

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

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: Light the Story

Application Activity: Upside Down Hearts

- Place the heart sticker on the bottom of the inside of one of the plastic cups.
- Solo Cups-10

Memory Verse Activity: Prayer Chain

- Bibles, marked at *Philippians 2:3*
- Beanbag
- Stickers or small prizes

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Coloring supplies
- Tape or a stapler

Bible Story Summary

Be Humble/Love Your Enemies

We follow up in Week 3 with Jesus' teaching to "turn the other cheek" and "go the extra mile." Rather than paying back our enemies in kind, we show they can't control us when we choose to love like Jesus ... and trust God to make things right. Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it's hard. [BOTTOM LINE] Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

1. Bible Story Review- Light the Story

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.**”

2. Application Activity- 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.**"

3. Memory Verse Activity- Beanbag Verse

What You Need:

- Bibles, marked at Philippians 2:3
- Beanbag
- Stickers or small prizes

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids 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 right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside and sit in a circle with you.
- Explain that you will pass the beanbag around the circle as you all say words of the verse together, and the Bible reference.
- Start passing the beanbag and reciting the verse.
- The kid who is holding the beanbag when you say the last word of the reference (“three!”) gets the sticker or small prize.
- Play several times so more kids have a chance to win.

What You Say:

“Great job! This verse is all about being humble. Being humble means putting others first. And when we choose to love our enemies or go two miles instead of one, we are definitely putting them first! That’s a great way to **[Bottom Line]** love like Jesus even when it’s hard.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Strips of paper (about 1" x 6")
- Coloring supplies
- Tape or a stapler

What To Do:

- Give each kid a strip of paper and make coloring supplies available.
- Ask them to think of one person whom it is sometimes hard for them to love. They don't have to say the name out loud.
- Instruct them to draw a picture of that person on their paper strip.
- When they are done, help them tape or staple their strip into a loop.
- Then, link all the loops together to form a paper chain.
- Hold up the chain for everyone to see.

What You Say:

"Look at our prayer chain. There are so many people we can pray for. People we love and people who are hard to love. It can be hard to love everyone, but Jesus told us to '*pray for those who hurt you*' (*Matthew 8:44 NIV*). Let's pray for the people on our chain right now.

"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."