

March 2-3 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 2

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

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*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

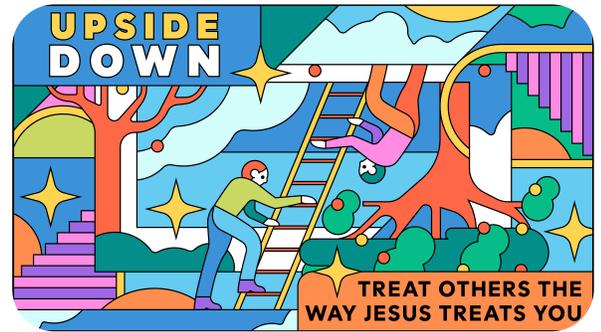
Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Act It Out

Application Activity: Application Roll

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Balloon Bop

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

👤 Offering container



1

EveryChild Tips

- Keep the patterns very simple (e.g., just clapping, or just patting).
- For a child with hearing impairments, make the movements visual.

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Explain to the kids that you are going to be the leader, and they need to copy your rhythm.
- Start a simple pattern, like patting your knees twice and then clapping once. (*pat, pat, clap*)
- Encourage the whole group to do the rhythm with you several times.
- Then, point to one kid to be the new leader. Encourage them to make up a new, simple pattern.
- Instruct the rest of the group to copy the new leader's pattern.
- Give every kid who wants a turn a chance to be the leader.

What You Say:

"You are all fantastic at repeating the rhythm! You listened to the leader and did what they did. You followed their lead. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, we're going to meet a Roman commander, a leader of many soldiers, but he knew who the most important leader of all was—the One with the most authority. Let's go find out who!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Act It Out | Made to Imagine

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask for volunteers to act out the story as you tell it. You'll need:
 - Jesus
 - The Roman commander (centurion)
 - The sick person (can lie on the floor)
 - A few disciples
- Retell the story simply, pausing to let the kids act out the parts.
 - "Jesus came into a town called Capernaum with His disciples." (*Have Jesus and the disciples walk into the group space.*)
 - "A Roman commander came up to Jesus. The Roman commander was very worried." (*Have the commander approach Jesus with a worried face.*)
 - "The commander said, 'Lord ... my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering terribly'" (Matthew 8:6 NIV). (*Commander can point to the sick person lying on the floor.*)
 - "Jesus said, 'Shall I come and heal him?'" (Matthew 8:7 NIV) (*Jesus can take a step toward the sick person.*)
 - "But the commander said: 'Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. Just say the word, and my servant will be

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Application Roll | Made to Connect

What You Need

 Large die

1

healed'" (Matthew 8:8 NIV). (Commander holds up his hand to stop Jesus.)

- "Jesus was amazed! He said he had not seen faith like that in all of Israel. Then he said to the commander, 'Go! It will be done just as you believed it would' (Matthew 8:13 NIV). And the servant was healed that very moment!" (Sick person can jump up and be all better!)
- Give all your actors a big round of applause.

What You Say:

"Great job acting out our story! The commander was a very important person—he was in charge of more than one hundred soldiers. But he knew who was the MOST important. He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word. He knew we should **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.**

"The commander knew that even though he commanded things to happen in his own job, Jesus is in charge of *everything*. Absolutely everything! The commander might have seen Jesus heal people already. And he got it: Jesus had the power to simply speak and change things with His word. The commander was an important person, but he knew who was the MOST important. Jesus! He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word and that we should **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.**"

What You Do:

- Explain that the kids will take turns rolling the die. The number they roll will match a question you ask.
- Let the first kid roll the die. If they roll a 3, ask them question #3 from the list.
- Continue rolling the die and asking questions until everyone who wants a turn has had one.

Application Questions:

1. Name one person who is important to you.
2. Name one thing that is important in our room.
3. Who made the whole world? (God!)
4. Who is more powerful than a superhero? (God/Jesus!)
5. Who is a very important person in the world?
6. Who is the most important person in the whole universe? (God/Jesus!)

What You Say:

"Those are great answers! There are lots of important people and things in our lives. But our true story from the Bible today about the important Roman commander helped us learn to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** The commander knew Jesus' authority was bigger than anyone's, and Jesus was so amazed by his faith!

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Memory Verse Balloon Bop | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Air-inflated mylar balloon 1

"So what does this mean for us? It's remembering what the Roman commander knew—God is more important and more powerful than anything. God is in charge! If there is something that you're scared of at nighttime, you can ask God for help. If there is something bothering you at school, ask God for His help. If you are having a hard time with a friend, ask God for help. God is the King of everything! **[Bottom Line] Remember God is most important.**"

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Toss the balloon into the air.
- Explain that the goal is to keep the balloon from touching the floor. Each time someone bops the balloon, everyone should shout one word of the Memory Verse.
- Start the game: You bop the balloon and shout, "Don't!" Instruct the next kid to bop it and shout, "do!" and so on.
- Keep playing, working together to say the verse, and keeping the balloon up.

What You Say:

"Great job! That was fun! This verse reminds us to be humble. The Roman commander was humble when he told Jesus, 'Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house' (Matthew 8:8 NIV). Being humble means knowing God is in charge. It helps us to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** We can learn this verse and remember it all week long. We can use this verse to remind us to be humble and put others first by giving up what we want."

5 min

Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- The Roman commander had a lot of power, but he still asked Jesus for help. What does that tell us about what it means to be strong or in charge in God's eyes?
- Jesus was amazed by the commander's faith. What do you think it means to have the kind of faith that "amazes" Jesus?
- The commander believed Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking. What are some things in your life that you need to trust God can handle—without you having to control it?
- The Roman commander humbled himself, even though he was important. What are some ways you can show humility and remember that God is most important in your own life?
- Jesus said people from all over would be part of God's kingdom—not just a certain group. How does that change the way you think about who God's love is for and how we should treat others?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Pray and Dismiss | Made to-Reflect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What To Do:

- Remind the kids that the Roman commander asked Jesus for help. And Jesus helped!
- Say, "God is most important, and He is also the most powerful. He can help us with anything. Let's take a turn telling God something we need help with."
- Go around the group and let each kid finish this sentence: "God, please help me with ... "
- If a kid is shy, they can whisper it to you or just say "pass."

[Make It Personal] Share something simple you need God's help with too.

What You Say:

"It's so good to ask God for help. He loves to hear from us! God is always with us and will always help us. Nothing is too big or too hard for God. The commander had faith, and Jesus healed his servant right at that moment. Let's close our time by praying for everyone in our group.

"Dear God, thank You that You are the most important and the most powerful. You are in charge of everything. Thank You for listening when we ask for help. Please help everyone in our group this week. Help us to always **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1

23 – Application Roll | Made to Connect

	Quantity
1. Large die	1

23 – Memory Verse Balloon Bop | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Air-inflated mylar balloon	1