

MAR 8

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

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

**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.
- Explain that you're going to play a version of "Simon Says."
- Say, "In this game, Simon is in charge. If I say, 'Simon says ...' you do the action. If I don't say 'Simon says,' you stay still!"
- Play a few rounds with simple commands:
- "Simon says touch your nose."
- "Simon says hop on one foot."
- "Wave your hands!" (*Try to trick them.*)
- "Simon says make a silly face."
- Continue playing, letting kids who are "out" help you spot others who move at the wrong time.

#### What You Say:

"You are all great listeners! You knew that Simon was the one in charge of the game, and you had to listen to Simon's words to know what to do.

**[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, we'll meet a Roman commander who was really important and was in charge of many soldiers.

But he knew who was REALLY in charge of everything. The commander had a servant who was really sick, but he knew there was Someone who had the power to heal him and make him all better. Let's go find out who it was!"

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

### 1. Act It Out

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Ask for volunteers to act out the story as you tell it. You'll need:
  - Jesus
  - The Roman commander (centurion)
  - The sick person (can lie on the floor)
  - A few disciples
- Retell the story simply, pausing to let the kids act out the parts.
  - "Jesus came into a town called Capernaum with His disciples." (*Have Jesus and the disciples walk into the group space.*)
  - "A Roman commander came up to Jesus. The Roman commander was very worried." (*Have the commander approach Jesus with a worried face.*)
  - "The commander said, 'Lord ... my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering terribly'" (*Matthew 8:6 NlrV*). (*Commander can point to the sick person lying on the floor.*)
  - "Jesus said, 'Shall I come and heal him?' (*Matthew 8:7 NlrV*) (*Jesus can take a step toward the sick person.*)
  - "But the commander said: 'Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed'" (*Matthew 8:8 NlrV*). (*Commander holds up his hand to stop Jesus.*)
  - "Jesus was amazed! He said he had not seen faith like that in all of Israel. Then he said to the commander, 'Go! It will be done just as you believed it would' (*Matthew 8:13 NlrV*). And the servant was healed that very moment!" (*Sick person can jump up and be all better!*)
- Give all your actors a big round of applause.

#### What You Say:

"Great job acting out our story! The commander was a very important person—he was in charge of more than one hundred soldiers. But he knew who was the

# K-ONE CURRICULUM

MAR 8

MOST important. He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word. He knew we should **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.**

“The commander knew that even though he commanded things to happen in his own job, Jesus is in charge of *everything*. Absolutely everything! The commander might have seen Jesus heal people already. And he got it: Jesus had the power to simply speak and change things with His word. The commander was an important person, but he knew who was the MOST important. Jesus! He knew Jesus had the power to heal his servant with just a word and that we should **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.**”

## 2. Color By Number

### What You Need:

- Bibles marked at Philippians 2:3
- “Memory Verse Color by Number” Activity Page
- Crayons or markers that match the colors on the page

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a “Memory Verse Color by Number” Activity Page and make the crayons or markers that match the colors on the page available.
- Explain that the kids will color the picture by matching the number in each space to the color in the key.
- As they color, read the Memory Verse that is on the page to the group: *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).*
- Help them find the numbers and the right colors.

### What You Say:

“Your pictures look so great! This verse helps us remember to be humble, which means putting others first. The Roman commander was not proud; he was humble when he said, ‘*Lord, I am not good enough*’ (Matthew 8:8 NIV). When we are humble, it shows that we **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**—not us!”

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### Pray to God | Prayer Activity

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What To Do:

- Remind the kids that the Roman commander asked Jesus for help. And Jesus helped!
- Say, “God is most important, and He is also the most powerful. He can help us with anything. Let’s take a turn telling God something we need help with.”
- Go around the group and let each kid finish this sentence: “God, please help me with ...”
- If a kid is shy, they can whisper it to you or just say “pass.”

**[Make It Personal] Share something simple you need God’s help with too.**

### What You Say:

“It’s so good to ask God for help. He loves to hear from us! God is always with us and will always help us. Nothing is too big or too hard for God. The commander had faith, and Jesus healed his servant right at that moment. Let’s close our time by praying for everyone in our group.

“Dear God, thank You that You are the most important and the most powerful. You are in charge of everything. Thank You for listening when we ask for help. Please help everyone in our group this week. Help us to always **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”