

K-5 | W4

Leader Summary:

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.

Small Group (20minutes)

Connect Time

Large Group (30minutes)

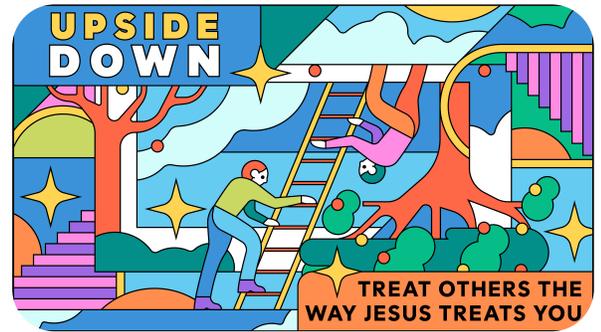
Countdown & Welcome
Large Group Game
Worship
Story
Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review
Activity 1
Activity 2
Prayer

Home:

Devotionals for Kids



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

20 min

Connect Time

20 min

Connect Time

What You Need

 VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC

0

10 min

Large Group

5 min

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

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...

What You Say:

"Hey, everyone! Welcome back!

"We are going to have a lot of fun, but before we get going let's go over our KidCity Expectations so that we can make sure that we make the most of our time today."

SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS

(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

SLIDE: Theme

"I'm so glad you're here today. This month's theme is 'Upside Down!' This whole month, we've been learning that following Jesus sometimes means living in a way that looks totally different from what everyone else does. It's upside down, but it's the best way to live!"

5 min

Large Group Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have a pre-determined song ready for the Backward Freeze Dance game.

What You Say:

"Now, we're going to start today with a game that's all about doing things the opposite way. It's called 'Backward Freeze Dance!'

SLIDE: Backward Freeze Dance Title

"Here's how it works: when the music is playing, you freeze! Don't move a muscle! But when the music *stops* ... that's when you dance like crazy! You've got to move, groove, and go all out, because that's the backward, upside-down part!

"Got it? Music plays, you freeze. Music stops, you dance. Let's give it a quick practice round.

Practice Round

"Okay, let's try it out. Everyone, spread out and get some space!

"Music ON!

AUDIO: Play a fun, upbeat song or one the kids love and are used to.

"Freeze!

Walk around the room, look, and enthusiastically comment on the kids frozen in funny poses.

"Wow, these are some statues! It's so hard not to dance when the music is playing, right?

"Music OFF, dance!

Pause the music and enthusiastically comment on the kids' dancing.

"Yes! You got it! You guys are ready for the real thing.

Round One

"All right, here we go. When the music's on, freeze. When it's off, dance like you mean it!

AUDIO: Play a fun, upbeat song or one the kids love and are used to.

Music plays, kids freeze. Music pauses, kids dance. Go back and forth several times, mixing up the length of the pauses.

"Freeze!

"Dance!

"Freeze!

"Dance!

"Awesome job, everyone! You nailed it! Let's all take a breather, and we can get instructions for the next round!

Round Two: Silly Dance Moves

"All right, this round, let's add some silly moves. When you dance, I'll give you some crazy moves to do. The sillier, the better!

"Ready? The music is OFF—so dance like you're made of JELLY!
Start the music.

"And music ON ... everybody freeze!

Walk around the room, look and comment enthusiastically at the kids frozen in funny poses. Stop the music.

"Okay, music OFF—dance like a CHICKEN!

Music plays, kids freeze. Music pauses, kids dance. Go back and forth several times, mixing up the length of the pauses. But this time, share the silly dance moves you'd like to add when the music is off.

"Music OFF—dance like a sleepy sloth!

11 min

Worship

3 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

Music ON—kids freeze.

"Music OFF—dance like you just won a gold medal!

Music ON—freeze.

"Great job, everyone! You can take a seat.

"That game sure was backwards, wasn't it? It felt funny to freeze when the music played and dance when it stopped. It didn't work the way we expected!

"But that's kind of what Jesus teaches us to do too. Sometimes, His way feels upside down compared to what we're used to. Everyone around us might be rushing around trying to do other things first, but Jesus said something different. He said the most important thing we can do is *make time for Him first*.

"When we slow down and spend time with Jesus, it helps everything else in our day work better!

"Let's check out our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first. That's what we're learning about today—how we can make Jesus first in our lives! Can you say that with me?"

Together: [Bottom Line] "Make time for Jesus first!"

What You Say: "Great job, everyone!"

What You Say:

"Hey, that was a lot of fun! Since worship is one of the best ways we can make time for Jesus, let's go ahead and stand up, stretch those arms, and get ready to praise!"

What You Say:

"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 all through the week!

"Now, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's such a good reminder of what it means to live the *upside-down* way, God's way. It's not about being first or trying to get ahead. It's about slowing down, being humble, and putting others first, just like Jesus. It's Philippians 2:3! I'll read it, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

3 min

Worship Closer & Story Intro

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Large Group Wrap Up

2 min

Outro

"Now, repeat after me, nice and loud!
"Don't do anything only to get ahead.
 (kids repeat)

"Don't do it because you are proud.
 (kids repeat)

"Instead, be humble.
 (kids repeat)

"Value others more than yourselves.
 (kids repeat)

"Philippians 2:3!
 (kids repeat)

What You Say:

"Awesome job! This verse helps us remember how to treat people in the best way. Jesus is the one who helps us learn the best way to live. That's what the women in our story learn today. Let's check out our story from the book of Luke, chapter 10, verses 38-42. As we watch the video for our Bible story, listen for who chose the better way.

What You Say:

"Jesus loved Mary and Martha both, but he reminded Martha that before we do anything *for* Him, we need to take time to be *with* Him. So, our part is, before we jump into our busy days, let's remember to make time for Jesus first.

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Prayer**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"As we close out our time I want you to take a look at the Basic Truth slide and decide which one goes with our story best. You'll discuss this when you are in your small group. We'll leave the slide up for you to think about it."

SLIDE: Basic Truths

What You Say:

"But right now, let's talk to the God who values our friendship so much!

"Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us what really matters. Sometimes, we get so busy doing things that we forget to stop and spend time with You. Help us to make time for You first, before we start our day, before we make decisions, and even when we feel too busy. Thank You for loving us, for giving us peace, and for helping our hearts stay connected to You. We love You, and we want to stay plugged in to You every day. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

15 min

Small Group

5 min

Activity 1 - Upside Down Drawing

What You Need

👤	White board	3
👤	Dry erase marker	3
👤	Optional: sock or paper towel for erasing	1

10 min

Activity 2 - Memory Verse Toss

What You Need

👤	piece of paper (crumpled into a ball)	1
👤	Memory Verse printout	1

Spend 5 minutes at the start of small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements. Discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why.

What You Do:

- Tell the kids they are going to draw in a very silly, "upside down" way.
- You need 3 kids to draw and 3 kids to hold white boards.
- One child lays on their back and draws on the white board. Another child holds the board in the air above the child laying down.
- Instruct him/her to draw a picture of a way they can spend time with Jesus, maybe going to church, praying to Jesus, or reading the Bible.
- Have them show their picture to the group and see if the group can guess.
- Repeat several times as time allows.

What You Say:

"That was a fun challenge! Drawing upside down is not easy! Sometimes, making time for Jesus when our schedule is already busy can feel 'upside down.' But Jesus told us that Mary had chosen what is better. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.** Martha was so busy doing good things *for* Jesus that she forgot to simply spend time *with* Jesus. And Jesus said that being with Him is the most important thing. The most important priority of your life, every day, is your friendship with Jesus."

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Have the kids to stand or sit in a circle.
- Use a piece of paper to make a crumpled paper ball.
- Start the game by tossing the paper ball to a kid while you say the first word of the verse, "Don't ..."
- Instruct the kid who catches it to say the next word in the Memory Verse, "... do ..." and toss it to someone else.
- Encourage the next kid who catches it to say the next word of the Memory Verse, "... anything ..." and toss it on.
- Tip: Leave the memory verse page in the middle of the circle if needed. Let kids ask for help and show the memory verse printout as a quick review when stuck. Turn the memory verse upside down for an extra challenge.
- Continue tossing the paper ball around the circle, with each kid saying the next word of the Memory Verse until it's complete.
- Play several times, encouraging the kids to go faster each time.

What You Say:

"You are getting so good at remembering that verse! Taking the time to learn verses from the Bible is important so we can always remember God's Word, wherever we are! *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't*

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3 NIV). When we are humble and put others first, it helps us remember that Jesus is the most important Person. We can be humble, and put Jesus first in our busy, busy schedules. It helps us remember that only one thing is needed: to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**"

What YouDo:

- Ask the kids, "When is a good time for you to sit with Jesus this week?" (e.g., before bed, in the car on the way to school)

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.** 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."

Supplies

Connect Time

	Quantity
1. VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC	0

Activity 1 - Upside Down Drawing

	Quantity
1. White board	3
2. Dry erase marker	3
3. Optional: sock or paper towel for erasing	1

Activity 2 - Memory Verse Toss

	Quantity
1. piece of paper (crumpled into a ball)	1
2. Memory Verse printout	1