

March 2-3 | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 4

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

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 NIV*

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Note: This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. (joinamazing.com/everychild)

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 about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

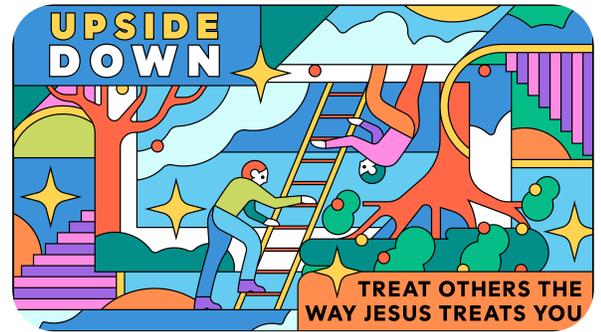
Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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 NIV*

5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Explore

What You Need

 Offering container



1

EveryChild Tips

- *Ensure the space is safe for any physical tricks and provide spotter support.*
- *Emphasize that any "trick" is great. The goal is participation and fun, not performance.*

5 min

Application Activity

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.
- Ask for a volunteer who can do something "upside down."
- Let them show the group. They might do a somersault, a simple bridge (crab walk), or even try a handstand against a wall with your help.
- Applaud their fun trick.
- Ask: "Does anyone else have a fun trick they can do?" (It doesn't have to be upside down.)
- Let a few kids share a special talent, like wiggling their ears, hopping on one foot for a long time, or making a funny face.
- Celebrate all their unique abilities because God made everyone unique and wonderful!

What You Say:

"Those were amazing tricks! It's so fun to see all the incredible things you can do. God made you each so unique and wonderful! God made us so that we can all do a lot of different things! Today we are going to hear a true story from the Bible about two sisters named Mary and Martha. They both chose to do different things when Jesus came to their house. **[Transition] In our Bible Story today, Jesus shows us that the most important thing to do is to be with Him. Let's go learn more!**"

5 min

Jesus Above All | Made to Play

What You Need

- 📄 Prepared images from the "Jesus Above All" Activity Page

Before group time:

- Fold each picture in half along the line and glue the two sides together.

What You Do:

- Place the pictures from the "Jesus Above All" Activity Page on the floor, scattered around the room with the pictures of the "distractions" facing up.
- Explain that you're going to play a racing game.
- Challenge the kids to race to flip over all the distraction pictures so they are face down and Jesus is face up.

What You Say:

"Great job! In our Bible Story today, Jesus and His disciples stopped in the town of Bethany at the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. These siblings were close friends of Jesus and super-excited to welcome Him and His friends into their house. Martha was busy doing all of the things to make their visit wonderful. Martha may have been preparing a meal or getting the house ready for all those guests. Mary, on the other hand, took a seat right at Jesus' feet as He spoke. She didn't want to miss a single word. Martha got frustrated because Mary wasn't helping her, but what Mary chose to do was the better thing.

"Spending time with Jesus is most important. We can all get busy and get distracted, like Martha. It's not bad to like playing soccer or watching TV, but our Bible Story reminds us to put Jesus above everything else. Mary knew what was most important, and that was spending time with Jesus. It's important that we remember to make time for Jesus every day. Now, we still need to go to school, and clean our rooms, and help others, and do our homework, but we also need to remember to make time for Jesus. We can **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. When we make time for Jesus, we remember that He is with us, and we can do all of those things aware that He is right there with us!"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Memory Verse Toss | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Soft ball or bean bag 1

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.
- Start the game by tossing the soft ball (or bean bag) to a kid while you say the first word of the verse, "Don't ..."
- Instruct the kid who catches it to say the next word in the Memory Verse, "... do ..." and toss it to someone else.
- Encourage the next kid who catches it to say the next word of the Memory Verse, "... anything ..." and toss it on.
- Continue tossing the soft ball (or bean bag) around the circle, with each kid saying the next word of the Memory Verse until it's complete.
- Play several times, encouraging the kids to go faster each time.

What You Say:

"You are getting so good at remembering that verse! Taking the time to learn verses from the Bible is important so we can always remember God's Word, wherever we are! *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).* When we are humble and put others first, it helps us remember that Jesus is the most important Person. We can be humble, and put Jesus first in our busy, busy schedules. It helps us remember that only one thing is needed: to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

No supplies needed

Ask:

- 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 To Do:

- Tell the kids that you’re going to pray in an “upside down” way.
- Invite them to find a safe space to lie on their backs.
- Lead them in a simple prayer while they look up at the ceiling.
- For fun, some kids might want to try putting their feet up on a wall.

What You Say:

“We can pray anytime, anywhere, and in any position—even upside down! God always hears us. Let’s pray and ask God to help us remember to spend time with Him this week, just like Mary did.

“Dear Jesus, thank You for wanting to spend time with us every single day. It’s easy to get worried and upset about many things, but please help us to remember to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. We want to go through life knowing You are with us, so our hearts can rest in You no matter how busy things get. Help us to be like Mary and choose what is better, spending time with You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Explore

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Offering container | 1 |

Jesus Above All | Made to Play

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Prepared images from the "Jesus Above All" Activity Page | 0 |

23 - Memory Verse Toss | Made to Move

- | | Quantity |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bibles | 1 |
| 2. Soft ball or bean bag | 1 |