

# K5 | W3

## Leader's Summary

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.

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

### Small Group (20 minutes)

Connect time

### Large Group (30 minutes)

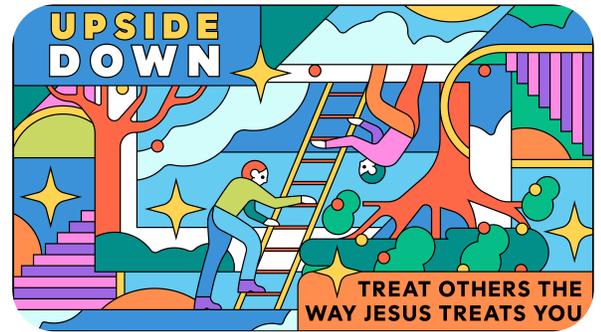
Countdown and Welcome  
Large Group Game  
Worship  
Story  
Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review  
Activity 1  
Activity 2  
Prayer

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Devotionals for Kids



### Bible Story

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

### Conversation Starter

How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?

### 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

5 min

# Connect Time

5 min

## Welcome Time

### What You Need

 Video Arrival Music

0

### What You Do:

From doors opening, to start of large group - Play intro music in the background as you greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks.

Connect time is spent building relationships with some intentional connecting with kids before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or playing or just sit and listen to each other. You can ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

### Transition to Large Group..

5 min

# Large Group

5 min

## Countdown and Welcome

### What You Need

No supplies needed

## Game

### What You Need

 upbeat music

### What to Do:

Cue countdown video and invite kids to sit down with their group leaders.

Theme Slide

"Hey, everybody! Welcome back to another week of our series called 'Upside Down!' I'm so glad you're here today. This month, we're learning something HUGE—that following Jesus doesn't always look the way the world expects. In fact, sometimes it feels backward ... opposite ... and totally upside down!

"My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

"Now, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: (Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

"Think about it, there are times when the normal way to act is to get even, get angry, or only be kind to people who are kind to you. But Jesus doesn't teach the 'normal' way. He teaches us a BETTER way ... a way that feels different, surprising, and yes, upside down.

"And today's game? It's going to get us thinking in that upside-down, opposite kind of way. Because nothing in this game works the normal way! If you do what you *think* you should do ... you'll be wrong. If you do the opposite ... you'll win! Today's game is called: 'Get Backwards!'

*SLIDE: Get Backwards! Title*

"All right, here's how it works. I'm going to give you super simple instructions. Stuff like 'Sit!' or 'Clap!' or 'Walk!' But in this game ... you must NOT do what I say. You have to do the opposite.

"Let me give you an example. If I say, 'Sit!' ... you should stand up or stretch tall. If I say, 'Freeze!' ... you should move around quickly. If I say, 'Walk!'... you should stand still. Got it?

"Okay, everybody up on your feet with some space around you. Let's warm up with a few practice rounds.

*AUDIO: Upbeat music*

## Round 1 (Practice)

"Ready? Clap!

*Watch kids intentionally NOT clap. If needed, reiterate that they're supposed to do the opposite of what you say.*

"Nice! Now, be angry!

*Watch kids intentionally NOT be angry and instead act happy, sad, etc. If needed, reiterate that they're supposed to do the opposite of what you say.*

"Perfect! You guys are already getting the hang of it.

## Round 2 (Game Begins)

"Okay, now the challenge begins!

"Sit!

"Walk forward!

"Freeze!

"Shout!

"Whisper!

"Be scared!

"Be tired!

"Stand still!

"Great job, everyone! Okay, now let's try a fast round ...

### **\*\*If time allows you can play a Lightning Round**

"Whew! You all did awesome! Give yourselves a round of *baby claps*.

"You know, doing everything the opposite way feels weird, right? It feels backwards. It feels upside down. And honestly ... sometimes that's what it feels like when we follow Jesus.

"Jesus teaches us to do things that aren't always easy—things that other people might not expect. And one of the hardest things Jesus tells us to do is to show love to people who aren't kind to us. To choose kindness when someone makes us mad. To respond with love even when it feels like the total opposite of what we want to do.

"That's upside-down love, and it's exactly what we're going to learn about today! Okay, let's take a look at our Bottom Line.

8 min

# Worship

3 min

## Worship Opener

### What You Need

-  Praise 0
-  I Thank God 1

5 min

## Memory Verse

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### SLIDE: Bottom Line

#### WORSHIP LEADER:

Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

"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!

"Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's one of my favorites because it reminds us how to live *Upside Down*, the way Jesus wants us to live."

"Let's break it down so we can understand it better, and then we'll all say it together!

*"Don't do anything only to get ahead.* That means, don't just think about yourself.

*Don't do it because you are proud.* That means, don't brag or try to look better than someone else.

*Instead, be humble.* 'Humble' means putting others first.

*Value others more than yourselves.* That means treating people like they matter ... because they *do!*

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

**LGL:** *"Don't do anything only to get ahead."*

**KIDS:** *"Don't do anything only to get ahead."*

**LGL:** *"Don't do it because you are proud."*

**KIDS:** *"Don't do it because you are proud."*

**LGL:** *"Instead, be humble."*

**KIDS:** *"Instead, be humble."*

**LGL:** *"Value others more than yourselves."*

24 min

## Bible Story (Video)

12 min

### StoryLab Bible Story | Video

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

### So and So Show Bible Story | Video

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

## Closing

5 min

### WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

**KIDS:** "Value others more than yourselves."

**LGL:** "Philippians 2:3!"

**KIDS:** "Philippians 2:3!"

"Awesome job! You just said the Memory Verse like pros! This verse reminds us to put others before ourselves. We can start with even the small things, like sharing a toy or asking if you can help someone clean. Ask God this week to help you be humble and value others this week! That's what living *Upside Down* looks like!"

"Now let's listen to our story."

"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, who loves His enemies, comes to live inside of you. Ask for His help! You can pray, 'God, I need Your help to show Your love to this person who hurt me.'

"And then, do what you can do to show God's love. Choose kindness instead of getting back at someone. Instead of insulting someone who insults you, say something kind. Pray for the people who hurt you. Ask God to show them His love for them.

3 min

## PRAYER

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"When you choose to be kind to someone who is mean to you, you put aside your need to get back at them. It takes true humility to put others first and love like Jesus, even when it's hard.

"Showing love to someone you don't get along with doesn't come naturally. But that's why it's so important and so powerful. God loves everyone. When people see you choosing to love when it's hard, they'll know that you're different. They'll see that you're a follower of Jesus.

"Loving people you don't get along with is tough. But it's one of the most powerful ways that you can live like Jesus. And He will help you as you try.

"We're going to pray but here is the basic truth slide, which truth goes with our story. Take a look, we will keep this slide on the screen, and when you go to small group, this will be the first thing you talk about.

"Let's talk to God who will help us show this upside-down kindness.

"Jesus, thank You for loving us no matter what. Thank You for showing us how to love people, even when it's hard. Please help us this week to love like You. When someone hurts our feelings, help us to stay kind. When someone is mean, help us to forgive. When we want to get even, help us to remember how much You love us. Thank You for always being with us and helping us show Your love to others. We need Your help. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

25 min

# Small Group

10 min

## Activity 1 - Love Challenge

### What You Need

	"Love Challenge" Activity Page	1
	"Challenge Stickers" Activity Page (One set per kid)	1
	Scissors	5
	Coloring supplies	Several

**Spend 5 minutes at the start of small group time looking at the basic truth statements and share which basic truth fits into this story and why.**

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Love Challenge" Activity Page and instruct them to decorate around the exterior of their paper.
- Direct the kids to select three heart stickers from the "Challenge Stickers" Activity Page to add to their "Love Challenge" Activity Page.
- Use the scissors to cut out (Precut for K-2)
- Instruct kids to color in the hearts as they complete each challenge.

### What You Say:

"Jesus said that we should not only love our friends but also love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us (Matthew 5:44). This challenge is about choosing kindness and putting others first, even when it's hard—that's how we show the world we are His followers!

"Jesus said that if someone forces you to go one mile, you should go two miles (Matthew 5:41). That means choosing to do more than what is required, especially for someone who might not expect it or even deserve it. When you choose kindness instead of revenge, you are showing the powerful love of Jesus.

"As you go through your week and color in the hearts of the challenges you complete, remember with each one, you are loving like Jesus when it's easy and when it's hard. This really captures the 'upside down' message Jesus was teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. It's easy to love people who are nice to you. But loving your enemies? That takes God's help, big time. And Jesus ended by saying, '*So be perfect, just as your father in heaven is perfect*' (Matthew 5:48 NIV). It's not our natural reaction to be kind to people who are unkind to us. But Jesus calls us to a higher standard, to be like our Father in heaven. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**, because that's what shows the world what God's love really looks like.

**K-2 Color the color by number on the back after your kids select their challenge stickers.**

### Discussion Questions (3rd-5th grade)

#### Ask 2 or 3 of the following questions:

- Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you. Why do you think Jesus wants us to respond to mean or hurtful people with love instead of revenge?
- Going the "extra mile" was a choice the person could make to show kindness. What might it look like for you to "go the extra mile" for someone who isn't kind to you?
- It's easy to love people who love us back, but Jesus asks for more. What's the difference between the kind of love Jesus talked about and the kind of love most people show?
- Jesus said that when we love our enemies, we show we are God's children. How can showing love to difficult people help others see what God is like?
- Loving others like Jesus can feel impossible sometimes. When it's really hard to be kind or forgiving, what can you do to let God help you love that person anyway?

10 min

## Activity 2 Bible Literacy - The 12 Disciples

### What You Need

 12 disciple cards

1

5 min

## Prayer

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Look up passage.
- Then identify the 12 disciples pictures as they are mentioned in the passage
- k-2 do the word search
- 3-5 do the word scramble
- Play Memory if time allows - the the cards upside down and try to find the match.

### Look up and read passage as a group

- Matthew 10:1-4

### Find the pictures of the disciples as they are mentioned in the passage.

### Hand out the word search or word scramble, one per child.

### If time allows play memory game with the 12 disple cards and try to find the pairs.

### What To Do:

- Say, "Let's take a minute to have a quiet talk with God. I want you to think about one person who is sometimes hard to love. You don't have to say their name out loud. Just picture them in your mind."
- Give the kids a few moments of quiet.
- Say, "Now, let's ask God to help us love that person. You can just think the words in your heart."
- After another moment of quiet, close the time in prayer.

### What You Say:

"It can feel really hard to love people who are not kind to us. But Jesus told us to '*pray for those who hurt you*' (*Matthew 8:44 NIV*). He gives us the strength to love even our enemies. And we can ask Him for help! Let's finish praying.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us to love others the way You do, sending sun and rain on everyone. Give us Your strength so we can **[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."

# Supplies

## Welcome Time

	Quantity
1. Video Arrival Music	0

## Game

	Quantity
1. upbeat music	1

## Worship Opener

	Quantity
1. Praise	0
2. I Thank God	1

## Activity 1 - Love Challenge

	Quantity
1. "Love Challenge" Activity Page	1
2. "Challenge Stickers" Activity Page (One set per kid)	1
3. Scissors	5
4. Coloring supplies	Several

## Activity 2 Bible Literacy - The 12 Disciples

	Quantity
1. 12 disciple cards	1