

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

Bottom Line: Make time for Jesus first.

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

Supplies NOT Included IN the Activity Bags

Bible Story Review

- Bible
- Small handheld whiteboard and dry-erase marker and dry-erase eraser

Application Activity: Upside Down Drawing

- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- Tape

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Toss

- Bibles
- beanbag

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- permanent markers

Bible Story Summary

Mary and Martha

Week 4 brings us to the story of Mary and Martha. While Martha whips up a frenzy of activity to prepare for their guests, Mary simply sits at the feet of Jesus. When Martha finally explodes about her sister, Jesus doesn't send Mary to work. Instead, Jesus affirms that what Mary has done in spending time with Him is even more important than doing things for Him. [BOTTOM LINE] Make time for Jesus first.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- Bible
- Small handheld whiteboard and dry-erase marker and dry-erase eraser

What You Do:

- Read Luke 10:38-42 out loud to the group.
- Tell the group you're going to play a version of *Pictionary* to review the story, but upside down.
- Divide into two teams.
- Instruct one kid from the first team to sit across from the other team. Give them a large pad of paper and writing utensil, or a handheld whiteboard with a dry-erase marker and a dry-erase eraser.
- Whisper one of the following prompts to them:
 - Mary sitting at Jesus' feet.
 - Martha cooking food.
 - Martha feeling worried and upset.
 - Jesus talking to Martha.
- That person has one minute to draw the scene for the other team to guess. (The scene should face the person drawing, but look upside down for the team guessing.)
- Alternate teams until all the prompts are drawn.

What You Say:

"Great job with those drawings! It was challenging to guess when the pictures were upside down! You did a great job drawing Martha being so busy and Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha was so busy doing things for Jesus and His friends' visit to her house, while Mary sat with Jesus and spent time with Him. Martha got so upset that she said to Jesus, '*Lord ... Don't you care? Tell her to help me!*' (Luke 10:40 NIV). But Jesus said that Mary chose what is better. It is most important to spend time with Jesus.

"It's a good reminder for us all. Are we letting our 'busyness' get in the way of being with Jesus? We can get busy with good things like Martha. We can get busy with practice, homework, friends, shows, and even chores. Those are all good things to do, but let's remember to do what Jesus said is most important and **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- For kids who are not confident in their drawing skills, allow them to act out the scene as a charade instead of drawing.
- Write or draw the prompts on slips of paper so kids can see them instead of relying on whispering.

2. Upside Down Drawing

What You Need:

- Table
- Paper
- Coloring supplies
- Tape
- *Optional: Clipboards*

What You Do:

- Tell the kids they are going to draw in a very silly, “upside down” way.
- Tape several pieces of paper to the underside of a table. (If you want each kid to have their own piece of paper, tape that many pieces of paper to the underside of the table.)
- Let kids take turns lying on their backs under the table and drawing on one of the pieces of paper above them.
- Alternatively, let them lie on their backs on the floor and try to draw on a piece of paper on a clipboard held above their heads.
- Instruct them to draw a picture of themselves spending time with Jesus, maybe sitting at His feet, praying to Jesus, or reading the Bible.

What You Say:

“That was a fun challenge! Drawing upside down is not easy! Sometimes, making time for Jesus when our schedule is already busy can feel ‘upside down.’ But Jesus told us that Mary had chosen what is better. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. Martha was so busy doing good things *for* Jesus that she forgot to simply spend time *with* Jesus. And Jesus said that being with Him is the most important thing. The most important priority of your life, every day, is your friendship with Jesus.”

3. Memory Verse Activity- Memory Verse Toss

What You Need:

- Bibles
- beanbag

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Start the game by tossing the soft ball (or bean bag) to a kid while you say the first word of the verse, “Don’t ...”
- Instruct the kid who catches it to say the next word in the Memory Verse, “... do ...” and toss it to someone else.
- Encourage the next kid who catches it to say the next word of the Memory Verse, “... anything ...” and toss it on.
- Continue tossing the soft ball (or bean bag) around the circle, with each kid saying the next word of the Memory Verse until it’s complete.
- Play several times, encouraging the kids to go faster each time.

What You Say:

“You are getting so good at remembering that verse! Taking the time to learn verses from the Bible is important so we can always remember God’s Word, wherever we are! *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).* When we are humble and put others first, it helps us remember that Jesus is the most important Person. We can be humble, and put Jesus first in our busy, busy schedules. It helps us remember that only one thing is needed: to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Small, smooth rocks
- permanent markers

What To Do:

- Give each kid a rock.
- Talk about how Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to what He said.
- Ask the kids, "When is a good time for you to sit and be quiet with Jesus this week?" (e.g., before bed, in the car on the way to school)
- Let each kid share their idea.
- Use the paint pens to draw a simple heart or cross on each kid's rock.
- Let the rocks dry for a moment.

What You Say:

"These are your reminder rocks to take home with you! When you see this rock this week, I want you to remember your plan to spend quiet time with Jesus. You can even hold it in your hand while you talk to God. Let's remember that Jesus said what Mary chose will not be taken away from her. Mary chose to sit and spend time with Jesus. Let's pray now.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us and wanting to spend time with us. Help us to be like Mary and choose to listen to You and spend time with You. Help us to find quiet moments every day this week to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."