

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

Bible Story: Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-16, 13:1-17*

Conversation Starter: When has someone put you first?

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be humble.

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

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Washable markers

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

- Bibles

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

- Markers
- Bucket

Bible Story Summary

Palm Sunday/ Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

We wrap up the month as Jesus approaches Jerusalem during Passover week. Days after entering Jerusalem on a donkey, to the cheers of a multitude, Jesus celebrates the Passover meal with His closest friends. Instead of demanding that He be served, Jesus takes on the role of the lowliest servant by washing His disciples' feet ... even those of Judas, His betrayer. [BOTTOM LINE] Jesus showed us how to be humble.

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Washable markers

What You Do:

- Spread the butcher paper on the floor.
- Challenge kids to try and write a word from today's story, like "JESUS," "HUMBLE," or "SERVE" on the paper by holding a marker between their feet.
- It will be awkward, silly, and probably messy. Let them laugh and have fun with how difficult it is.
- Gather them to discuss:
 - How did that feel? Was it easy or hard?
 - How do you think this activity relates to our story about Jesus today?

What You Say:

"That was pretty awkward, right? It felt weird to use your feet for something they aren't designed for. Imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus, their teacher and King, knelt down to wash their dirty feet. It was completely upside down and unexpected. Jesus, the true King of the universes, chose to take on this humble job. Jesus even washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, whom He knew was about to betray Him to the religious leaders!

[Bottom Line] "Jesus showed us how to be humble. He never used His power or authority to make people do stuff for Him. He asked people to join Him—He didn't force them. Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we're supposed to get ahead and be important. If you need help being humble, ask Jesus to help! When you began to follow Jesus, His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, came to live inside of you. The Holy Spirit knows how to be humble, and He will help you!"

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- Prepared paper plates
- Music player
- This month's music

What You Do:

- Set the prepared plates in a circle on the floor.
- Play a version of musical chairs. When the music stops, instruct all of the kids to find a plate to stand on.
- Instead of anyone being "out," go around the circle and invite each kid to read the act of service on their plate.
- Ask them to share when or how they could do that humble act this week.
- Remove one plate and play again. Now, kids will have to share plates, practicing humility in the game itself.

What You Say:

"It's one thing to talk about being humble, but it's another thing to actually do it. These are all practical ways we can put others first. Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we're supposed to get ahead and be important. You'd think a king would ride into town in a chariot or on a powerful war horse, right? But Jesus had already fulfilled so many prophecies. And now He chose to fulfill another by riding into Jerusalem on a humble young donkey. Then, instead of ordering His followers to serve Him, Jesus took off His outer clothes, knelt down, and began to wash their feet.

[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble, and He wants us to follow His example."

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *Emphasize that there are no "outs" in this game to reduce anxiety for kids who dislike competition.*
- *If movement is a challenge, kids can sit in a circle and pass the plates around. When the music stops, they talk about the plate they are holding.*

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Jesus is the King of the universe, yet He chose to ride a humble donkey and wash His disciples' feet. Why do you think Jesus chose humility over showing His power in those moments?
- Jesus washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, even though He knew Judas would betray Him. What does this teach us about serving others, even when they don't deserve it or might hurt us?
- Peter didn't understand at first why Jesus washed his feet. Why do you think God sometimes asks us to do things that don't make sense at first? How can trusting Him help us grow?
- Jesus gave an example of putting others first and told His followers to do the same. In your daily life, what are some ways you can practice humility and serve others like Jesus did?
- The world often tells us to be the most important or to get ahead. How is following Jesus' example of humility different from the ways the world measures success, and why does it matter?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need:

- Bibles

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 2:3 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Instruct everyone to hold their Bible.
- Explain that you are going to call out a Bible verse reference, and they are going to race to see who can look it up in the Bible and read it first.
- First, call out this month's Memory Verse: "Philippians 2:3!"
- Instruct the first kid to find it to stand and read the verse(s) aloud.
- Then, look up a few bonus verses about humility and serving. After each one, ask how it connects to our story.
 - Matthew 23:11 NIV ("The most important person among you will be your servant.")
 - 1 Peter 5:5 NIV (In the same way, I'm speaking to you who are younger. Follow the lead of those who are older. All of you, put on a spirit free of pride toward one another. Put it on as if it were your clothes. Do this because Scripture says, "God opposes those who are proud. But he gives grace to those who are humble.")
 - John 13:14-15 NIV ("I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you should also wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.")

What You Say:

"The Bible has so much to say about humility! It's clearly a big deal to God. It's the 'upside down' way of Jesus and His kingdom. The world says to be first, but Jesus says to be a servant. Jesus modeled what it means to put others first. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble**, and the Bible is our guide to learning how to live that way."

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need:

- palm leaves
- Markers
- Bucket

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper leaf and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on one side of the leaf.
- Encourage the kids to fold their leaves and put them into the bowl.
- Mix up the leaves.
- Pass the bucket around and have each person draw one leaf. (If they get their own, they should put it back and draw again.)
- Tell them to take that leaf home and put it somewhere they will see it this week—like their mirror or desk.
- Their mission is to pray for the person whose name is on their leaf every day this week.

What You Say:

“Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we’re supposed to get ahead and be important. But we know Jesus is most important! We need the help of the Holy Spirit inside us to set aside what we want in order to serve others like Jesus. When we ask Jesus to give us the ability to be humble, He will do it! One of the best ways to be humble and put others first is to pray for them. It’s a humble act of service that makes a big difference. When you pray for the person on your leaf, you’re following Jesus’ example. Let’s pray!

“Jesus, thank You for being the ultimate example of humility. Thank You for serving Your friends and giving Your life for us. It’s amazing. Help us to follow Your example. Give us the strength to put others first this week, starting with the person on our leaf. Help us to show the world what Your ‘upside down’ love looks like. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”