

# FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

MAR 8

## Upside Down: Treat Others the Way Jesus Treats You

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

**Conversation Starter:** How do you show that God is important?

**Bottom Line:** Remember God is most 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 NlrV

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY

### Opening Activity

#### What You Need:

- No Supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Instruct the group to stand up and spread out.
- Explain that you're going to play "Do the Opposite." You will give a command, and the kids are to do the exact opposite as quickly as they can.
- Start with simple commands and get faster as they get the hang of it.
  - "Jump up high!" (*They should crouch down low.*)
  - "Sit down!" (*They should stand up.*)
  - "Whisper your name!" (*They should shout their name.*)
  - "Look to the left!" (*They should look to the right.*)
  - "Put your hands on your head!" (*They should put their hands on their toes.*)
- Let kids take turns giving the commands.

#### What You Say:

"Nice job! It takes a lot of focus to do the opposite of what you're told. Sometimes the way Jesus asks us to live feels opposite to what the world tells us to do.

**[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, a powerful Roman commander—an enemy of the Jewish people—shows us a different,

'upside-down' way to think about power and authority. Let's go find out more."

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY:

### 1. Bible Story Extension

#### What You Need:

- Bible, marked at Matthew 8:5-13 (NlrV)

#### What You Do:

- Explain that as you retell the story of the Roman commander, you're going to call out "Freeze!" at key moments.
- When you say "Freeze!", everyone is to freeze in a pose that represents that part of the story.
- Open your Bible and read through the story, pausing at the bullet points below to have them freeze.
  - Jesus entered the city of Capernaum. (*Maybe they pose like they are walking.*)
  - The Roman commander approached Jesus with a worried look while he explained about his sick servant. (*Pose with a worried/pleading face.*)
  - The commander said to Jesus, "Just say the word and my servant will be healed" (*Matthew 8:8 NlrV*). (*Pose with a hand up, showing humility and trust in Jesus' authority.*)
  - Jesus was amazed at the commander's faith. (*Pose with a shocked or impressed look.*)
  - The moment the servant was healed at that moment back at home. (*Pose by jumping up with joy and energy.*)
- After each freeze, talk about what was happening in that moment.

#### What You Say:

"Great job with those poses! My favorite one is when the commander said, 'Just say the word and my servant will be healed' (*Matthew 8:8 NlrV*). He was a very powerful guy with authority over about one hundred soldiers, but he was humble enough to know that Jesus' power was way bigger than his own. Jesus is most powerful. Jesus said He had not found faith so strong in all of Israel. The commander is a perfect example of what it looks like to **[Bottom Line]** remember God is most important.

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## 2. Verses to Take with You

### What You Need:

- Bibles
- Whiteboard and dry-erase marker or posterboard and marker
- Sticky notes

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Write each word or short phrase of the Memory Verse on a whiteboard or posterboard.
- Read the verse together a few times.
- Then, give one kid a sticky note to place over one word.
- Say the verse again with that word covered up.
- Give another kid a sticky note to cover another word.
- Recite the verse again as a group.
- Continue until all words are covered up.
- Say the verse one more time as a group.

### What You Say:

“Great job! You are really learning this Memory Verse. This verse is the definition of humility. When we truly believe that God is most important, it makes it a lot easier to live this verse out and value others more than ourselves. **[Bottom Line] Remember God is most important.**”

## 3. Discussion Questions

### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask:

- The Roman commander had a lot of power, but he still asked Jesus for help. What does that tell us about what it means to be strong or in charge in God’s eyes?
- Jesus was amazed by the commander’s faith. What do you think it means to have the kind of faith that “amazes” Jesus?

- The commander believed Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking. What are some things in your life that you need to trust God can handle—without you having to control it?
- The Roman commander humbled himself, even though he was important. What are some ways you can show humility and remember that God is most important in your own life?
- Jesus said people from all over would be part of God’s kingdom—not just a certain group. How does that change the way you think about who God’s love is for and how we should treat others?

## 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

### What You Say:

- Say, “The Roman commander knew that God’s authority was bigger than any problem and stronger than any sickness. Sometimes, it’s good to just stop and remember how big God is. Nothing is too big for God. We can take any problem or worry or fear to God. We can trust God no matter what.”
- Lead the kids in a “silent prayer.”
- Instruct the kids to pray silently for something big in their life that they want to ask God for help with.

### What You Say:

“It’s good to pause and remember who is in charge and the ultimate authority. The Roman commander had faith that Jesus could heal his servant just by saying the word. Let’s close in prayer.”

“God, thank You for being all-powerful and having all authority. Thank You for the example of the Roman commander who showed us what amazing faith looks like. Help us to be humble this week and to always **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”