



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

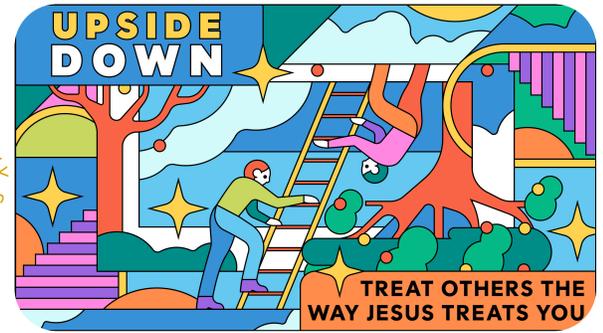
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

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

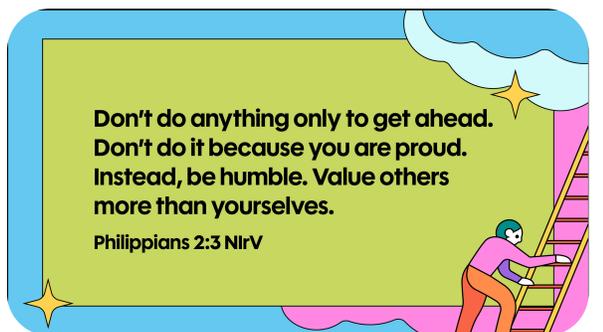
A Roman Commander Has Faith

Matthew 8:5-13

Bottom Line



Monthly Memory Verse



K1 | W2

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



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.**"

K1 | W2

ACTIVITY TWO

Color By Number

What You Need

- Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3
- “Memory Verse Color by Number” Activity Page
- Crayons or markers that match the colors on the page



What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a “Memory Verse Color by Number” Activity Page and make the crayons or markers that match the colors on the page available.
- Explain that the kids will color the picture by matching the number in each space to the color in the key.
- As they color, read the Memory Verse that is on the page to the group: 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).
- Help them find the numbers and the right colors.

What You Say:

“Your pictures look so great! This verse helps us remember to be humble, which means putting others first. The Roman commander was not proud; he was humble when he said, ‘Lord, I am not good enough’ (Matthew 8:8 NIV). When we are humble, it shows that we [Bottom Line] remember God is most important—not us!”



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 that You are the most important and the most powerful. You are in charge of everything. Thank You for listening when we ask for help. Please help everyone in our group this week. Help us to always [Bottom Line] remember God is most important. 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

K-1

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.



Color according to the numbers

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1 = light blue | 3 = light green | 5 = orange | 7 = pink | 9 = purple |
| 2 = dark blue | 4 = dark green | 6 = yellow | 8 = red | 10 = brown |

What to Do:
Print on paper. One for every kid.

"Memory VerseColorbyNumber" ActivityPage

March 2026, Week 2, Small Group K-1

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