant.

"Jesus listened to him right away. Jesus cared about every person He met, even people others didn't expect Him to help. This is how Jesus responded:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:7 (NIRV) and read.*

*Jesus said, "Shall I come and heal him?"*

*Use the flashlight to create the big shadow.*

"Look how big my shadow is right now. That's kind of like what the commander could have done. He could have acted like the biggest, most important person.

*Take one slow step closer to the flashlight so the shadow gets smaller.*

"But instead, he came close in a humble way, just like a shadow that gets smaller when you move toward the light. By asking Jesus for help, the commander was showing something amazing—He knew Jesus was more important than he was."

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus had just offered to go to the commander's house and heal the servant. That was a HUGE deal. Most people expected a powerful Roman leader to boss people around, not ask politely for help. But what the commander said next showed that he understood something incredibly important about Jesus.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:8-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*The commander replied, "Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. I myself am a man under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my*

5 min

## JESUS SEES A FAITH LIKE NO OTHER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

*orders. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

"Did you hear that? The commander wasn't trying to act impressive. He wasn't trying to prove how important he was. Instead, he explained something he understood from his own job: when someone has real authority, things happen just because they say so.

*Use the flashlight to make the biggest shadow you can.*

"When I hold the light like this, my shadow looks huge again. Sometimes people think being the 'biggest' or the 'most important' is what matters most.

*Slowly shrink your shadow.*

"But that's not what the commander did. He didn't try to make himself look bigger. He moved closer to the Light, closer to the truth that Jesus is the greatest of all.

"He believed Jesus could heal his servant from far away, with just a word. Not because the commander was awesome. But because Jesus is the One with real authority. Not a little authority. Not some authority. ALL authority. Jesus is in charge!

"Kids, that's HUGE. The commander could have tried to fix things his own way. He could have acted like he was the most important. But he didn't. He trusted that Jesus' power was greater.

"This was real faith, the kind that says, 'Jesus, You can do what I can't. I trust You. You are God!'

**STORYTELLER:** "When Jesus heard what the commander said, He didn't just smile ... He didn't just nod ... He was AMAZED. Think about that! This commander amazed Jesus! This is what happened:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:10 (NIRV) and read.*

*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those following him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. In Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong."*

"Wow. Jesus had met so many people—people who followed Him, people who listened to His teachings, people who saw His miracles. But this commander stood out. Not because he was powerful. Not because he was important. But because he trusted Jesus completely.

"Remember how our shadows look big when we stand far from the light, and small when we're close? The commander wasn't trying to make himself look big. He wasn't trying to look strong or important. He stepped close to the truth, close to the Light, and trusted Jesus more than himself.

"Jesus then told everyone listening that people from all over the world would come to God's kingdom, but the ones who *thought* they were

5 min

## THE MOMENT JESUS SPOKE

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

important, the ones who thought they didn't need God's help, would miss out. Jesus said:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:11-12 (NIRV) and read.*

*"I say to you that many will come from the east and the west. They will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of heaven. They will sit with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But those who think they belong in the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness. There they will weep and grind their teeth."*

"Jesus was explaining something big: Being close to God isn't about being famous. It isn't about being powerful. It isn't about being the 'biggest' or the 'best.' It's about faith in God. It's about knowing that **[Bottom Line] God is the most important** and has all authority.

*Slowly make your shadow shrink again.*

"This is what the commander did. He made himself small by coming close to Jesus. And Jesus saw that his faith was real.

**STORYTELLER:** "After the commander showed his incredible faith, Jesus did something amazing. He didn't travel to the commander's house. He didn't walk through the streets. He didn't even ask for someone to lead the way. Jesus simply spoke.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:13 (NIRV) and read.*

*Then Jesus said to the Roman commander, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.*

"Right in that very moment ... the servant was healed.

"The Roman commander stepped close to Jesus, he asked Jesus for help, and he trusted that Jesus' power was bigger than anything he could ever do.

"And Jesus didn't just hear him ... Jesus acted. Jesus didn't need to see the servant. He didn't need to touch him. He didn't need to walk to the Roman commander's house. All He needed to do was speak. And when Jesus speaks ... things change. The servant was healed immediately because Jesus is in charge. Everything answers to Him.

"The Roman commander believed that Jesus had the greatest authority, and Jesus showed that He did.

"And all of this happened because one man remembered something we're learning today too: **[Bottom Line] God is the most important.**

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus showed the Roman commander, and all of us, that real power belongs to God. When we try to be the most important, it's like standing far from the light and making our shadow look big. But

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

**GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER  
(OPTIONAL)****What You Need**

No supplies needed

8 min

**Closing**

5 min

**WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE  
STORY?**

when we come close to Jesus and trust Him, we remember what's true: God is the most important. He's the One we can rely on, the One who leads us, and the One who can do what we can't.

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line] "Remember God is most important.** Say that with me."

*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Remember God is most important.**

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we talked about a super-important truth that's true over all of life—Jesus is in charge! The Roman commander showed that he knew Jesus was in charge, and Jesus was so impressed! Jesus really is in charge ... of everything. Darkness and evil must answer to Him. And that dark curse of sin answers to Him too. As we learned throughout God's Big Story, God has been working and working and working to send us Jesus! Then once Jesus came, He lived a perfect life, and died on a cross to pay for our sins. Now, we can be close to God again. And one day, when Jesus returns, the curse of sin and death that infects this world will be no more! The God who is in charge loves us so much!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

*SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image*

*If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.*

"This week we learned from the Roman commander coming to Jesus!"

**HOST:** "When we hear a story like this, it helps us remember something really important: God isn't just powerful in the Bible, He's powerful in *our* lives too. And our part in the story is to remember that God is most important every day. That means we can choose to trust Him when things feel big or confusing. We can pray and ask for His help instead

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

3 min

**PRAYER****What You Need**

No supplies needed

of trying to figure everything out on our own. It means we can let God lead us—at school, at home, with our friends—because He knows what's best. When we put God first, we're choosing to live in a way that might look a little upside down to others, but it's the best way to live."

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's talk to the God who is in charge together. Everyone, close your eyes."

"God, You are the most important One in our lives. Sometimes we forget, and we try to do everything by ourselves. But You are strong, You are good, and You always know what we need. Help us remember to come to You first. Help us trust You when things feel big or confusing. And help us live in a way that shows You are the most important and have all power. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Supplies

OPENER		Quantity	INTRODUCTION		Quantity
1.	Host	1	1.	Host	1
2.	Floor Tape	1	2.	Storyteller	1
3.	Rubber chicken	1	3.	Bible	1
4.	kid volunteers for each round you do (You'll ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2	4.	Table	1
			5.	Large Flashlight	1