

## 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: Parachute Story

- Bible
- Small parachute (use one from rBackyard Older Room)
- Large Pom-pom balls (use from rBackyard Older Room)

Application Activity: Jesus Above All

Memory Verse Activity: Quiet Line Up

- Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### **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.

## 1. Bible Story Review- Parachute Story

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

### Made to Move

#### What You Need:

- Bible
- Small parachute
- Large Pom-pom balls

#### What You Do:

- Read Luke 10:38-42 out loud to the group.
- Spread the parachute on the floor and scatter the pom-poms all over it.
- Instruct the kids to grab the edge of the parachute with you.
- Say, “In our story, Martha was very busy. She was worried and upset about many things. Let’s pretend these pom-poms are all the things Martha was busy with. Let’s shake the parachute and make them all jump around!”
- Let the kids shake the parachute for a minute.
- Say, “But Mary made a different choice. She chose to stop and just be with Jesus. Let’s do that now.”
- Instruct the kids to lift the parachute high over their heads, and then quickly bring it down behind them so they are all sitting underneath it in a quiet “tent.”
- While under the parachute, whisper: “Mary sat quietly at Jesus’ feet, just listening to Him.”

#### What You Say:

“It was fun to be busy, but it was also nice to be still and quiet, wasn’t it? Jesus told Martha that trying to do all of those nice things for Him and His friends was good, but that Mary had chosen what is better. She chose to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**”

“Sometimes we get busy doing lots of different things. Maybe we are busy playing sports or practicing an instrument or drawing or playing with friends. Those are not bad things—in fact, there are a lot of good things we can spend our time doing. But today in our Bible Story, we learned that out of everything we do, it’s most important to spend time with Jesus first. When we **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**, we turn our hearts toward Him, and we can do all of those things aware that He is with us! Making time for Jesus first affects everything!”

## 2. Application Activity- Jesus Above All

### What You Need:

- Prepared images from the “Jesus Above All” Activity Page- pdfs of cards on next page

### What You Do:

- Place the pictures from the “Jesus Above All” Activity Page on the floor, scattered around the room with the pictures of the “distractions” facing up.
- Explain that you’re going to play a racing game.
- Challenge the kids to race to flip over all the distraction pictures so they are face down and Jesus is face up.

### What You Say:

“Great job! In our Bible Story today, Jesus and His disciples stopped in the town of Bethany at the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. These siblings were close friends of Jesus and super-excited to welcome Him and His friends into their house. Martha was busy doing all of the things to make their visit wonderful. Martha may have been preparing a meal or getting the house ready for all those guests. Mary, on the other hand, took a seat right at Jesus’ feet as He spoke. She didn’t want to miss a single word. Martha got frustrated because Mary wasn’t helping her, but what Mary chose to do was the better thing.

“Spending time with Jesus is most important. We can all get busy and get distracted, like Martha. It’s not bad to like playing soccer or watching TV, but our Bible Story reminds us to put Jesus above everything else. Mary knew what was most important, and that was spending time with Jesus. It’s important that we remember to make time for Jesus every day. Now, we still need to go to school, and clean our rooms, and help others, and do our homework, but we also need to remember to make time for Jesus. We can **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**. When we make time for Jesus, we remember that He is with us, and we can do all of those things aware that He is right there with us!”



### 3. Memory Verse Activity- Quiet Line Up

#### What You Need:

- Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3

#### 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.
- Tell the kids you have a challenge for them. They have to line up in different ways, but they have to do it without talking! They can only use hand signals and gestures.
- Give them the first challenge: "Line up from shortest to tallest, without talking!"
- Give them the next challenge: "Line up in alphabetical order by your first name, without talking!"
- Give them one more: "Line up in order of your birthdays, from January to December, without talking!" (You may need to help with this one.)
- Once they are in their final line, open a Bible and read the verse, Philippians 2:3, to the group.
- Say the Memory Verse together as a group.

#### What You Say:

"Wow, you had to work together and put others first to get in the right order. Our Memory Verse is all about that! It's so important to take time to learn verses from the Bible. That way wherever we are, we can remember God's Word. The Bible is the truth that God has told us! When we choose to be humble and put others first, including Jesus, it helps us remember that really only one thing is needed: to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**"

#### 4. Pray and Dismiss

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

##### What To Do:

- Tell the kids that you're going to pray in an "upside down" way.
- Invite them to find a safe space to lie on their backs.
- Lead them in a simple prayer while they look up at the ceiling.
- For fun, some kids might want to try putting their feet up on a wall.

##### What You Say:

"We can pray anytime, anywhere, and in any position—even upside down! God always hears us. Let's pray and ask God to help us remember to spend time with Him this week, just like Mary did.

"Dear Jesus, thank You for wanting to spend time with us every single day. It's easy to get worried and upset about many things, but please help us to remember to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.** We want to go through life knowing You are with us, so our hearts can rest in You no matter how busy things get. Help us to be like Mary and choose what is better, spending time with You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."