

# Upside Down: Jesus changes everything

WEEK  
**ONE**

APRIL 2020

GRADES  
**4-5**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 PRETEEN

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# 252 PRETEEN

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**ONE**

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## 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

## KEY QUESTION

How do you 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

Just For Fun  
Get Your Head in the Game

25  
MIN

### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Communication  
Prayer

10  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*  
"Thank You God" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*  
"We Believe" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*

25  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Extension  
Discussion Questions  
Verses to Take with You  
Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

## GETTING READY

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container
- Assortment of plastic eggs; 24 or more eggs for each small group
  - Eggs don't have to match each other, but make sure each egg has both halves
- Timer

#### 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Situation Cards" Activity Page; one set for each small group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles; two or more per small group
- Dictionary; two or more per small group

### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper; one sheet for each kid
- Markers

### 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**.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

### The Way

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



## MOVE

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

## 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 some time to lift up today's small group time with your kids in prayer. Ask that God would help you lead, discuss, and interact in a way that your kids would understand what it means to put others around them first in the same way that Jesus did for us.*

## LIFE APP

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

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, an assortment of plastic eggs (24+ eggs) broken apart

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Invite** kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- **Dump** all the pieces of the plastic eggs in the center of your group.
- **Ask** everyone to pick a partner.
- **Pick** a pair to go first and time them as they match up all the eggs.
  - They must match them up by color and shape and size. (For example, if the top is purple, the bottom must be purple, and the pieces must fit together correctly)
  - When they finish, let them know what their time was.
- **Instruct** the first pair to break up the eggs again.
- **Let** each set of partners have a turn, and then let the top two compete a second time and see which team can get the fastest time!

## KEY QUESTION

How do you put others first?

## BASIC TRUTH

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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

### The Way

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## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

## MEMORY VERSE

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## LIFE APP

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

## KEY QUESTION

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## BASIC TRUTH

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## 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Explain** to the kids that you'll give them specific instructions and they need to line up single file according to your instructions.
  - Alphabetically, but backwards: Z to A
  - By birthdays, Dec 31 to Jan 1
  - Tallest to shortest
- **Challenge** kids to do one or two of the categories without talking.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"So that felt kind of backwards, huh? Don't you usually line up A to Z? What do you think that's all about? I'm interested to hear what all this backwards upside-down stuff is all about . . . any guesses? *(Let some of the kids answer)* Oh, great thoughts! **[Transition] Let's head into large group and get to the bottom of this!"**

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



## IMAGINE

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

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### LIFE APP

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

### KEY QUESTION

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### BASIC TRUTH

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### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** One set of "Situation Cards" Activity Page

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Lay** out the situation cards on the floor.
- **Ask** your group to work together to separate the situations into two piles—big or small.
  - **Ask:** Is it a big situation or a small situation?
- **Discuss** as a group whether it's easier to put others first in big situations or in the small, daily situations, and why?
  - Typically, it's easier to put others first in a big situation, because they need the support and it's an obvious need, but in the smaller, day to day stuff, with the people you see all the time, it's much harder!
- **Place** the situation cards in the middle of your group, face down.
- **Ask** one person to choose a card and then silently act out how he or she could put the person in that situation first.
  - **Challenge** the rest of the group to guess what is being acted out.
  - **Remind** them that they've seen all the cards already, so they have a "head start" for figuring out what is being acted out.
- **Allow** everyone else to have a turn as long as time allows.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"It can be really hard to put others first, especially when it comes to the people we're around the most! **[Make it Personal]** **(Describe one way someone in your life puts you first in the daily, mundane stuff of life. And give kids an example of how you put others first.)**

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

### BIBLE STORY

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### KEY QUESTION

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## MOVE

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

### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Read** the following statements aloud, one at a time, and ask kids to decide as a team if it's true or false.
  - Both teams can discuss quietly amongst themselves and then use their bodies to either spell "true" or "false."
  - Challenge kids to get creative in how they spell true and false, trying not to do it the same way twice!
  - If your group is super creative, let them try out various ways to communicate "true" or "false," without actually speaking the words aloud.
- At the end, the team that got the most answers right is the winning team!
- **Discuss** any answers the kids don't get correct.

T/F Statements

1. The disciples completely understood what Jesus told them when they ate dinner together. (*False, His words didn't make sense to them*)
2. The disciples took Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane so they could pray for Him. (*False, Jesus took them to the Garden of Gethsemane so that He could pray*)
3. When they got to the garden to pray, Jesus took one disciple with Him a little further to a secluded area for some privacy. (*False, he took Peter, James, and John*)
4. Jesus was sad, His soul was tired, and He was not looking forward to what was coming (*True*)
5. His friends kept watch the whole time Jesus went alone to pray. (*False, they fell asleep*)
6. Jesus asked God, His Father, to take the suffering away from Him but also trusted God's plan and wanted to do what God wanted. (*True*)
7. After Jesus woke up His friends and asked them again to keep watch over Him while He prayed, they managed to stay awake and be good friends to Him during His time of need. (*False, they fell asleep again!*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



## MOVE

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8. Judas led the angry mob to Jesus. (*True*)
  9. Peter helped Jesus and saved Him when he used his sword to cut off the priest's ear. (*False, Jesus told him to stop and healed the man's ear immediately*)
  10. Jesus' friends stayed with Him and supported Him while he was arrested and taken away. (*False, they ran away, afraid, and left Him.*)
- Ask: Have you heard the phrase "hindsight is 20/20"?
    - **Explain** what it means if your group doesn't fully understand the phrase.
    - **Ask:** How do you think Jesus' friends felt about that night when they looked back and remembered everything that happened? (*Sad, guilty, like they let Him down, scared, unsure.*)
    - But did you notice how Jesus handled it all? He knew what was going to happen—He told them about it before it even happened—and He still loved his friends and cared about them so much.
    - Talk about the True/False game the group just played. If the teams did a good job putting each other first when they disagreed on an answer, tell them that! If not, ask how they could have done things differently. Make sure kids know that you're proud of their efforts either way.



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**4-5**

SMALL GROUP

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25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD**  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY



## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

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### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- How have you put someone first recently?
- Why are certain people easier to put first than others? Without naming names, who is easier? Who is harder?
- Our world is often "all about me," so how can you live the upside-down, others-first, life instead?
- How can you put others first this week? Who is someone specific you can put first and how are you going to do it?

## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## CONNECT

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### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles and dictionaries

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Open** the Bible to Philippians 2:3 and read this month's memory verse.
- **Pass** out the dictionaries and ask the kids to look up the words "proud," "humble," and "value."
  - **Ask** for three different volunteers (one for each word) to read the definitions aloud.
  - For each word, ask for another volunteer to use the word in a sentence.
- **Ask** someone else to read the Life App for the month—the word and the definition.
- **Say:** "Our memory verse makes it pretty clear that in order to put others first and give up what we think we deserve; we have to value others more than ourselves. But how do we do that? Let's look at another verse for help."
- **Open** the Bibles again and ask someone to read Romans 12:10.
  - **Say:** We need to outdo each other in showing honor! So it's like a competition to out-honor each other! Who can show the most honor?
- **Sit** in a circle and go around giving each person a chance to honor the person to their right with their words by saying something kind and valuable about the person.
  - Examples: Chloe, you have the best smile. Damien, I love how you can always make us laugh. Sam, you're great at finding verses in the Bible. Mariah, I love your style and fashion sense.
- If there's time, **say** something you value about each kid as well.
- **Remind** kids that one way to help ourselves remember to put others first is to remind ourselves why that person is valuable to us.

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper and markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Challenge** kids to remember the big situations from the "Take a Snapshot" activity and ask them to shout out (without really "shouting") whatever comes to mind.
- **Ask** if they can think of someone in their lives who is in the middle of a big situation. Let them share who comes to mind and what's going on. (Instruct them NOT to use names, just the situations.)
- **Remind** kids that one of the best ways we can put others first and value them is by praying for them.
- **Pass** out paper and markers and let them spread out on the floor and write out a prayer for someone who is in the middle of a tough situation.
- **Let** kids share their prayers if they would like to.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, thank You for hearing our prayers and knowing our hearts and all the hard things in our lives. Please show our friends and family and US that You are with us and that You care. Thank You for Jesus. We ask that You make us more like Him and help us to put others first and value others more than ourselves. Amen!"