

# 3-5's | W3 | March

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

**Today's Bible Story:** Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus is powerful.

**Key Question:** Who is amazing?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus is amazing.

**Memory Verse:** "We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT

*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**

Jump to the World

Build a Centurion

Heal People

### **Large Group (20 minutes)**

#### **Worship: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

### **Small Group (25 minutes)**

#### **Groups: Creating a safe place to connect**

Say it With Me

Story Search

Power Pass

Centurion Shuffle

Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets

Journal and Prayer

### **Home: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

### **\*Allergy Alert**



### **Bible Story**

Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus is powerful.

### **Key Question**

Who is amazing?

### **Bottom Line**

Jesus is amazing.

### **Memory Verse**

"We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Jump to the Word | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

 Painter's tape

1

 Plush friends

1



### EveryChild Tips

- Allow children to walk, step, or roll instead of jumping.

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Create a line on the floor with tape, about five feet long. Place five to ten plush animals on one side of the tape line.

*During the Activity:* Invite children to line up behind the plush friends. Ask children to stand over the plush friends, squeeze them in between their ankles/feet, and jump over the line while holding them. Ask the next group of children to take a turn, moving the stuffed friends back to the other side. Continue as time and interest allow.

*After the Activity:* Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, today we are going to help these plush friends across the line. Watch me to learn how. (*Stand over a plush friend, squeeze it with your ankles, and jump over the line.*) Now you'll get a turn to help move the plush friends to the other side. (*Call several children up to help the plush friend over the tape line.*)"

*During the Activity:* "Now that we've got our friends ready, when I say go, I want you to squeeze the plush friend just like I did and jump over the line. Ready? Go! (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it! You got our friends to the other side! Come sit down, and we'll let our other friends have a turn. (*Continue until each child has a turn. Repeat as time and interest allow.*)"

*After the Activity:* "I loved how you helped the plush friends. You helped get them from one side to the other! In today's Bible Story, we are going to hear how Jesus helped a young man, and Jesus did it just by speaking! Let's go hear all about it!"

Preschool

First Look

March - Week 3

10 min

# Groups

5 min

## Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets | Made to Create

### What You Need

	"Jesus Puppet" Activity Page	1
	"Centurion Puppet" Activity Page	Several
	Cardstock	Several
	Crayons or washable markers	Several
	Clear tape	1
	Googly eye stickers	Several
	Scissors	1
	Permanent marker	1
	"Fun at home" Activity Page	1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Jesus Puppet" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Copy "Centurion Puppet" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Copy "Fun at Home Note" on cardstock and cut one note per child. Write each child's name on their bag.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to color their puppets, then help children fold and tape the tabs of each puppet together. Ask children to slide their Jesus puppet on a finger of one hand and the centurion puppet on a finger of another hand, and re-enact the story. Once finished re-enacting the story, put the puppets and a "Fun at Home Note" in each child's bag.

*After the Activity:* Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come to the table and let's make our own story puppets to help review today's true story from the Bible!"

*During the Activity:* "Everyone has a Jesus puppet and a centurion puppet to color. *(Pause.)* Now that you've colored them, we can fold them and tape the sides together. *(Help children as needed.)* Okay, slide one puppet on a finger on one hand and the other puppet on a finger on the other hand. *(Pause.)* Great.

"Our story starts when the centurion, everyone hold up your centurion puppet, walked up to Jesus. Hold up your Jesus puppet. *(Pause.)* The centurion asked Jesus for His help. The centurion said, 'There is a young man who works for me. He is at home, and he cannot move at all. He's in a lot of pain.' Jesus loved helping people, so He was ready to go help the young man. But the centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that's what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Thank you for helping me tell the story with your puppets today. Let's put your puppets and this card in your bag, then close it up."

*After the Activity:* "Jesus didn't have to go to the young man who was sick. He didn't have to give him bandages or medicine. He didn't even have to be right next to him! All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder 1
-  Journal 1
-  Fun-shaped pen 1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Luke 5:26. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage the children to march like soldiers as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

*During the Activity:* Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of amazing things.

*After the Activity:* Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we are soldiers like the centurion and march to our Small Group spot. March like this and follow me! (*March as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"Halt! (*Stop suddenly.*) Halt means stop. We're here! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

*During the Activity:* (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story, we heard how powerful Jesus is! The centurion knew that Jesus could do amazing things because Jesus is God's Son. So the centurion asked Jesus to help a young man who works for him. The young man is at home, and he cannot move. The centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that's what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** That's why when I ask you, **'Who is amazing?'** you can say, **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus is amazing!'** Ready? **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

"The Bible verse we're learning says: 'We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!' (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*). Let's say that together! Just stand up and say what I say and do what I do! 'We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!' (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*).

"Way to go! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*)

Today, we'll make a list of powerful things Jesus can do. We know that Jesus can do amazing things because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

It can be when Jesus turned water to wine, or when Jesus calmed the storm. Whatever you think is powerful, tell me when I say your name, and I'll write it in our journal. *(Say each child's name and write down what they say beside their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

*After the Activity:* "Thanks for helping me make this list. *(Hold up the journal for the children to see.)* These are really powerful things! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our AMAZING friend forever. Jesus really is amazing, He can do things no one else can! Our list is full of powerful things Jesus can do! *(Read the list you made with the children.)* We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# Supplies

## Jump to the Word | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Painter's tape	1
2. Plush friends	1

## Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. "Jesus Puppet" Activity Page	1
2. "Centurion Puppet" Activity Page	Several
3. Cardstock	Several
4. Crayons or washable markers	Several
5. Clear tape	1
6. Googly eye stickers	Several
7. Scissors	1
8. Permanent marker	1
9. "Fun at home" Activity Page	1

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder	1
2. Journal	1
3. Fun-shaped pen	1