



# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

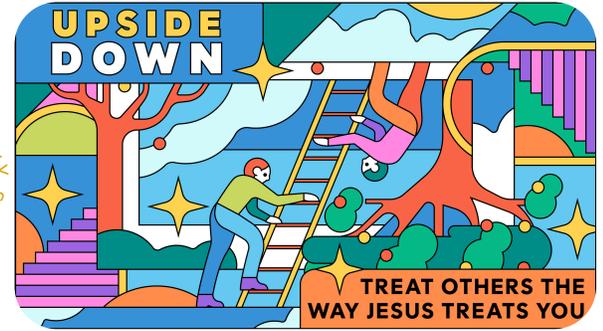
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### 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

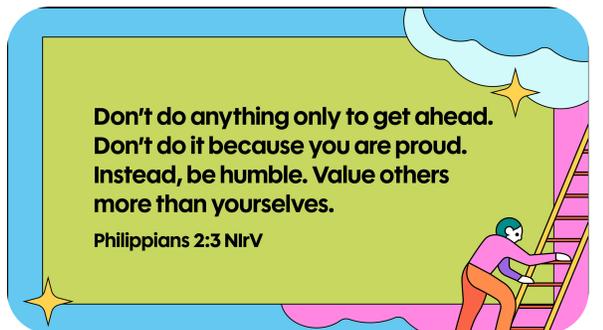
### Be Humble/Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

## Bottom Line



## Monthly Memory Verse



K1 | W3

# 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

# Light the Story



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- Prepared images with “Bible Story Pictures Front” Activity Page on the front and “Bible Story Pictures Back” Activity Page on the back
- Flashlights

## What You Do:

- Give each kid a flashlight.
- Tell the kids that you’re going to be detectives and find the parts of our story that are hidden around the room.
- Call out something from today’s Bible Story and have the kids find the picture that matches by shining their flashlight from underneath to show the image through the heart shape.
  - “Jesus was teaching people on a mountainside! Find the picture of **Jesus teaching.**”
  - “Jesus said the old way was to hurt people back when they’ve been mean to you. Use your light to find the picture of **someone who looks like they might have just been mean.**”
  - “Jesus said to love your enemies, the people who are hard to love. Use your light to find the picture of **two people giving one another a hug.**”
  - “Jesus said that loving our enemies is how we can be like our Father in heaven! Shine your light to find the picture of the **sun.**”

## What You Say:

“Great job, detectives! You lit up our whole story. Jesus taught us some things that can feel hard. He said not to be mean to people who hurt us. Instead, He wants us to [Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it’s hard. Jesus explained how God’s Kingdom is quite different from the way we usually live. Jesus didn’t just say: ‘Don’t be mean to your enemies.’ He told us to love our enemies. That’s completely upside down, right?! But showing love to an enemy—that’s just what God does. God shows kindness to everyone, even to people who hate Him! And God says He wants us to show the world that we are His children by doing the same. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it’s hard.**”

### Inclusive Pro Tips



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

K1 | W3

ACTIVITY TWO

# Upside Down Hearts

## What You Need

- Plastic cups
- Heart sticker



## What You Do:

- Scatter all the cups upside down on the floor.
- Tell the kids that you've hidden a special heart on the bottom of one of the cups.
- Instruct the kids to take turns flipping over one cup at a time, looking for the heart.
- When a kid finds the cup with the heart sticker, celebrate!
- Ask that kid to name one way they can show love to someone this week, especially someone who might be hard to love. (e.g., "I can share with my brother even when I don't want to," "I can say something nice to the kid who was mean to me.")
- Hide the heart again, turn the cups over, and play another round.

## What You Say:

"You found the heart! Finding that heart reminds us to find ways to show love to others. Jesus taught us that our Father in heaven sends the sun and rain on everyone, not just nice people. That can seem upside down!

"So what does this look like for us? Loving your enemies is so hard, but God hasn't left you to do it alone! When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will help you. Ask for His help! And then, do what you can do to show God's love. Choose kindness instead of getting back at someone. It takes true humility to put others first and **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"

### 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

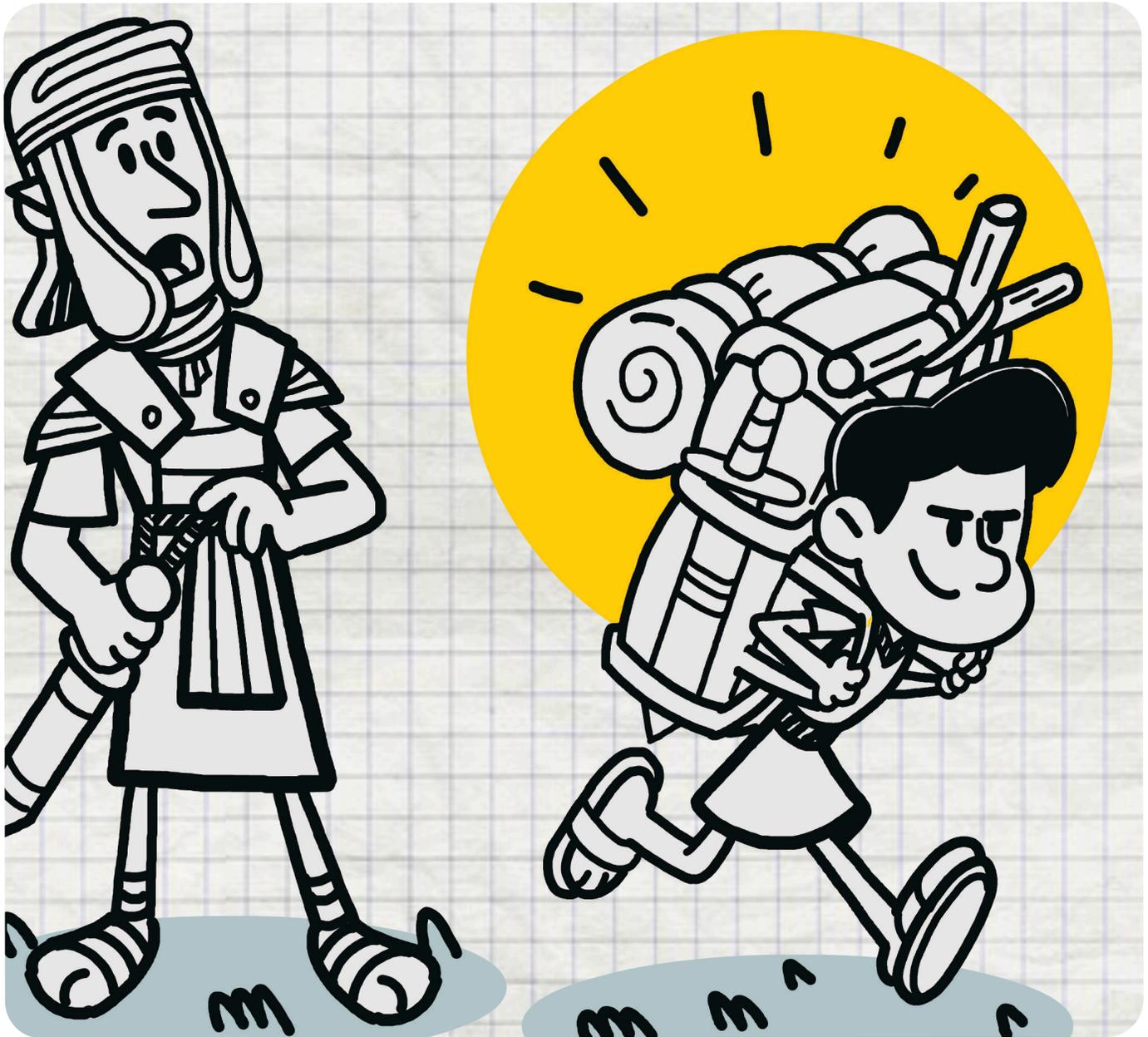
“Dear God, thank You for loving us, no matter what. Please help us to be like You, our Father in heaven. Help us to love the people we drew on our prayer chain today. Give us the strength to [Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it’s hard. We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in 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



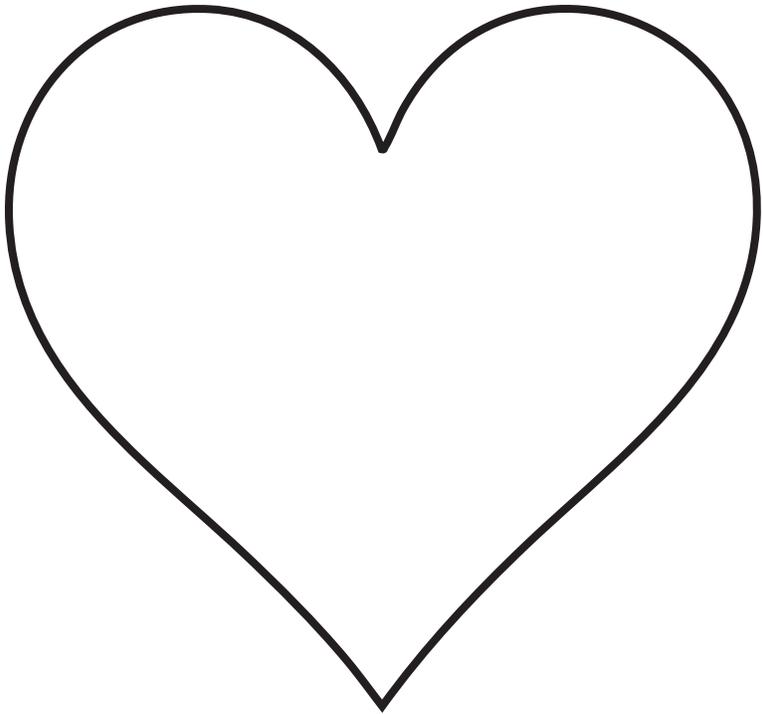
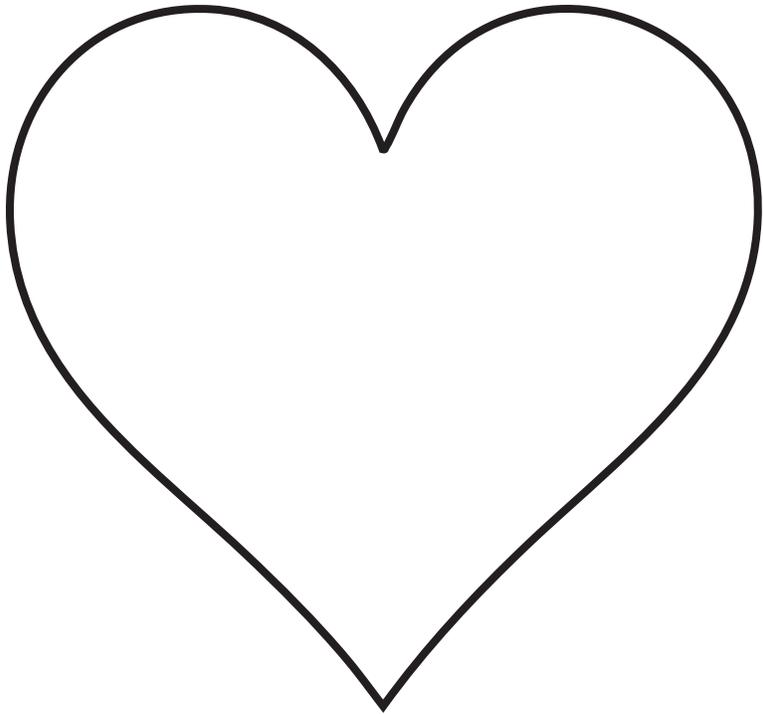
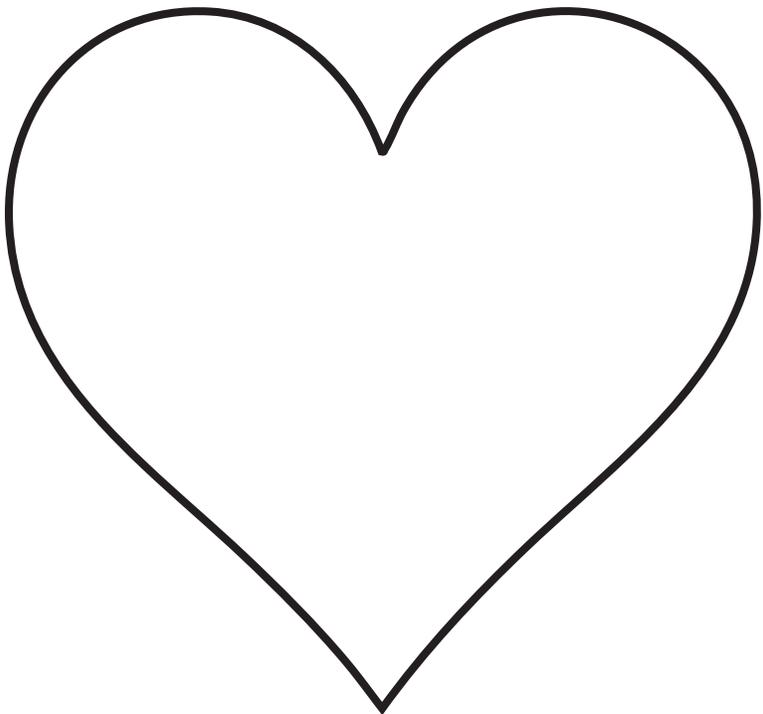
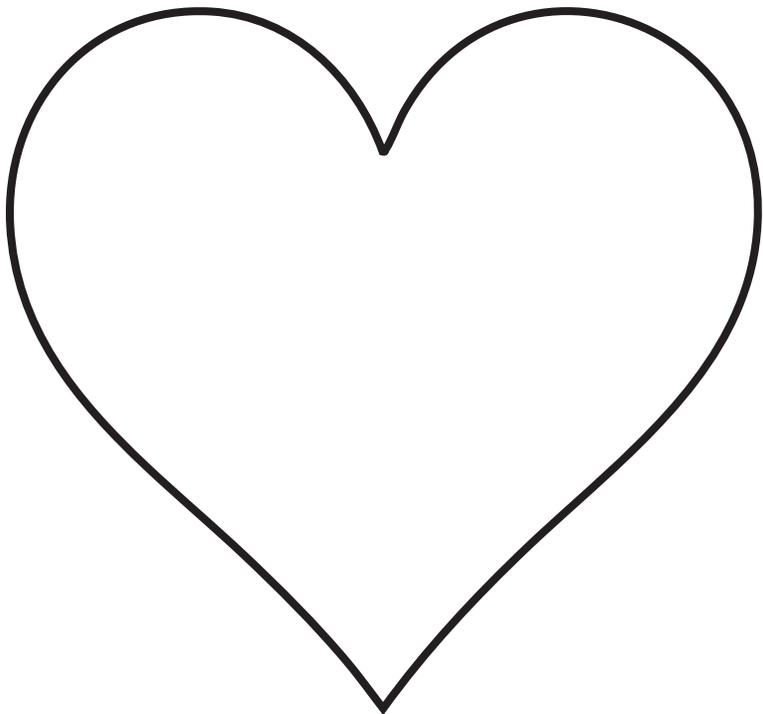
Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



# 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.



What to Do:  
Print on paper.  
One for each Small Group.



What to Do:  
Print on paper.  
One for each Small Group.



**Week 3 | Bible Story Review |  
Light the Story**

**K-1 | March 2026**