

K-3rd

Large Group

March — Week 2

## Large Group Leader Guide

### Today's Suggested Schedule

**Kids arrival** : 9:25 / 11:10

Play high-pitch music as kids arrive

**Countdown** : 9:30 / 11:15

Start the countdown with excitement!

**Large Group** : 9:30-9:55 / 11:15-11:40

- Opener
- Bible Story
- Talk It Out!
- Memory Verse
- Prayer

**Transition to Small group** : 9:55-10:00  
/11:40-11:45

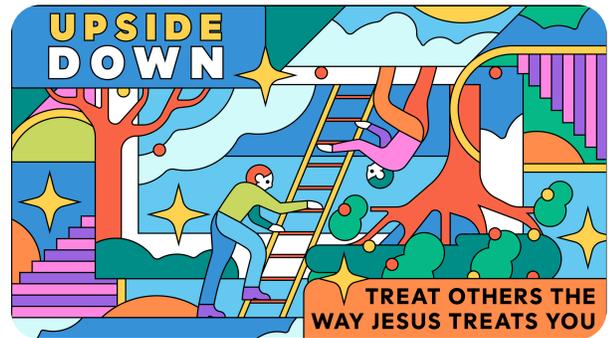
Kids move with their leader to small groups

**Small group** : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Creating a safe place to connect.

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



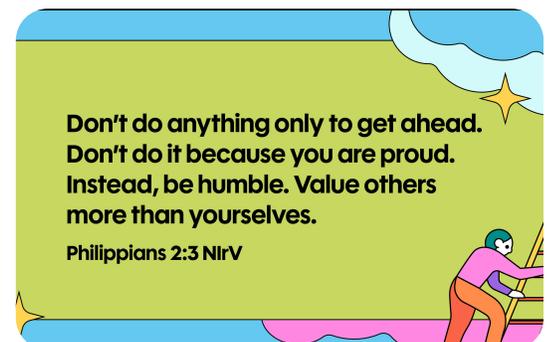
Today's Bible Story

### A Roman Commander Has Faith Matthew 8:5-13

Bottom Line



Memory Verse



10 MINUTES

# OPENER

## ① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.  
SLIDE → Theme

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown  
Optional Video → Theme Intro

HOST: “Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another awesome week of our series called ‘Upside Down!’ The full name of our series is: ‘Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you!’ How’s everybody doing today?”

“I love that energy! This month, we’re learning how to live a little upside down! Sometimes that means doing things that feel totally different from what we expect ...”

Pick up one of the hats and put it on.

“Now, speaking of upside down, I’ve got a game for you that’s going to flip who’s in charge. It’s called ‘Hat Switch!’”

SLIDE → Game\_Hat Switch! Title

“Here’s how it works. I’m going to pick three of you to come up front, and those three kids will be our leaders for this game! Each leader will wear one of these hats. When the music starts, the leaders will do some fun motions like jumping, spinning, or waving. If you’re in the audience, pick one of the three people and copy what they do.”

“But here’s the twist ... every time the music stops, we’ll all shout, ‘SWITCH!’ Then the leaders have to hand their hats to someone new, and those people become the next leaders! Got it?”

“Okay, who wants to wear a silly hat? Raise your hand if you’d like to volunteer!”

*Pick three kids from the kids who have their hands raised, give them hats, and line them up at the front of the room so everyone can see them.*

10 MINUTES

**OPENER**

SLIDE → Game\_Hat Switch!

*“Okay, hats ready? Music ready? Let’s play ‘Hat Switch!’*

AB\_Upbeat Music

*Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown). Kid leaders do jumping jacks, clap, spin, dance, or other silly movements. Audience members will pick one of the three kids to copy. After 15-20 seconds, pause the music.*

“SWITCH! Great job, kid leaders! Now pick three new audience members to lead! Give them your hat!

*Kid leaders each pick one kid from the audience and give them their hat.*

“Okay, if you’re one of our new leaders, come on up to the front!

*Pause while new kid leaders come to the front.*

“Okay, hats ready? Music ready? Let’s play another round of ‘Hat Switch!’

AB\_Upbeat Music

Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown). Kid leaders do jumping jacks, clap, spin, dance, or other silly movements. Audience members will pick one of the three kids to copy. After 15-20 seconds, pause the music.

“SWITCH! Great job, kid leaders! Now pick three new audience members to lead! Give them your hat!

Kid leaders each pick one kid from the audience and give them their hat.

“Okay, if you’re one of our new leaders, come on up to the front!

Pause while new kid leaders come to the front.

“Okay, hats ready? Music ready? Let’s play another round of ‘Hat Switch!’

10 MINUTES

# OPENER

## AB\_Upbeat Music

*Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown). Kid leaders do jumping jacks, clap, spin, dance, or other silly movements. Audience members will pick one of the three kids to copy. After 15-20 seconds, pause the music.*

“SWITCH! Awesome job, kid leaders! Now pick three new audience members to lead! Give them your hat!

*Kid leaders each pick one kid from the audience and give them their hat. Repeat for as many rounds as time allows.*

“Wow, that was awesome! You all did such a great job leading and following. Give your leaders a big round of applause!

“You know, that game actually reminds me of what we’re talking about today. Sometimes it’s fun to be in charge, right? But what happens when we have to switch and follow someone else’s lead? That’s not always easy!

In the true story from the Bible that we’re going to look at today, we’re going to hear about someone who was used to being in charge—a powerful Roman commander—but he learned that there’s One Person who deserves to lead more than anyone else. Can anyone guess who that is?

*Pause while kids shout out the answer.*

“That’s right, it’s Jesus! Because no matter who you are or how important you might seem, remember—God is always most important.

“Who’s ready for our Bible story today? Let’s turn on our listening ears!

10 MINUTES

# Story

## ③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W2

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The Roman commander didn’t just believe that Jesus could help, he trusted that Jesus was in charge of everything. He showed real faith by remembering that God is the most important. We can do the same thing when we choose to trust God instead of trying to do everything on our own. We can remember that God is the most important!”

“Hey, that’s like our Bottom Line for today!”

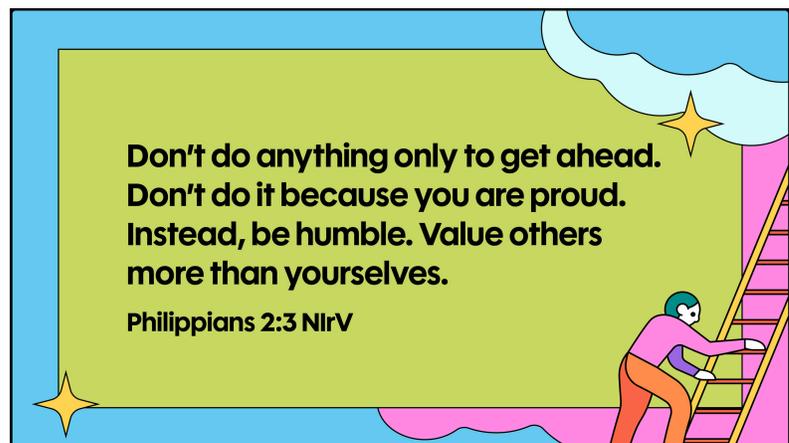
SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Remember God is most important. Say that with me.”

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: [Bottom Line] “Remember God is most important.”

SLIDE -> Memory Verse



5 MINUTES

# TALK IT OUT



Now, before we move on, I have a question for you... (lean in and whisper) do you know what time it is?

It's time to... (pause, cup your hand to your ear) **TALK IT OUT!**

That means it's your turn to do the talking! You get to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how this story connects to YOUR life.

So, let's put on our 'thinking caps' ... zip up our listening ears... and get ready to Talk. It. Out!"

SLIDE -> Talk It Out

## Talk It Out Questions

1) What had Jesus just finished doing before going to Capernaum?  
Teaching the Sermon on the Mount

2) Who came to ask Jesus for help?  
A Roman Commander

3) What problem did the commander's servant have?

- A) He was hungry
- B) He was lost
- C) He was suffering badly
- D) He was angry

✓ Answer: C) He was suffering badly

4) What did the commander say Jesus should do?

- A) "Come to my house right now."
- B) "Just say the word, and he will be healed."
- C) "Give me money."
- D) "Tell me a story."

✓ Answer: B) "Just say the word, and he will be healed."

5) Who is in charge of everything?

God is in charge. He is King over everything.

**5 MINUTES**

# Prayer

## Prayer

“Dear Jesus, we want to have faith in You. Just like the Roman commander, we want to trust You and remember that You are the most important, that You are in charge. Help us to remember that You are in charge every day—when we’re at school, with our friends, or at home. Thank You for loving us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.  
AUDIO → Play high-energy music as the kids exit.  
SLIDE → Theme  
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop