



# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

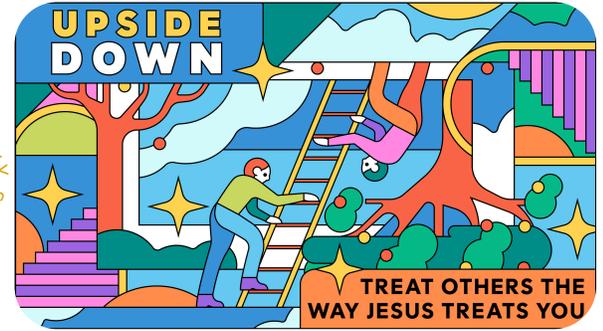
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

### Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



## Bible Story

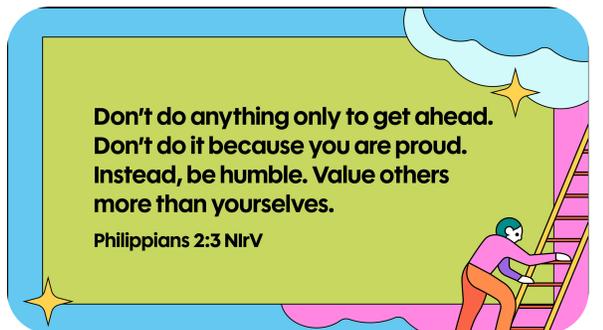
### A Roman Commander Has Faith

Matthew 8:5-13

## Bottom Line



## Monthly Memory Verse



# Greeting & Prayer



## What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

## ① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that “the whole world” means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

## ② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity



ACTIVITY ONE

# Puppet Show Retell



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- Four puppets
- Popsicle Sticks (4 per child)
- Small felt pieces
- Sandwich bags



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

## What You Do:

- Give each kid 4 puppets, 4 popsicle sticks, a felt piece(blanket), and a sandwich bag
- Ask the kids to attach each puppet to a popsicle stick
- When they finish, explain that they will act out the Bible story using their puppets while you tell it

### Storytelling Script(for the puppets)

- "The commander came to Jesus in the town of Capernaum."
- "The commander was sad because his servant was suffering terribly. Can the sick person puppet lie down on the blanket?"
- "The commander had strong faith. He said, 'Just say the word, and my servant will be healed'" (Matthew 8:8 NlrV)
- "And Jesus did! The servant was healed at that very moment!" (Direct the sick puppet to jump up.)

## What You Say:

"What a great puppet show! The Roman commander was a very important soldier; he was even in charge of around one hundred other soldiers! That's a lot of soldiers! No one would have ever expected a Roman commander to talk with a humble Jewish teacher—much less to ask for help! Yet, here he was, pleading with Jesus. That's because the Roman commander knew that Jesus was way more than a humble Jewish teacher. The commander knew that Jesus is most important. Everything answers to Him. And Jesus helped right away! Jesus was amazed by the commander's faith. The Roman commander showed us that we should always **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.**"

# Application Roll

## What You Need

- Large Die



## What You Do:

- Explain that the kids will take turns rolling the die. The number they roll will match a question you ask.
- Let the first kid roll the die. If they roll a 3, ask them question #3 from the list.
- Continue rolling the die and asking questions until everyone who wants a turn has had one.
  - Application Questions:
    1. Name one person who is important to you.
    2. Name one thing that is important in our room.
    3. Who made the whole world? (God!)
    4. Who is more powerful than a superhero? (God/Jesus!)
    5. Who is a very important person in the world?
    6. Who is the most important person in the whole universe? (God/Jesus!)

## What You Say:

“Those are great answers! There are lots of important people and things in our lives. But our true story from the Bible today about the important Roman commander helped us learn to [Bottom Line] remember God is most important. The commander knew Jesus’ authority was bigger than anyone’s, and Jesus was so amazed by his faith!

“So what does this mean for us? It’s remembering what the Roman commander knew—God is more important and more powerful than anything. God is in charge! If there is something that you’re scared of at nighttime, you can ask God for help. If there is something bothering you at school, ask God for His help. If you are having a hard time with a friend, ask God for help. God is the King of everything! **[Bottom Line] Remember God is most important.**”

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

# Pray and Dismiss



## What You Say

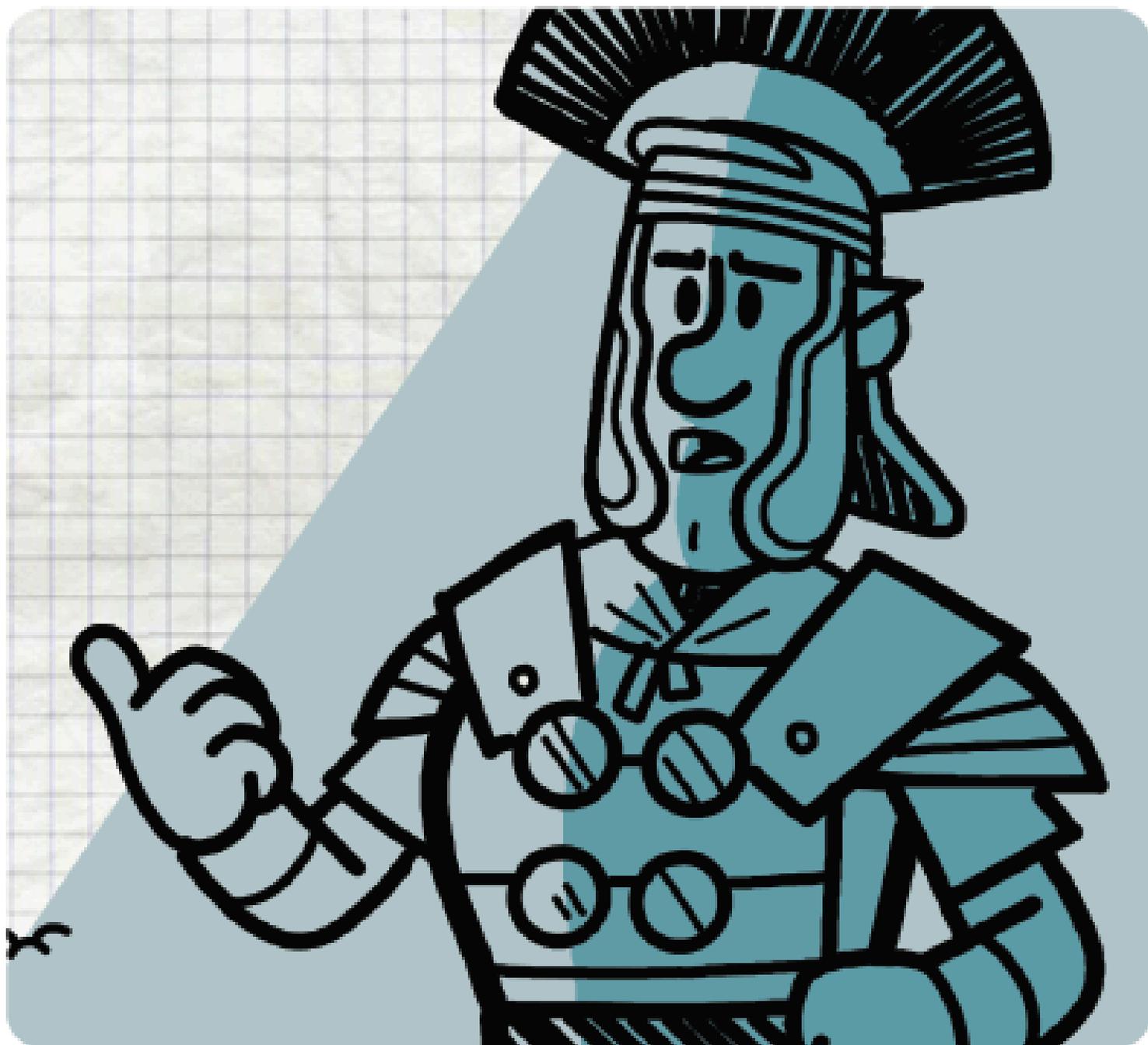
“Dear God, thank You for all my friends. Thank You for being bigger and more important than anything. Help us to remember that You have all the authority over everything and that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



# Activity Pages

2-3 Graders

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut.  
One set for each Small Group.

**"Puppet Show" Activity Page**  
March 2026, Week 2, Small Group 2-3  
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