

Bible Story: A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Bottom Line: Remember God is most important.

Monthly Memory Verse: *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

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Explain to the kids that you are going to be the leader, and they need to copy your rhythm.
- Start a simple pattern, like patting your knees twice and then clapping once. (*pat, pat, clap*)
- Encourage the whole group to do the rhythm with you several times.
- Then, point to one kid to be the new leader. Encourage them to make up a new, simple pattern.
- Instruct the rest of the group to copy the new leader's pattern.
- Give every kid who wants a turn a chance to be the leader.

What You Say:

"You are all fantastic at repeating the rhythm! You listened to the leader and did what they did. You followed their lead. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, we're going to meet a Roman commander, a leader of many soldiers, but he knew who the most important leader of all was—the One with the most authority. Let's go find out who!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Keep the patterns very simple (e.g., just clapping, or just patting).*
- *For a child with hearing impairments, make the movements visual.*

[Lead the children to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Color By Number

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible 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:

- Read aloud your Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- 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!”

3. Memory Verse Balloon Bop

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Air-inflated balloon

What You Do:

- Read aloud your Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
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
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Write the words on the white board for the kids to reference during the game.
- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Toss the balloon into the air.

- Explain that the goal is to keep the balloon from touching the floor. Each time someone bops the balloon, everyone should shout one word of the Memory Verse.
- Start the game: You bop the balloon and shout, “Don’t!” Instruct the next kid to bop it and shout, “do!” and so on.
- Keep playing, working together to say the verse, and keeping the balloon up.

What You Say:

“Great job! That was fun! This verse reminds us to be humble. The Roman commander was humble when he told Jesus, ‘*Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house*’ (Matthew 8:8 NIV). Being humble means knowing God is in charge. It helps us to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**. We can learn this verse and remember it all week long. We can use this verse to remind us to be humble and put others first by giving up what we want.”

4. Pray

“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.”