

# MARCH LG | W5



## Bible Story

Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

• *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

## Conversation Starter

When has someone put you first?

## Bottom Line

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

## 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
👤	whiteboards	2
👤	dry-erase markers	2
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
👤	Optional: Use easel pads and markers instead of whiteboards and dry-erase markers.	1

### OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here for our last week of our series called 'Upside Down!' All month long, we've been learning how to live in an upside-down kinda way. The Jesus way! And guess what? Jesus' way sometimes looks totally *different* from what people expect. It's kind of like living upside down!"

"In our Bible Story today, we're going to see how Jesus showed His friends what true humility looks like. But first, let's play a fun game called 'The Upside Down Draw!'"

*SLIDE: The Upside Down Draw Title*

"Here's how it works. I'm going to pick a volunteer to come up and draw something on this whiteboard. I'll whisper what you need to draw—but no one in the crowd will know what it is!"

"You'll have 30 seconds to draw your picture *facing away from the crowd* so nobody can see it yet. And since we're all about upside down, when time's up, I'm gonna flip the whiteboard *upside down*, show it to everyone, and everyone can try to guess what you drew!"

"Think you can handle it?"

### ROUND 1

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

*Pick one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room.*

"Okay, first volunteer, come on up!"

*Hand them the dry-erase marker and the handheld whiteboard. Whisper "House" to them so they know what to draw.*

"You'll have 30 seconds to draw that. Ready ... set ... GO!"

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start the timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) and the music. As the kid draws, hype up the crowd. If needed, remind them to turn away from the crowd while they're drawing.*

*When the 30-second timer is up, stop the music and say ...*

"Time's up! Okay, let's see what happens when we flip it upside down!"

*Flip the whiteboard upside down and show it to the audience.*

"Oh wow! Interesting ... what could this be? Alright, friends, shout out your guesses!

*Kids shout out guesses until someone guesses what the drawing is.*

"Correct! It's a house! Great job, artist! Let's give them a big cheer as they return to their seats!

*Erase the whiteboard to prepare for the next artist.*

## **ROUND 2**

"Alright, I need another artist! If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!

*Pick one volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and have them come to the front of the room. Hand them the marker and whiteboard. Whisper "Cat" to them so they know what to draw.*

"Okay, are you ready? You've got 30 seconds to draw. 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

*Start the timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown) and the music. As the kid draws, hype up the crowd. If needed, remind them to turn away from the crowd while they're drawing.*

*When the 30-second timer is up, stop the music and say ...*

"Time's up! Alright, time to flip this drawing upside down.

*Flip the whiteboard upside down and show it to the audience.*

"What do you think it is? Keep those guesses coming!

*Kids shout out guesses until someone guesses what the drawing is.*

"That's right, it's a cat! And it looks like the cat is standing on its head! That's awesome! Great job! Let's cheer for our volunteer as they head to their seat!

*If time allows, continue with more rounds. Ask for one new volunteer at the start of each round. Other suggestions for the kids to draw: A laptop, milk and cookies, an elephant, the kids' pastor, etc.*

"You know, this game reminds me of what we've been talking about all month—how living our lives following Jesus can feel different and upside down. Today, we're going to learn about humility, which is another way we can live our lives upside down. Jesus lived His life with humility, and He shows us how we can live our lives with humility too!

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

"Wow — you brought the energy today!

All month we've been learning how to live upside down — how to put Jesus first and think about others the way He does.

And when you really understand who Jesus is and what He's done, your heart fills up with joy. You don't just sort of sing. You sing like you mean it!

So let's stand up, get those hands clapping, and sing like people who know Jesus is worth celebrating!"

"I love that! Joy like that comes from knowing something true — Jesus changes everything.

He rescues. He forgives. He leads. That's amazing grace.

As we sing this next song, let's remember why we celebrate Him. Let's sing it loud!"

"I love worshipping God with you all! Let's move on to looking at our Memory Verse we have been learning about all month! It's one of my favorites because it reminds us how to live *upside down*, the way Jesus taught us to live. When we're humble, we stop trying to be the most important and start looking for ways to lift others up instead. That's what Jesus did every day, and it's what we can do too! Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's Philippians 2:3! I'll read it, and then I will lead you through it!

*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 (NIRV)"

"Now, I'll lead you through it. Say it after me—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."

33 min

## Bible Story (Live)

3 min

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Awesome job, everyone! You just said that verse like pros! This verse reminds us that we can live like Jesus—kind, humble, and full of love. It's not about trying to get ahead or look the best. It's about seeing others the way Jesus sees them and choosing to care first. This week, you can show humility in simple ways: let someone else go first in line, help a friend who's having a hard day, or say something kind instead of something mean. When you do, you're living *upside down*—just like Jesus!"

*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!*

*Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have the eight palm fronds ready, and the towel or cloth.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! Can you believe it's already our last week of our theme of 'Upside Down'? All month long, we've been learning what it means to treat others the way Jesus treats us, and living in a way that is a little upside down, a little different from what the world expects!

"Today, we're going to hear an incredible story about Jesus. It's one of the most famous moments in the whole Bible, when people celebrated Jesus as their King by waving palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna!' But this story doesn't stop there. Jesus surprised everyone by showing

**What You Need**

 Host	0
 Storyteller	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 palm fronds	1
 Towel or cloth	1

5 min

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

No supplies needed

them what a *real* King does, not by being the most powerful, but by being humble and serving others first.

"But before we dive into that true story from the Bible where Jesus shows us this super-important truth, 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.

"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.

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"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:** "So we're continuing our journey through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on earth. So let's hear about something that happened while He was here.

"We're going to act it out together! I need eight volunteers. If you'd like to do some acting, raise your hand!"

*Choose eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to come on stage. Give each kid a palm frond.*

"Okay, friends, you're going to be part of the crowd that worshipped Jesus. Everyone else out there, you're part of the crowd too! When I say, 'Jesus is coming!' I want everyone to wave your branches or your hands and shout 'Hosanna! Hosanna!' That means 'Save us, we pray!' Ready to practice? *Jesus is coming!*"

**KIDS:** "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

*Make sure the kids on the stage are waving their palm fronds and the kids in the audience are waving their hands.*

"Perfect! That looked and sounded great! Let's find out why everyone was cheering for Jesus that day."

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus had been traveling all over, teaching people about God's love, healing the sick, and even raising people from the dead! In fact, just before this, He had raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. Everyone was talking about it!"

*Open the Bible to John 12:9-11 (NIRV) and read. Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there, so they came. But they did not come only because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. After all, Jesus had raised him from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. Because of Lazarus, many of the Jews were starting to follow Jesus. They were believing in him.*

"The religious leaders were worried. They didn't like that Jesus was becoming so popular and following Him instead of them. But that didn't stop Jesus—He knew exactly what was ahead, and He still chose to go to Jerusalem. As Jesus and His disciples got close to the city, crowds started to gather. The people were thrilled to see Him!

"Okay, friends, Jesus is getting ready to enter the city! Get those palm branches ready! *Jesus is coming!*"

**KIDS:** "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great! This is what the Bible said happened:

Open the Bible to John 12:12-13 (NIRV) and read.

The large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

"Let's do it one more time! Jesus is coming!"

**KIDS:** "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow! Great job, everyone! You sounded just like the crowd that day. The people were cheering and celebrating because they believed Jesus was the new King who would save them. But then something surprising happened. Jesus didn't come riding in on a big warhorse or in a fancy chariot like a powerful king. Instead, He came riding on ... a donkey. A baby donkey. That might sound strange, but it was actually very important. Hundreds of years earlier, a prophet named Zechariah had written about this exact moment.

Open the Bible to John 12:14-15 (NIRV) and read.

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says,

"City of Zion, do not be afraid.

See, your king is coming.

He is sitting on a donkey's colt."

"Did you hear that? Jesus was fulfilling a promise that had been written long before His life on earth! He wasn't showing off His power, He was showing humility. He came as a peaceful King, not a fighting one.

"But not everyone was happy about what was happening.

Open the Bible to John 12:16-19 (NIRV) and read.

At first, Jesus' disciples did not understand all this. They realized it only after he had received glory. Then they realized that these things had been written about him. They realized that these things had been done to him. A crowd had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead. So they continued to tell everyone about what had happened. Many people went out to meet him. They had heard that he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "This isn't getting us anywhere. Look how the whole world is following him!"

"The religious leaders didn't understand. They thought Jesus was trying to take away their power. But Jesus came to save them!

"One more time, let me see you wave those palm branches! Jesus is coming!"

**KIDS:** "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

5 min

## JESUS WASHES HIS DISCIPLES' FEET

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**STORYTELLER:** "So the people shouted, 'Hosanna!' and welcomed Jesus like a King. But just a few days later, Jesus would show them what kind of King He really was, one who would lay down His life for everyone, so we could have life.

"Thank you, volunteers, you can take a seat! Great job crowd, you did awesome!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Not long after the people shouted 'Hosanna!' and waved palm branches to celebrate Jesus, He and His friends gathered together for a special meal. It was called the Passover, a time when God's people remembered how He rescued them from slavery long ago in Egypt.

*Open the Bible to John 13:1 (NirV) and read.*

*It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father. Jesus loved his disciples who were in the world. So he now loved them to the very end.*

"Jesus knew what was about to happen. He knew that soon He would be arrested, hurt, and killed. But even then, He wanted to show His friends how much He loved them. Let's imagine we're walking with Jesus and His friends to the place where they would have the Passover meal.

"Everyone, stand up and march your feet in place—slowly, quietly, step, step, step. Now, sit down just like they did around the table. Actually, they reclined around tables, like this. (*Demonstrate sitting on the floor and invite the kids to do so.*) They were ready to eat together.

*Pick up a towel or cloth.*

"As everyone sat down to eat, something unexpected happened. Usually, before a meal like this, a servant would wash everyone's feet. Remember, they wore sandals, and the roads were dusty and dirty. So washing feet was a pretty stinky job! Can you hold your nose like this and say, 'Pee-yew!'?"

**KIDS:** "Pee-yew!"

**STORYTELLER:** "But this time, no servant came. And none of the disciples offered to do it either. Then Jesus did something no one saw coming."

*Open the Bible to John 13:3-5 (NirV) and read.*

*Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

"Can you imagine that? Let's pretend to pour water into a bowl. (*Pretend along with the kids.*)

"Jesus, their Teacher, their Lord, kneeled down to do the job of a servant. Each disciple must have been amazed as Jesus gently washed their feet, one by one. But then He came to Peter.

*Open the Bible to John 13:6-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*He came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter said to him, "are you going to wash my feet?"*

*Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand."*

*"No," said Peter. "You will never wash my feet."*

*Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me."*

*"Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head too!"*

"Peter wanted to make sure he didn't miss out on what Jesus was doing! When Jesus finished washing their feet, He stood up, put His robe back on, and spoke to His friends. This is what the Bible says He said:

*Open the Bible to John 13:10-15 (NIRV) and read.*

*Jesus answered, "People who have had a bath need to wash only their feet. The rest of their body is clean. And you are clean. But not all of you are." Jesus knew who was going to hand him over to his enemies. That was why he said not every one was clean.*

*When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you."*

"Jesus wasn't just talking about washing feet. He was showing His friends how to serve others with love. He was saying, *'If I can humble myself and serve, you can too.'* This towel became a picture of what humility looks like, not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of others first.

"When Jesus said that, He wasn't just talking to His disciples, He was talking to us too! He was showing us how to live *upside down!* That means when others expect us to want the spotlight or be first, we can follow Jesus' example and choose to serve instead.

"Then, Jesus said this:

*Open the Bible to John 13:16-17 (NIRV) and read.*

*"What I'm about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them."*

"When we follow Jesus' example, when we serve others instead of waiting for someone else to go first, that's when we look the most like

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

Him. So after being celebrated like a King, Jesus showed everyone what kind of King He truly was—a humble one who serves others out of love.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Wow. What a powerful story, right? Jesus had just been welcomed into Jerusalem like a king—people were cheering, waving palm branches, and shouting ‘*Hosanna!*’ They thought He was coming to take over and rule with power.

“But instead, Jesus showed everyone what real greatness looks like. He didn’t demand attention or ask others to serve Him. He chose to serve. He did the job no one else wanted to do. He knelt down and washed His friends’ dirty, dusty feet.

“Jesus showed us that true power comes from humility—from putting others first.

“That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today!

*SLIDE: Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** “Jesus showed us how to be humble. Say that with me.”  
*Host enters and joins in.*

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST:** **[Bottom Line]** “Jesus showed us how to be humble.”

**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 Jesus is a humble King. And that’s a truth He lived out His whole life! Jesus is a King, the King of heaven and earth. He sits at the right hand of God in heaven! He left heaven and came down to Earth to live His life with the people He created. Then, while He was on Earth, He lived an absolutely perfect life, and laid down that perfect life to pay for our sins. Humble, humble, humble. Over and over throughout history, throughout God’s Big Story (*gesture to the timeline*) we kept turning our backs on Him, but He came to rescue us anyway. The King submitted Himself to an earthly life and an unfair death, all to rescue us. What a great, great love. What a great, great King.

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!

*SLIDE: Week 5 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 Palm Sunday and the humble King Jesus washing the disciples’ feet!

8 min

# Closing

5 min

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## PRAYER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**HOST:** "So what about us? What's *our* part in this story?"

"Well, Jesus gave us a perfect example of what it looks like to love others with humility. He showed us that being great doesn't mean being first, or being the loudest, or having everyone notice you. Being great means serving others, putting them first.

"Jesus used a towel that night to wash His friends' feet. You might not have to wash anyone's feet—and let's be honest, you're probably glad about that—but you *can* serve the people around you in lots of other ways!

"You can put others first this week by helping a friend clean up, or by letting your little brother or sister choose the game, or by saying something kind to someone who's left out. There are lots and lots of ways to put others first!

"When you do those things, you're showing humility, you're doing what Jesus did.

"You see, Jesus didn't just want His friends to remember what He said, He wanted them to *live it out*. That's why He washed their feet. He was showing them how love works. When we follow Jesus, we get to do the same thing. Every time you choose to help instead of complain, to share instead of keep, or to listen instead of talk, you're showing the love of Jesus.

"And that's what living upside down is all about—it's about loving and serving others even when it's hard or when no one notices.

"So when you want to remember what this story means, you can think of the towel—a simple reminder that Jesus showed us how to be humble."

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's talk to the God who can help us be humble!"

"Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us what true humility looks like. Thank You for coming as a humble King—not to be served, but to serve. Thank You for showing love to Your friends by washing their feet. Please help us remember this week to follow Your example. When we start to think only about ourselves, help us pause and think about how we can serve others instead. Help us to be kind, patient, and willing to put others first. Jesus, we want to love like You—with humble hearts and helping hands. Thank You for always loving us first. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Floor tape	1
3. whiteboards	2
4. dry-erase markers	2
5. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
6. Optional: Use easel pads and markers instead of whiteboards and dry-erase markers.	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Host	0
2. Storyteller	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. palm fronds	1
6. Towel or cloth	1