

MARCH LG | W4



Bible Story

Mary and Martha • Luke 10:38-42

Conversation Starter

How can you make time for Jesus?

Bottom Line

Make time for Jesus first.

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 NIRV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

 Host	1
 Costume items (Examples: Construction vests, scarves, shirts, hats, sunglasses, gloves, anything silly and colorful)	Several
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2
 Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
 Optional: Floor tape (to make a "runway")	1

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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- Have a pre-determined song ready for the Backward Freeze Dance game.

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome, welcome! I'm so glad you're here. This whole month, we've been learning what it means to live upside down—our series is called 'Upside Down!' That means doing things the way Jesus does them, and sometimes, that looks totally different from what everyone else is doing.

"Today, we're learning that Jesus wants us to *make time for Him first*. But before we hear our Bible Story, we're going to do something that's also a little upside down. We're going to have our very own ...

SLIDE: Backward Fashion Show Title

"Fashion show!

"Yep, you heard me right ... but today, we're going to make it backward!

"Here's how it's going to work. I've got one big pile of costume pieces right here.

Gesture to pile of costume pieces.

"Each round, I'm going to pick two volunteers. They'll run to this pile of costumes, grab a few items, and put them on backward or inside out, as fast as they can! You can mix and match anything you want. Then you'll take a walk down our 'Upside Down Runway' while everyone cheers you on! (*Gesture to the "runway" that works best for your group.*)

"Are you ready to get silly? Let's get started!

ROUND 1

"Okay, I need two volunteers for our first round! Raise your hand if you want to be a model in our Backward Fashion Show!
Pick two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, and invite them to come to the front of the room.

"Okay, models, when the countdown starts, you have 30 seconds to grab whatever you want from this pile and put it on backwards or inside

out. You can wear hats on your feet or shirts on your head—get creative with it!

"Ready ... set ... go!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown). The two kids will have 30 seconds to pick the most random pieces to wear—the more creative, the better.

"Time's up! All right, let's see your best runway walk!

AUDIO: Fun, upbeat runway music

Start the fashion show. Kids walk back and forth a few times across the stage or the front of the room or where you have marked with tape lines—whatever is suitable for your space. Cheer them on as they walk and encourage the audience to cheer them on too.

"Give it up for our first two models! That was amazing! You guys can put your costumes back in the pile now.

ROUND 2

"Okay, now it's time for round two! I need two new volunteers. If you'd like to participate in our Backward Fashion Show, raise your hand! *Pick two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room.*

"Remember, models, you only have 30 seconds to pick your outfits and get dressed backward or inside out. Be creative and a little bit silly! Ready? Go!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown). The two kids will have 30 seconds to pick the most random pieces to wear—the more creative, the better.

"Okay, stop! Let's see that runway strut!

AUDIO: Fun, upbeat runway music

Start the fashion show, and let the kids walk for 15-20 seconds. Kids walk back and forth across the stage or the front of the room or where you have marked a runway with tape lines—whatever is suitable for your space. Cheer them on as they walk and encourage the audience to cheer them on too.

"Nice job! You two look totally awesome!

Play as many rounds as time allows. Ask for two new volunteers at the start of each round.

"Give it up for our last two models! You all looked amazing!

"Wow! Everyone did such a great job. That was so much fun to watch! We saw some inside-out shirts, backward hats, and even a few socks that might never be the same again.

"You know, this game reminds me of what we've been learning all month and how sometimes, following Jesus seems upside down or backwards because it looks totally different from what other people are doing. That's why it's so important to make time for Jesus so that we can learn how HE wants us to live!

"That sounds a lot like our Bottom Line for today! Let's check it out!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first. That's what we're learning about today—how we can make Jesus first in our lives! Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first!"

HOST: "Great job, everyone."

11 min

Worship

3 min

This is Amazing Grace

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Good Good Father

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "You guys crushed that game!"

This month we've been learning that God's way isn't always the world's way. Living for Jesus means choosing humility, kindness, and trust — even when it feels different.

The reason we can live that way is because of grace. We don't have to earn God's love. We don't have to compete for it. Jesus already gave everything for us.

So let's stand and sing about that amazing grace together!"

"Man, I love hearing you sing that!"

Sometimes we need to remember not just what God does — but who He is. He's not just powerful. He's not just strong. He's good.

He's a Father who loves you, who sees you, who listens to you.

As we sing this next song, let it remind you that you are deeply loved."

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"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!

"Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's such a good reminder of what it means to live the *upside-down* way, God's way. It's not about being first or trying to get ahead. It's about slowing down, being humble, and putting others first, just like Jesus. It's Philippians 2:3! I'll read it, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"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."*

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!"

"Awesome job! This verse helps us remember how to treat people in the best way. When it says, *'Don't do anything only to get ahead,'* it means we shouldn't do things that are wrong or hurtful just to be first or to win. We don't have to always be better than everyone else. Philippians 2:3 also says, *'Don't do it because you are proud.'* That means we don't need to brag or show off. Instead, we can be humble, which means we can share, take turns, and let others go first.

"Then it says, *'Value others more than yourselves.'* That means we can think about other people and care about them as much as we care about ourselves. We can help someone when they need it, be kind when someone feels sad, and notice ways to make others feel special. When we live this way, we are showing the world the love of Jesus!"

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it. Have the "Pause" Button ready. (Optional: Use an unmarked "Easy" Button without any batteries in place of the "Pause" Button.)

What You Need

 Storyteller	1
 Host	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 Cardboard or posterboard (big enough to make a circle for a "Pause" button) Thick, black permanent marker	1
 Optional: Instead of making a Pause Button, use an unmarked "Easy" button without batteries, like this (http://bit.ly/455GIWE)	1

5 min

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

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we've been learning what it means to live Upside Down! That's our theme for this month—'Upside Down!'"

"Today, we're learning the most important thing we can do with our entire lives. We're going to learn how we can **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.** Our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing in our life!"

"Today, we're going to look at a story from the Bible where Jesus showed that spending time with Him is the most important thing we can do! But before we get into that true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing all year long!"

"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."

"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

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JESUS VISITS HIS FRIENDS

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: "Today we're continuing our journey through the Bible. We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth! So let's see what we can learn from something that happened in His life!

"And we'll start with a question. Have you ever had a day where you were really, really busy? You had to get ready fast, hurry to school, clean your room, or finish a lot of things all at once? When we get that busy, it's easy to feel rushed and tired, right?

"Well, today's story is about two sisters who had one of those super-busy days. But one of them learned something really important about resting in Jesus.

"Let me show you something really important I brought today!

Hold up your Pause Button.

"This is our special Pause Button! Every time I press it, everyone in the room will freeze completely. No talking. No moving. Just still. During those few seconds, we'll think about what's happening in the story. "Are you ready to try it?"

Press the Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause!

Wait silently for five seconds.

"Unpause!

"You did it! You're amazing at pausing. Now let's find out how this pause can help in today's true story from the Bible about two sisters named Mary and Martha."

STORYTELLER: "Before we hear what happened with Mary and Martha, let's imagine what it might have been like when Jesus came to visit. Jesus had been walking from town to town with His friends, the disciples. Jesus was teaching people about God's love and showing

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

MARTHA GETS FRUSTRATED**What You Need**

No supplies needed

kindness wherever He went. Everywhere Jesus went, people followed Him because they wanted to see His miracles and hear what He had to say.

"One day, Jesus and His disciples came to a small town called Bethany. There lived two sisters named Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. They were some of Jesus' closest friends.

Open the Bible to Luke 10:38 (NIRV) and read.

Jesus and his disciples went on their way. Jesus came to a village where a woman named Martha lived. She welcomed him into her home.

"When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Martha welcomed Him and His friends. She opened her home with joy and said something like, 'Come in, Jesus. We're so glad You're here!' She wanted everything to be perfect for Him and for His friends. So Martha jumped into action. Martha was busy doing all of the things necessary to make their visit wonderful. Martha may have been preparing a meal or getting the house ready for all those guests.

"Now, Martha had a sister named Mary. Let's see what Mary was doing while Martha was so busy.

Open the Bible to Luke 10:39 (NIRV) and read.

She had a sister named Mary. Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

"While Martha hurried around, Mary made a different choice. She sat down at Jesus' feet and listened carefully to His words. She did not worry about the food or the house. She wanted to be close to Jesus and hear every word He said.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause."

"Mary paused. She spent time with Jesus. Unpause.

STORYTELLER: "As Mary sat and listened, Martha kept working. She was busy, busy, busy trying to make everything perfect for Jesus and His friends. She wanted the best food and the cleanest house. She wanted everything to go just right. But as she looked around, she saw her sister sitting quietly, not helping her work. Mary was just sitting there at Jesus' feet, listening.

"The longer Martha worked, the more she noticed that her sister wasn't working. She began to feel upset inside. Martha thought, 'Why isn't Mary helping me to do all of this?'

Open the Bible to Luke 10:40 (NIRV) and read.

But Martha was busy with all the things that had to be done. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don't you care? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha told Jesus exactly how she felt. She was tired and frustrated. She wanted to do her best for Jesus, but she forgot something very

5 min

JESUS RESPONDS**What You Need**

No supplies needed

important. Sometimes, the best thing we can do is stop and take a breath, and be with Jesus.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

Wait silently for five seconds. Then speak softly.

"When we pause, we can connect with Jesus, and that can help us calm down. Martha forgot to pause and connect with Jesus, she was just focused on all she had to do, and that made her heart feel heavy. Unpause.

"Jesus was listening carefully to Martha. He could see that she was so worried about everything and focused on getting everything perfect. He wanted to help her understand something important."

STORYTELLER: "Martha stood there waiting for Jesus to answer her. She probably thought Jesus would agree and tell Mary to get up and help. But Jesus saw something deeper. He saw how worried and tired Martha felt, and He wanted to help her understand what was most important.

Open the Bible to Luke 10:41-42 (NIRV) and read.

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered. "You are worried and upset about many things. But few things are needed. Really, only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her."

"Jesus was kind and loving when He spoke to Martha. He said her name twice to show that He cared. Jesus wanted Martha to see that even though all her work was good, it was not the most important thing. The most important thing was to connect with Him.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

"When we pause, we can turn to Jesus and remember He is with us, even if we are really busy. When we pause, we can turn our hearts to Jesus because being with Him is the most important thing. Unpause.

"Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary chose to be with Jesus. Martha thought doing things was the best way to love Jesus, but Mary learned that listening and being close to Him was even better.

"Jesus didn't tell Martha to stop caring or helping. He just wanted her to enjoy being with Him. Sometimes, we get so busy trying to do everything right that we forget to be with Him.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

"When we pause, we have time to turn to Jesus, and in Him, we can find peace. Unpause.

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Both sisters loved Jesus very much. Martha showed love by serving. Mary showed love by sitting and listening. Jesus loved both of them, and He loves it when we take time to pause and be with Him too."

STORYTELLER: "So what did we learn from our story today? Both Mary and Martha loved Jesus. Martha showed her love by working hard and serving. Mary showed her love by being with Jesus. Both sisters were doing good things, but Jesus wanted Martha to understand that the best thing we can do is be with Him.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

"When we pause, we remember that being with God matters more than doing things for God. Unpause.

"Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary made time to be with Jesus. She wasn't worried about being perfect. She just wanted to be close to Jesus. And being with Jesus calmed her heart and filled her with peace.

"This story reminds us that being with Jesus is the most important thing.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

"When we pause, we can see things more clearly. We can remember that God is with us and that He loves us. We can feel peace instead of worry because He will give peace to us as we connect to Him. Unpause.

"That's part of the reason why God wants us to make time for Him first. Because He'll give us peace no matter what we face. That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, AND HOST, AND STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first."

HOST: "This week, you can make time for Jesus first by simply by turning your thoughts toward Him since He's always with you. You can pray a quick prayer, asking Him to remind you of His presence. You can pause at any moment in your day to thank Jesus or to ask Him to guide what you do and say.

"That is how we make time for Jesus first.

Press your Pause Button dramatically.

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?

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Pause.

"When we pause to turn our heart to Jesus, we are choosing to make time for Jesus first. Unpause."

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 came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we learned that deepening our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing we can do in our lives. Well, God feels that way too. That curse of sin that everyone was put under after the Garden of Eden kept us from being close to God. But that didn't stop God! He spent years and years and years—look how faithful He was (*gesture to the God's Big Story slide and the Timeline Images*)—to set the stage of human history for Jesus to come. And then when Jesus came, He lived a perfect life, and paid for that sin. And by paying for that sin, He made a way for us to be close friends with God again! God worked throughout human history so we could be close to Him again! Our friendship with God is so important to Him that Jesus gave His life for it!

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

SLIDE: Week 4 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 about Mary and Martha and that our friendship with Jesus is the most important thing!"

HOST: In our story today, Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen what was better. Mary chose to be with Jesus.

"And that is our part too. We can remember to pause and turn our hearts to Jesus. That can help us remember God, and being with Him is the most important thing.

Push the Pause Button dramatically.

"Pause.

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"When we pause, we remember that God is with us and we face all of life with Him. Unpause.

"This week, whenever you start to feel busy or hurried, remember what Mary did. She made being with Jesus the most important. You can do that too."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to the God who wants to be friends with you!

"Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Help us remember to pause and make time for You first. Please fill our hearts with peace and joy when we take time to stop and listen and remember You are with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Costume items (Examples: Construction vests, scarves, shirts, hats, sunglasses, gloves, anything silly and colorful)	Several
3. kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	2
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
5. Optional: Floor tape (to make a "runway")	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. Cardboard or posterboard (big enough to make a circle for a "Pause" button) Thick, black permanent marker	1
6. Optional: Instead of making a Pause Button, use an unmarked "Easy" button without batteries, like this (http://bit.ly/455GIWE)	1