

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 2

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

Bottom Line: Remember God is most important.

Conversation Starter: How do you show that God is 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*

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another awesome week of 'Upside Down!' How's everybody doing today?"

"I'm so glad you're here because this month, we're learning about what it looks like to live differently, to treat others the way Jesus treats us. And today, we're talking about something that can really flip our thinking: remembering that God is most important, not us.

"Looks like it's time to check out our Bottom Line! Let's see what it is for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] **"Remember God is most important.** Today, we're going to learn about a very important person who knew that God is the most important! This story will help us remember that we should always go to Him first. It's so good to have such a good God in charge!"

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hey, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here and ready to worship today! We’re starting off with a song called ‘Praise.’ This one is all about lifting our voices and giving God the honor He deserves. When we praise God, it changes our focus. Instead of looking at what’s wrong or what we don’t have, we look at who He is. He’s powerful, He’s good, and He never changes. So let’s sing it out and give Him our best praise!

SONG: “Praise”

“Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here’s what we can remember today—worship doesn’t stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

“This whole month, we’re learning how to live with humility, to think of others the way Jesus does. When we understand how much God loves us, it changes how we treat people and live every single day. This month’s Memory Verse is Philippians 2:3! I’ll read it, and then we can say it together.

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

WORSHIP LEADER: “*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 (NirV)*”

“Let’s say it together!”

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: “*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 (NirV)*”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Awesome job, everyone! That verse reminds us that when we choose humility, to not try to be first in everything, but to be aware of others in our lives. Let’s try to memorize this Scripture for this whole month!

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: So and So Show

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “That same kind of faith is what Jesus invites us to have. Whether you realize it or not, we all have moments when we try to take control. We think: ‘If I just work harder, if I just fix this, if I just prove myself—I can make it right.’ But that is when life starts to feel upside down. You get tired, anxious, and frustrated because you’re trying to do what only God can do.

“Instead, Jesus invites us to come to Him first. To stop trying to handle everything alone. It’s not about praying perfect prayers or having everything figured out. It’s simply about saying, ‘Jesus, I trust You.’

“When we’re frustrated, we can know that God is most important, and go to Him first. When we’re scared, or happy, we can **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**, and make time for Him. Throughout the day, make God the most important.

“When you make God the most important part of your life, everything else starts to fall into place. You stop worrying so much about what you can’t control, and start finding peace in knowing that He is already working. That doesn’t mean life will always be easy, but it does mean you don’t have to carry it all yourself. When you run to Jesus first—like the Roman commander did—you will see that He has the power to do more than you ever could on your own.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “So this week, when things get hard or feel out of control, I want you to remember the Roman commander. He had every reason to rely on his own power, but instead, he chose to trust Jesus. That is what real faith looks like. It’s not about having all the answers. It is about knowing who to run to first.

“When life feels upside down, when things don’t go your way, or when it feels easier to worry or give up, stop for a second and remember who is really in control. Run to Jesus. Let Him lead. He is strong! He is the strongest!

“The world tells us that we have to prove ourselves, that we have to stay in control. But Jesus shows us something different. He shows us that when we put God first, knowing He is most important, everything else finds its right place. That is why we remember this simple truth.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Remember God is most important. Say that with me!

COMMUNICATOR AND KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Remember God is most important.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Before we head to small groups, I want to leave you with one last question to think about.”

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] “How do you show that God is most important?”

“Today we talked about a Roman commander who was in charge of all of these soldiers, yet he chose to trust Jesus instead of himself. That is a huge reminder for all of us. Because sometimes, without even realizing it, we start running to other things first—our friends, our phones, our plans, or even our own strength. But real faith starts when we realize that God is most important.

“So think about this: How do you show that God is important? Maybe it’s taking a few minutes to pray before your day starts. Maybe it’s thanking Him before you post or text. Maybe it’s showing kindness when you really don’t want to.

“Whatever it looks like for you, remember that you can show God is most important through the choices you make and the way you treat people. Just like the commander, you can trust that Jesus’ words are true and His power is real. The same God who was in charge of the Roman commander’s life is in charge of yours!

“As you go to small group, talk about it. Be honest. Share what gets in the way sometimes, and talk about how you can make God first again this week. Because when we run to Jesus first, everything else starts to fall into place.”

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s talk to the God who is in charge.”

“God, we want to trust You, even when it does not make sense. Help us to remember that You are the most important part of our lives. When we are tempted to try to fix everything on our own, remind us to run to You first. When we start to worry or feel out of control, remind us that You are strong enough to handle it. We are choosing to trust You more this week. We want to put You first in what we say, in what we do, and in how we treat others. We love You, Jesus, and we want to follow You every day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

SLIDE: Theme