

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

Bible Story: Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be humble.

Conversation Starter: When has someone put you 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*

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!' That's our theme this month, and it's our last week!

"This whole month, we've been learning how following Jesus turns our world upside down. It changes the way we think, the way we live, and the way we treat people around us.

"Now, I don't know about you, but sometimes when the world is turned upside down, it gets a little confusing!

When Jesus came, He flipped everything upside down—what people expected about the world and what it means to follow God.

"Let's look at our Bottom Line for today. It reminds us that we can be humble like Jesus!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

HOST: [Bottom Line] "Jesus showed us how to be humble!"

"Say that with me!"

HOST AND KIDS: [Bottom Line] "Jesus showed us how to be humble!"

HOST: "Exactly. Today, we're going to see how Jesus, the King of kings, didn't act like any king you'd expect. He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He washed His friends' feet. And He showed everyone what real greatness looks like—putting others first."

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hey, everyone! Welcome to our final week of our series called ‘Upside Down!’ It’s been such a great month learning how to live and love the way Jesus did, and today we’re talking about something He showed us perfectly: humility.

“Let’s kick things off with a song that reminds us who deserves all our attention and praise. When we sing the song ‘Praise,’ we’re giving God the glory for who He is—powerful, faithful, and good. Let’s stand up, sing loud, and give Him everything we’ve got!

SONG: “Praise”

“That was awesome! Let’s remember to always worship Jesus! You all can take a seat!”

“This whole month, we’ve been learning a Memory Verse—it’s Philippians 2:3! It helps remind us that real greatness doesn’t come from being first or having all the attention. It comes from being humble and choosing to put others before yourself. I’ll read it out loud, 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: “When we live out that verse, we start to look more like Jesus. He didn’t use His power to show off—He used it to serve. This week, look for ways to follow His example. Maybe it’s helping without being asked, letting someone else go first, or saying something kind when you don’t have to. Let’s live this verse out this week!”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: So and So Show

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “When Jesus knelt down to wash His friends’ feet, He wasn’t just being nice. He was showing us something powerful. He was teaching us that real greatness doesn’t come from having everyone notice you or listen to you, it comes from choosing to serve. When we put others first, we start to look more like Him. That’s what humility really is: not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Humility is remembering that other people matter too.

“Living like Jesus means making time to serve instead of waiting to be served. It means noticing the people others ignore. It might mean giving up being right in an argument so peace can win instead. It could be sitting with someone alone, letting your sibling go first, or helping out without being asked. Every time you choose to serve, you show people what Jesus looks like.

“Now, that’s not easy. The world doesn’t celebrate humility. The world says, ‘Be first. Be the best. Be seen.’ But Jesus flipped that upside down. He showed us that the greatest people are the ones who serve. The strongest people are the ones who forgive. The most powerful people are the ones who love, even when it costs them something. That’s the kind of life Jesus invites you to live, a life that points to Him.

“So when you go through this week, look for ways to live upside down. You can choose to love when it’s easier to stay mad, to help when no one says thank you, to listen when someone needs a friend. Because when you live with humility, you’re showing the world what real love looks like—the love of Jesus.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “So this week, when you think about Jesus, the King who could’ve demanded anything, but chose to serve, who chose to ride in on a donkey into Jerusalem, let it remind you to live in humility too. The world says to stand taller, to grab attention, to be first. But Jesus says to kneel, to lift others, and to serve first. When you choose to serve instead of shine, when you choose kindness over credit, you’re showing the world who your King really is.

“Jesus didn’t just tell His followers to live differently; He showed them how. He washed feet. He carried a cross. He gave up His life so that we could find ours. And now He invites *you* to do the same: to love first, to serve first, and to live with a heart that says, ‘More of Jesus, less of me.’ Because when you make space for Him to lead, He’ll help you see people the way He does, and that kind of love can change the world.

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

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] “When has someone put you first?”

“When has someone done something kind for you, even when they didn’t have to? Maybe a friend who let you go first, a parent who listened when you messed up, or a teacher who gave you another chance.

Maybe it was something small ... maybe it was something that made you feel seen, loved, or cared for. When someone puts you first, it reminds you what real love looks like. It's not loud or flashy. It's humble!

“So think about that this week: *When has someone put you first?* And how could you do the same for someone else? Because every time we choose to serve—every time we put others first—we're following the example of Jesus.”

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: “Let's talk to the God who will help us be humble!

“Jesus, thank You for showing us what real love looks like. Sometimes we want to be first. We want to be noticed. But You remind us what real love and humility look like. Help us to follow Your example, to love people the way You do—to listen, to forgive, and to look for ways to lift others up. When it's hard to be humble, remind us of You kneeling to wash Your friends' feet. When we feel like we need to win, remind us that You already won by giving Your life for us. Teach us to live every day with hearts that say, ‘More of You, less of me.’ We love You, Jesus. Thank You for loving us first. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.”

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SLIDE: Theme