

March 2-3 | W5

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

Bible Story: Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

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*

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)

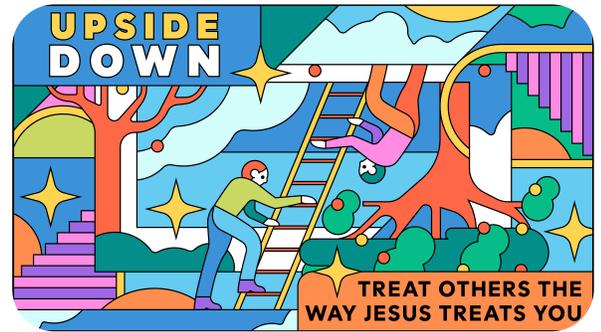
Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Build the Story

Application Activity: Cheer for Jesus

Memory Verse Activity: Hopscotch Memory

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



Bible Story

Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
• *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

Conversation Starter

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

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

Social

5 min

Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Paper	1
 Coloring supplies	Several

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet of paper and something to draw with.
- Invite the kids to create their own sketch of the disciples based on what they think those followers of Jesus might have looked like.
- Offer gentle hints as needed:
 - "Some disciples were fishermen—what might they look like after spending long days on the water?"
 - "One was a tax collector—maybe he dressed differently or carried tools for counting money."
 - "Some were younger, some older."
 - "One was known for being very curious and asking lots of questions."
- Let kids share their drawings and explain why they drew each disciple the way they did.

What You Say:

"These drawings are awesome! It's interesting to imagine what the disciples may have looked like. They were all regular people, fishermen, a tax collector, young men, curious learners. And yet Jesus chose them to be part of His team. **[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a story about how Jesus, the most powerful King, did something surprising and humble for these very people you've drawn. Let's find out what happened.**"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Build the Story | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bible	1
 LEGO® or other building blocks, enough for four teams to build an illustration from the Bible Story	Several

What You Do:

- Read John 12:12-15 and John 13:3-5 out loud to the group.
- Share that another of the writers of another gospel tells us that the people laid their coats and branches from the trees on the road that Jesus traveled down! That was something you did for someone so important! The people were so excited that Jesus was coming!
- Divide your group into four groups.
- Give each team a specific part of the Palm Sunday story to build with their LEGOs®.
 - Team 1: Build the donkey Jesus rode.
 - Team 2: Build the road with coats and branches on it.
 - Team 3: Build the crowd of people who were celebrating and waving palm branches.
 - Team 4: Build Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- Give them several minutes to build their part of the story.
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EveryChild Tips

- Use larger blocks, like DUPLO®, for kids who need more support with fine motor skills.
- Partner kids so that each team has a strong builder who can help bring the team's ideas to life.

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Cheer for Jesus | Made to Move

What You Need

No supplies needed

When they are done, bring all the creations together and use them to retell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem like a king and Jesus serving others by washing feet.

What You Say:

"Look at this! You built the whole story! Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and the people celebrated Jesus like a king. They made a special path with coats and branches and waved palm branches in the air as they shouted 'Hosanna.' 'Hosanna' means, 'save us, we pray.'

"But Jesus showed them that He is an 'upside down' kind of King. A few days later, Jesus did the job of a servant and washed His friends' feet. Jesus, the true King of heaven and earth, chose to take on this humble job of washing feet. Jesus even washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, whom He knew was about to betray Him to the religious leaders! Jesus did that to teach us all an important lesson. Jesus showed us how to treat others and put others first. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**"

What You Do:

- Remind the kids how the crowd on Palm Sunday shouted "Hosanna!" to celebrate Jesus. "Hosanna!" means "save us, we pray!"
- Tell the kids that you are going to create your own cheer for Jesus.
- Brainstorm some simple words for your cheer together. (e.g., "J-E-S-U-S, He's the very best!" or "Hosanna in the highest! Jesus is our King!")
- Create some simple motions to go with your cheer—like clapping, stomping, or raising your hands.
- Practice your cheer together a few times, getting louder and more excited each time.
- Divide into two groups and have a "cheer-off."

What You Say:

"That was an awesome cheer! It's great to celebrate Jesus. But Jesus taught us that cheering for Him with our mouths isn't enough. He also wants us to 'cheer' for Him with our actions. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**

"Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we're supposed to get ahead and be important. We need the help of the Holy Spirit inside us to set aside what we want in order to serve others like Jesus. But when we ask Jesus to give us the ability to be humble, He will do it! When we choose to be humble and put others first, we are showing the world how amazing Jesus is."

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Hopscotch Memory Verse | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Print "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity 1 Page on cardstock
-  Floor tape 1

Before group time:

- Create a hopscotch grid on the floor with tape that has 10 spaces.
- Tape one card with a phrase from the Memory Verse in each square so the verse is said in order as a kid hops through the grid.

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.
- Point out the hopscotch grid that is on the floor.
- Let the kids take turns hopping through the hopscotch grid. As they hop on each square, they should say the part of the Memory Verse that is in that square.
- Encourage the rest of the group to say the verse along with the kid hopping.

What You Say:

"Great hopping! You are all becoming experts on this verse about humility. Humility can feel like an 'upside-down' idea, but it's exactly what Jesus modeled for us. When Jesus washed His friends' feet, He was showing us how to serve others and put others first. Jesus is the King of kings. Jesus is the King of heaven and earth, and yet He did the job of a servant. He washed His friends' dirty feet to show us to value others more than ourselves. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**"

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:

- Jesus is the King of the universe, yet He chose to ride a humble donkey and wash His disciples' feet. Why do you think Jesus chose humility over showing His power in those moments?
- Jesus washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, even though He knew Judas would betray Him. What does this teach us about serving others, even when they don't deserve it or might hurt us?
- Peter didn't understand at first why Jesus washed his feet. Why do you think God sometimes asks us to do things that don't make sense at first? How can trusting Him help us grow?
- Jesus gave an example of putting others first and told His followers to do the same. In your daily life, what are some ways you can practice humility and serve others like Jesus did?
- The world often tells us to be the most important or to get ahead. How is following Jesus' example of humility different from the ways the world measures success, and why does it matter?

What To Do:

- Remind the kids how the crowds celebrated Jesus on Palm Sunday by shouting "Hosanna!"
- Say, "Let's take a moment to celebrate Jesus too! What is one amazing thing about Jesus that you want to celebrate?"
- Give a few examples like, "Jesus is kind," "Jesus is my friend," "Jesus is powerful," "Jesus helps me _____."
- Go around the circle and invite each kid to say one thing they want to celebrate about Jesus. After each kid shares, encourage the whole group to shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

What You Say:

"It's so good to celebrate Jesus together! He is amazing, and Jesus did the most amazing, humble thing by serving His friends and giving up His life for us so we could be friends with Him forever. Let's pray.

"Dear Jesus, You are amazing! We celebrate You today. Thank You for showing us what it means to be humble and put others first. Help us to be like You this week and serve others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Social Activity Made to Play	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Paper	1
3. Coloring supplies	Several

23 – Build the Story Made to Create	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. LEGOs® or other building blocks, enough for four teams to build an illustration from the Bible Story	Several

23 – Hopscotch Memory Verse Made to Move	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Print “Hopscotch Memory Verse” Activity Page on cardstock	1
3. Floor tape	1