

# Upside Down: Jesus changes everything

WEEK  
**THREE**

APRIL 2020

GRADES  
**4-5**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 PRETEEN

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# 252 PRETEEN

WEEK  
**THREE**

APRIL 2020

GRADES  
**4-5**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

## BIBLE STORY

**Lean on Me**  
Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8

## 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

**What keeps you from putting 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

"Alive" from *At the Top of My Lungs*  
"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*  
"You Make My Heart Sing" from *Every Beat*

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Two plastic eggs
- Two plastic spoons
- Two chairs
- Masking tape

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

*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

### 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:

- Large (approx. 3/4-inch wide) craft sticks; two for each kid
- Thin markers; one for each kid
- Print the "I Deserve . . ." Activity Page strips; one strip for each kid
- Scissors; one or two for each Small Group
- Glue; one or two for each Small Group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tear sheet or butcher paper; three- or four-foot section for each Small Group
- Markers
- Bibles
- Scissors
- Large paper sack or trash bag

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large index cards
- Pens
- Bibles

#### 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:

- Recipe from Verse to Take with you
- Pens; one for each kid

### 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

**Lean on Me**  
Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8



## 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, spend time praying for your group and their connection with each other as well as the concept of putting others first, even when it means we may be giving up something that we think is better in order to serve. Pray for patience and wisdom in how to best lead your group today.*

## LIFE APP

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

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, plastic eggs, plastic spoons, chairs, masking tape

## KEY QUESTION

**What keeps you from putting others first?**

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Divide** your group into two even teams. (*Play the game with them if you have an uneven number or let the team with fewer kids choose a teammate to go twice.*)
- **Ask** kids to stand in two lines on one side of your space. Use masking tape to mark a starting line.
- **Set** up two chairs on the opposite side.
- **Direct** one person at a time to hold a plastic spoon with a plastic egg on it and run down to chairs, circle around one of them, and run back without letting the egg fall off the spoon.
  - When they make it back to their teammates, they must hand off the spoon and egg without dropping it.
  - If a kid drops the egg, he or she has to go back to the starting line and start the turn again.
- The first team to get everyone down and back wins!

## BASIC TRUTH

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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**Lean on Me**  
Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8



## 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.**  
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## LIFE APP

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

## KEY QUESTION

**What keeps you from putting others first?**

## BASIC TRUTH

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

## 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Challenge kids to come up with ways to “be upside-down.”
  - This could be upside down on a chair, doing a headstand, doing a handstand with a friend holding their feet, leaning over a table . . .
  - Any method goes, as long as they can stay safe while doing it!
- Let kids have a few minutes to practice their methods of being upside down, then let everyone take turns showing off their methods.
- Lead the group to vote on which method was the most creative, funniest, weirdest, etc. (Enlist kids’ help in coming up with categories, too!)
  - The only rule with voting is that kids can’t vote for their own methods.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

“I think I prefer you all to be right side up . . . that was a bit nutty. But let’s be honest, you all did a great job being upside down. **[Transition] We’ve been talking all month about the upside way—how Jesus turned everything on its head. Let’s head over to large group to hear more about it!**”

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD**  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY



## IMAGINE

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

### BIBLE STORY

**Lean on Me**  
Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8

### MEMORY VERSE

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### LIFE APP

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

### KEY QUESTION

**What keeps you from putting others first?**

### BASIC TRUTH

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

### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Craft sticks, thin markers, "I Deserve . . ." Strips Activity Page, scissors, glue

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Pass** out a scenario strip and a craft stick to each kid.
- **Ask** them to glue their scenario strips onto them.
- **Give** everyone a blank craft stick and ask them to write how they'd end the sentence to their scenario.
  - Example: When I study all week for a test I deserve . . . to get a good grade on that test.
- **Instruct** everyone to turn in their sticks, without discussing their scenarios or answers with each other. Keep the scenario sticks separate from the answer sticks.
- **Hand** everyone a non-matching scenario stick and answer stick set.
- **Direct** them to mingle around the group and find the match that goes with the sticks they're now holding. Once they find the match, they should lay them out on the floor in the middle of the group.
- **Read** all the scenarios and answers aloud once they're matched up.
- **Discuss:** When we do something good or work extra hard, what do we feel like we deserve?
  - What about when we don't do what we're supposed to? What do we deserve then?
  - What about Jesus—what did He deserve since He is God's Son? (*To be treated like a king, be worshipped, etc.*) But instead, He gave up His life for all of us! He's the ultimate example of giving up what you think you deserve!

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



## CONNECT

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

### BIBLE STORY

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Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8

### MEMORY VERSE

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### LIFE APP

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### KEY QUESTION

**What keeps you from putting others first?**

### BASIC TRUTH

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

### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Tear sheets or butcher paper, markers, Bibles, large paper sack, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Open** the Bible and **ask** someone to read Philippians 2:3-8.
- **Work** together to re-write the passage, phrase by phrase, in their own words on the butcher paper. (Make sure each phrase is on its own line.)
- **Assign** someone to cut the phrases apart and put them all in the large paper sack and shake them up.
- **Pour** out the phrases on the floor and challenge kids to see how fast they can get them back in order.
- **Ask** for a volunteer to check the order of the verse phrases by comparing them to the Bible. (If you have more than one group in your room, race another group to see who can do it the fastest.)
- **Discuss and apply** the verses by going deeper with questions like the ones below.
  - What kind of example did Jesus set for us?
  - What did humility and obedience cost Jesus?
  - What does it mean to value others more than yourself?
  - Can you think of a time you looked out for the good of others?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD**  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY



**CONNECT**

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

## BIBLE STORY

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## MEMORY VERSE

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## LIFE APP

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

## KEY QUESTION

**What keeps you from putting others first?**

## BASIC TRUTH

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

## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- How do you know that Jesus put you first?
- Why does Jesus putting us first mean that we need to put others first?
- What keeps you from putting others first? What can you do to get rid of those barriers and put others first more often?



## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## CREATE

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

### BIBLE STORY

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Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8

### MEMORY VERSE

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### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Notecard, pens or pencils, and Bibles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Open** the Bibles and **read** Ephesians 5:1-2 and Ephesians 5:21 out loud.
- **Let** kids talk briefly about what those verses say to do.
- **Explain** that we're called to follow God's example and walk in the way of love, but that it's often easier to get things done well if we have a recipe or a plan to follow.
- **Give** everyone a notecard and five minutes to make their own recipes for following God's example.
  - What ingredients would be included (Love, prayer, honor, submission, value, humility, kindness, empathy, compassion, etc.)
  - How much of each?
  - What would be the order that you add them?
  - What would you do with them once they're added?
- **Encourage** everyone to share their recipe with the group and explain why they picked their ingredients.
- **Read** the verses from Ephesians aloud to the group one more time.
- **Remind** kids that humility is hard. It's not natural for humans to put others first! BUT we have the best example there ever was: Jesus!

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

### BIBLE STORY

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Servant Principle  
Philippians 2:3-8

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### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Recipe card from Memory Verse Activity, pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Remind** the kids that using scripture verses as prayers is a great way to pray, and if they ever don't know what to pray, they can literally use verses from the Bible.
- **Explain** that today we're going to pray the memory verse for the month and insert ourselves into it.
- **Ask** everyone to turn their recipe card over to the back and write out the following phrases, inserting their own words to personalize the verse.
  - Dear God, help me not to \_\_\_\_\_ only to get ahead.
  - Help me to value \_\_\_\_\_ [insert two or three names] more than myself.
  - Thank you, Jesus, for your example of humility!
- **Allow** everyone a few minutes to spread out and pray this prayer silently.
- **Encourage** kids to choose something specific they're going to do to put someone else first and to ask for God's help to do that.