

# The Way

**Bible Story:** The Way (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane) • *Matthew 26:36-56 (Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)*

**Bottom Line:** Put others first.

**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 (NIRV)

**Life App:** Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### **1. Wake Up, Disciples**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bible, penny, nickel

#### **What You Do:**

- Invite everyone to sit in a tight circle on the floor.
- Place a penny and a nickel in the middle of the circle, within reach of all the kids.
- Ask kids if they remember anything involving some coins in today's Bible story. *(For a few coins, Judas led a mob of men to where Jesus was, though he knew they would harm him.)*
- Ask kids to place their hands in their laps, close their eyes, and lower their heads as if they're asleep.
- Explain that you will read a statement about today's Bible story then you will pause.
  - When they hear you say, "Wake up, disciples!" they should try to be the first to grab the nickel if the statement is true or the penny if it's false.
- Replace the coins after each round.
- Read from the following list of review statements or add others of your choosing.
  - For months the Jewish religious leaders had been plotting to kill Jesus. *(True)*
  - Judas was paid 20 pieces of silver to betray Jesus. *(False; 30 pieces)*
  - Jesus' disciples stayed up all night praying in the garden. *(False; they fell asleep)*
  - Peter promised Jesus he would never turn away from Him. *(True)*
  - Jesus prayed all night in the Garden of Eden. *(False; Garden of Gethsemane)*
  - In the garden, Jesus prayed for God's will to be done. *(True)*
  - Judas told the mob sent by the Jewish religious leaders that he would shake Jesus' hand and then they'd know who to arrest. *(False; he would kiss Jesus)*
  - When Peter cut a servant's ear with his sword, Jesus healed it. *(True)*
  - After Jesus was arrested, His disciples ran away even though they had promised to never leave Him. *(True)*

- When the Jewish leaders came to arrest Jesus, He hid in a grove of trees and prayed they wouldn't find Him. *(False)*
- The disciples bravely stood up for Jesus in front of the angry mob who'd come to arrest Jesus. *(False)*
- Jesus prayed for God's will to be done even if it meant He must die. *(True)*
- At the end of the review, ask kids to share examples from the story of ways people put others first and ways they didn't.
- Invite them to share examples from their own lives of opportunities they've recently had to put others first and/or when others have put them first.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when someone put you first in a big or small way.)**

### What You Say:

"Seeing Jesus being taken away must have been scary for the disciples. Not only that, but it was also confusing. They were sure Jesus had come to be their King—all He needed was the crown and a throne! But God's plan was not what they expected. We might say it was upside down from what everyone thought would happen. The disciples didn't do a great job of putting Jesus first when the pressure was on. Fear got the better of them. Instead of thinking about what Jesus needed, they turned and ran away. Kind of sad, isn't it? It's not always easy to **[Bottom Line] put others first**. Jesus was the only one to do that perfectly. This month, we'll discover ways Jesus showed humility and learn how we can follow His example."

## 2. Humility Action Plan

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** "Humility Action Plan" Activity Page; pens or pencils

### What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a copy of the "Humility Action Plan" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Ask them to think about the week ahead.
  - What will they be doing?
  - Where will they be going?
  - Who will they see on a regular basis?
  - Who will they see only once or twice?
- Instruct kids to fill in upcoming activities on the weekly calendar located on the left side of the Activity Page.
- When finished, ask the group to share some of their upcoming activities with one another and then brainstorm ways they might put others first this week during those activities.
- Kids then fill in the blanks on the right side of their papers with their own ideas or some the group came up with during the discussion.

### What You Say:

"If you want to **[Bottom Line] put others first** this week, you're going to need a plan. Why? I'm glad you asked! You need a plan because it's way too easy to put YOURSELF first instead of OTHERS! But God is so excited about helping you follow your 'Humility Action Plan' that He will give you His power to carry it out! Check your plan each day this week, and then ask God to help you follow the things on your list. He will do it, and so can you!"

**\* 3. Philippians 2:3****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Bibles, markers, paper

**What You Do:**

- Hand out Bibles.
- Assist the group in finding Philippians 2:3 in their Bibles, using the tips below.

***Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 2.

- If needed, explain that the Old Testament is all about God’s story before Jesus lived. The New Testament picks up God’s story when Jesus was born. Philippians 2:3 is part of a letter that a man named Paul wrote to a church in a place called Philippi after Jesus was on the earth. That means Philippians is in the New Testament.
- When everyone has found the verse, read it aloud by asking the kids to repeat it after you as they follow along in their Bibles.
- Distribute paper and markers.
- Working with a partner, ask kids to choose two words they feel are the most important in Philippians 2:3.
  - Instruct kids to write one word on the top of their page and the other in the middle.
- When finished, take turns letting partners share the words they chose and why they are important to the meaning of the verse.
- Invite kids to trade papers with someone from a different group.
- Instruct kids to rewrite the words on their paper by turning the page upside down and copying the letters. (In other words, they will be writing both words upside down.)

**What You Say:**

“Sometimes the way God wants us to live seems topsy-turvy or upside-down from the way we feel. He tells us to **[Bottom Line] put others first**, which is usually the opposite of what we often feel like doing. We like being first, getting our way, and doing what we want. But that’s not what humility is about. Putting others first by giving up what we think we deserve is what it means to be humble. The words you wrote on your paper remind us that Philippians 2:3 is an upside-down kind of verse. God is telling us to do something that doesn’t come easy to any of us. Writing a word upside-down isn’t easy but it’s even harder to live upside down by not being selfish. But don’t worry! If you ask God to turn your attitude upside down, He will help you think of others instead of yourself.”

## Pray and Dismiss

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Count off so that each kid has a different number.
- Call out one of the numbers.
- The person with that number becomes the first person in line.
- Everyone else must line up behind him or her in any order by the time you count to five.
- Pray for the person at the head of the line to be humble and put others first this week.
- For each round, if you have anyone who would like to volunteer to pray, let them do so.
- Repeat until every number has been called and each kid prayed for.

#### What You Say:

“Dear God, we need your help to **[Bottom Line] put others first**. It’s hard for us to do that. We like to be first—at the head of the line—and get what we want. Help us to focus on others instead of ourselves this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.”