

Upside Down: Jesus changes everything

WEEK
ONE

APRIL 2020

GRADES
K-1

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

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

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others
first by giving up what
you think you deserve

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Who's First?

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"Thank You God" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

In the Garden
A Little Help from My Friends
Others First
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Three plastic Easter egg halves
- Small individually wrapped candies appropriate for your environment; one for each kid
- Piece of paper

WHO'S FIRST?

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Who's First Cards" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Provide one of these options:
 - Blue, yellow, green, and orange plastic Easter egg halves; one set of four colors for each kid
 - Print the "Color Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set of four colors for each kid
- *Optional (but fun!):* Desk bell or similar

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. IN THE GARDEN**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- A variety of props kids can use to reenact the story, such as:
 - Towels (for headdresses)
 - Robes
 - Toy swords
 - Flowery Easter hats for kids who play the role of garden greenery
 - Other props and costume pieces of your choice
- *Optional:* Camera, iPad®, or other way to take and display pictures

*** 2. A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS****[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]**

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Knee-high socks, bandanas, soft rope, or other safe items kids can use to tie their knees together; one for every two kids
- A hula-hoop, safety cone, Frisbee, bandana, or other safe object

3. OTHERS FIRST**[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]**

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "In the Garden" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Bibles; for Kindergarteners, mark Bibles at Philippians 2
- Tape
- 8x10-inch sheets of tracing paper; one for each kid
 - Tape a piece of tracing paper to each copy of "In the Garden."
- Highlighters or water-based markers
- *Optional:* Paper frames cut to fit the tracing paper; one for each kid

GETTING READY, CONTINUED

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards
- Markers or crayons

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

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

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask for God's guidance as you begin to talk about humility and how to put others first. Thank God for the opportunity you have to put your few first each week as you lead their group. Pray that you would be able to model what it looks like to put others ahead of yourself.

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, three plastic Easter egg halves, small individually wrapped candies, piece of paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask:
 - How does your family celebrate Easter?
 - What's your favorite thing about Easter?
- Use the plastic egg halves and candies to lead kids in a "Shell Game."
 - Set the three egg halves face down on a table and slip a piece of candy underneath one.
 - Quickly slide the eggs around while kids try to track the egg that has the candy underneath it.
 - Let kids raise their hands if they think they know which egg the candy is under.
 - Choose one kid to guess, and give him the candy if he's right!
 - *HINT: Set the eggs on a piece of paper. They'll slide much more easily!*
- Play again as time allows, and try to give each kid a chance to win a piece of candy.
- Say: "Sometimes the candy was in the third egg (*point to the third egg from your right*), sometimes it was in the second egg (*point to the second egg from your right*), and sometimes it was in the first egg. In Large Group we'll hear about who we should always put first."

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

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

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

2. WHO'S FIRST?

WHAT YOU NEED: "Who's First Cards" (Activity Pages); Easter egg halves or "Color Cards" (Activity Pages); desk bell or similar (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a variation of Quick Cups™.
 - Guide kids to sit in a circle.
 - Give each kid a set of egg halves (one of each color) or a set of "Color Cards."
 - Set the bell in the center of the circle.
 - Place the "Who's First?" cards face down beside the bell.
 - Turn over the top card and lay it down.
 - Kids quickly arrange their egg halves (or "Color Cards") to match the color sequence from left to right on the card and then ring the bell.
- NOTE: If you don't have a bell, guide kids to stand up, raise their hands, or do another motion to signal that they're finished.*
- Play as time allows, shuffling the cards between rounds.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys are smart, quick thinkers! Was any one color always first? No! Sometimes blue was first, sometimes yellow was first, sometimes green was first, and sometimes orange was first. **[Transition] In Large Group, we'll hear about who we should ALWAYS put first. Let's go learn more.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

MEMORY VERSE

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LIFE APP

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BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

1. IN THE GARDEN

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, a variety of props, camera (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 26. Ask leading questions to help kids recall the story.
- Choose volunteers to play the different parts: Jesus, three disciples, Judas, and the soldiers. Some kids can even be trees, rocks, or plants!
- Help kids put on their costumes. Distribute any props accordingly.
- Lead kids to dramatize the story, reenacting the following key points:
 - After a special Passover meal, Jesus led the disciples out of the city toward the Mount of Olives.
 - When they reached the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told them to sit there while He went to pray. He took Peter, James, and John with Him.
 - Jesus went a little farther and prayed. He begged for God to take away what was coming, and yet He trusted God's plan.
 - He returned to His friends and found them sleeping.
 - Jesus went to pray a second time, but again, He came back and found the disciples sleeping.
 - He left them and went away to pray again.
 - For the third time, He prayed the same thing—begging for God to take away what was coming but trusting God's plan.
 - Jesus returned to the disciples, who were still asleep.
 - Judas arrived with a large crowd that was carrying swords and clubs. The Jewish religious leaders had sent the mob.
 - The mob arrested Jesus and led Him away. His friends, who had promised to stay with Him through anything, ran away. Jesus had chosen the path that would bring life for everyone, but it would cost Him everything.
- *Variation:* Guide kids to "picture pose" key scenes. Take pictures of each pose, and, at the end, play a slideshow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus being taken away? (*Scared, sad, confused*) The disciples thought that Jesus was going to become a king right away. They didn't know that God had a different plan—a plan that seemed upside down from what everyone thought was going to happen. And because they were sad and confused and scared, they missed a chance to put Jesus first. Instead, they ran away when Jesus needed them most.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

"There might be times when you're sad or confused, too. Someone in your family may be really sick. Or something sad might happen. But even when you're sad or confused or scared, God can help you **put others first**. You can pray for others, you can give them a card, or you can make cookies for them.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way that you've put others first. Explain how it helped the other person and how you felt afterward.)

"What are some ways that you can **put others first**? (I can share my candy, I can let my brother have the last cupcake, I can let my friend choose which game we play.) Great ideas! There are lots of ways that you can **put others first!**"

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

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

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

* 2. A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

WHAT YOU NEED: Knee-high socks, bandanas, soft rope, or other tying devices; a safe object for kids to move around

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair kids up and instruct them to lock elbows together.
- Lead the pairs to form a line at one end of your environment. Praise any pairs who **put others first**.
- Help each team securely (but safely!) tie their inside knees (the ones closest to each other) together.
- Set an object at the far end of your environment.
- At your signal, the first team in line moves to the object, goes around it, returns to the start, and tags the next team in line.
- Play as time remains, but be sure to end when interest is still high.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow, that was fun! Great job! Let me ask a question: What helped you race as a team? (*Moving together; thinking about what my partner was doing; etc.*) Yes! You may have wanted to move faster or differently than your partner, but in order to be successful you had to think about your teammate. It's like our Bottom Line for today: **Put others first**."

"What are some ways that you can put others first this week? (*I can let my sister choose where we go for dinner; I can let my friend choose the game we play; I can let others go first in line at school.*) Remember to **put others first**."

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

MEMORY VERSE

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Philippians 2:3, NIV

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

3. OTHERS FIRST

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles; prepared "In the Garden" Activity Pages; highlighters or water-based markers; tape; paper frames (optional)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the Bible Navigation Tips below to help kids look up and "read" this month's verse.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Philippians at the top of the page as you say "Philippians" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 2 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 2 for the little 3; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids 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 kids what the page looks like.) When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Philippians starts with the letters P-H. When kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help children find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 2. Read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Give each child an "In the Garden" Activity Page, prepared with tracing paper on top.
- Read the Activity Page aloud or invite a volunteer to read it. Guide kids to point to each word as it is read aloud.
- Set out the markers, and invite kids to trace the words and images and then color their pictures as they choose.
- As kids work, use the conversation below to unpack "Don't do anything only to get ahead."
- If you provided paper frames, help kids tape the frames to their work.
- Kids can take their art home and tape it to a window or a mirror as a reminder to **put others first.**

252 KIDS

WEEK
ONE

APRIL 2020

GRADES
K-1

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Philippians 2:3 says: *Don't do anything only to get ahead (NirV).* What do you think that means? (Pause.) Yes! God doesn't want us to do things just so WE become more important. Instead, God wants us to **put others first.**

"What are some ways that YOU can put others first? (*I can let my brother or sister choose first; I can do what my friend wants to do; I can sit with the new kids at lunch; I can pray for my friends more than I pray for myself.*) Great ideas! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way that you'll put others first this week.)** So, remember: **put others first.**"

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

The Way

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
(Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

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

LIFE APP

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards; crayons or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- As you give each child a card, lead kids to think of someone they can put first this week.
- Set out the markers, and guide kids to draw the person they chose.
- Instruct kids to set their cards in front of them, and then use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We live in a world that's all about putting ourselves first: WE want to win the game, WE want to choose the movie, WE want to play the game OUR way, and WE want to be first. But God wants us to think and act differently. He wants us to **put others first**."

"Who did you choose to put first this week? (Pause.) **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids someone you'll put first this week, too.)** Like Philippians 2:3 says: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value OTHERS more than yourselves (NIV; emphasis added).* Let's pray."

"Dear God, You are amazing and wonderful and good. Thank You that with Your help, we can **put others first**. This week help us **put others first** at home, at school, and with our friends. We love You, Jesus. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to tell parents today's Bottom Line: **Put others first**. Encourage—but don't force—kids to name one way they'll put someone else first this week.