

K5 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

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

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*

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Note: This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. (joinamazing.com/everychild)

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Light the Story

Application Activity: Upside Down Hearts

Memory Verse Activity: Prayer Chain

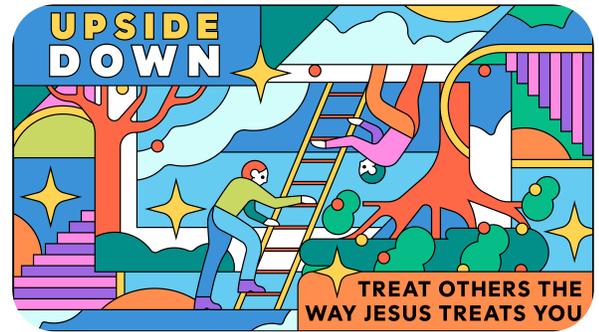
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

 Host	1
 Table	1
 kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for three new kid volunteers at the start of each round!)	3
 sets of blocks, enough for three kids to make an object	3
 small containers of Play-Doh®	3
 sheets of aluminum foil, long enough to make an object (may need more depending on how many rounds you do)	4

- Set up the blocks, Play-Doh®, and 2 sheets of aluminum foil on the table.

Things to have ready: Blocks, Play-Doh®, and aluminum foil lined up and ready on the table. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown). Game slide.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome! Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today. We've been learning that Jesus turns things *upside down!* That's our theme this month—'Upside Down!' That means Jesus shows us a brand new way to live. When we follow Jesus, we treat people the way HE treats us. Even when it's hard, we can love like Jesus.

"Now, I hope you're ready to be creative, because today we're starting with something fun! We're going to make art in a few totally different ways. Each round, we'll invite a few friends up front to use some supplies and make something awesome. Everyone else can cheer them on, and then I'll pick our winner!

"Everybody ready? Let's play the 'Upside Down Art Challenge'!

SLIDE: "Upside Down Art Challenge Title"

ROUND 1: BLOCKS—Build a House

"For our first round, I need three volunteers to come up front to help us get started! Raise your hand if you'd like to make some upside-down art!

Pick three kids from the ones who have their hands raised and line them up behind the table.

"Okay, friends, your challenge is to build a house using only these blocks. You can make it tall, short—but it has to be upside down! You'll have one minute to build before we see your awesome creations.

"Ready ... Set ... Go!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown).

"Look at that! Wow, that's so tall! Oh, I see a super-creative roof over there!

After the one-minute timer is up, stop the music, and say:

"And ... time's up! Great job, you guys! Every single house looks different, but each one is amazing. Now, let's pick our winner!

Pause briefly while Host looks over each creation. Add encouragement for each creation as you look it over, but pick the one that is the most creative, most resembles the object you asked them to make, and is upside down.

"Congrats, [kid's name], your creation is the winner! Great job, builders! Everyone, give our volunteers a big cheer!

ROUND 2: PLAY-DOH®—Make a Taco

"All right, who's ready for round two? I need three *new* volunteers to come up and help with our next upside-down art challenge! Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!

Pick three kids from the ones who have their hands raised and line them up behind the table.

"This time, you're making a taco! You can roll, squish, stretch, and shape it however you like. But remember, it needs to be upside down. Maybe you can make it and flip it upside-down at the end? Regardless of what you do, you only have one minute to finish your creation.

"Everybody ready? 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... go!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown).

"I see some taco shells forming! I'm getting hungry just watching you!

After the one-minute timer is up, stop the music, and say:

"Stop! Show everyone what you made! These all look delicious, but let's see who our winner is!

Pause briefly while Host looks over each creation. Add encouragement for each creation as you look it over, but pick the one that is the most creative, most resembles the object you asked them to make, and is upside down.

"Congrats, [kid's name], your creation is the winner! Great job to all our volunteers!

ROUND 3: ALUMINUM FOIL—Make a Flower

Hold up a sheet of aluminum foil.

"Okay, for our last round, I need three *new* volunteers to make the prettiest looking upside-down flower out of aluminum foil! Who'd like to volunteer?

Pick three kids from the ones who have their hands raised and line them up behind the table.

11 min

Worship Option 1 (Amazing Music)

"Ready ... Set ... Go!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown).

"Whoa! I see a flower taking shape! Ooh, that one looks like a shiny rose!

After the one-minute timer is up, stop the music, and say:

"Time's up! Show everyone your creations!

Pause while volunteers show off their creations.

"Great job, everyone! These are all so beautiful, but let's pick our winning creation!

Pause briefly while Host looks over each creation. Add encouragement for each creation as you look it over, but pick the one that is the most creative, most resembles the object you asked them to make, and is upside down.

"Congrats [kid's name], your creation is the winner! Let's give a big hand for all our volunteers!

If time allows, play several more rounds. Ask for three new volunteers each round and repeat the game. Other objects they can create out of the building supplies upside-down: a car, a pizza, a bird, etc.

"Wow, you all did such a great job creating upside-down art today. And you know what? That reminds me of how Jesus helps us see the world in a new way. He teaches us to love others even when they aren't kind. He helps us show kindness and forgiveness instead of getting even. That's what it means to live upside down—to treat others the way Jesus treats you."

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! Are you ready to worship? Today, our first song is called 'Praise.' It's all about lifting our voices to say, 'God,

3 min

Praise | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

I'm Free! | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

You're amazing!' There's *never* a bad time to thank God for His love. So let's stand tall, clap those hands, and show God how thankful we are!

"Now, let's sing another song that fits perfectly with what we're learning today. It's called 'I'm Free!' When we follow Jesus, we don't have to be stuck worrying about what people think or trying to be the best all the time. Jesus helps us live with joy and peace, even when it's hard. So let's jump, dance, and sing loud, because in Jesus, we are free!

"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!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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!"

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

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

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Instead, be humble."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Instead, be humble."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Value others more than yourselves."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Value others more than yourselves."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Philippians 2:3!"*

6 min

Worship Option 2 (Orange Kids Music)

3 min

O Praise | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Thank You God | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "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!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

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, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video**What You Need**

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION**What You Need**

 Storyteller	1
 Host	1
 Bible	1
 Table	1
 Adult volunteers	2

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

Make sure a table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it.

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we've been learning what it means to live *Upside Down!* That means doing things the way Jesus does, even when it feels totally different from what everyone else might do.

"Today, we're learning something that's really challenging, but also really powerful. We're going to see how Jesus taught us to love others, even when it's hard. Sometimes that means being kind to people who aren't kind back or forgiving someone when we'd rather stay mad. That's not easy, but it's the kind of love that changes everything!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"But before we dive into the true story from the Bible where Jesus teaches us that super-important truth, let me tell you about something amazing that we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JESUS TEACHES A DIFFERENT WAY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "So we're continuing our journey right through the Bible. We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on earth. Let's listen to what He had to teach us today!

"One day, Jesus went up on a mountainside to teach, and a big crowd of people joined. The people sat down on the grass and leaned in close to listen. They had heard that Jesus' words were full of wisdom and that He spoke with love and truth.

"Jesus began to tell them about God's Kingdom. This Kingdom was unlike any kingdom they had ever known. The people soon realized that what Jesus was saying was very different from the way they usually lived. In fact, everything He said turned their world upside down.

"Today, we are going to look at one of the most surprising things Jesus said that day. It's something about how to treat people who aren't kind to us. To help us understand, I need two adult volunteers. If you want to volunteer, raise your hand!

Choose two volunteers from the adults who have their hands raised. Assign one to act as the "person who is unkind," and the other to show "how Jesus wants us to respond."

"Alright, so my volunteers, one of you is going to act out a person being really mean. Now we all know you aren't really mean at all! You're just pretending to help us learn our Bible story! And my other volunteer, you will help us see how Jesus wants us to respond. I will give you both the instructions on what to do, so hang tight!

STORYTELLER: "So Jesus looked out at the people sitting on the hillside and said something they had heard before.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:28 (NIRV) and read.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.'"

"Okay, those are some interesting words for us to start out with! An eye for an eye ... a tooth for a tooth ... what does that mean? Well ... that meant, 'If someone hurts you, hurt them back, but only as much as they hurt you.' Now, that sounds harsh to us today, but those sorts of laws were given to keep people from fighting forever and ever. But Jesus was going to teach something upside-down:

5 min

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:39-42 (NIRV) and read.

"But here is what I tell you. Do not fight against an evil person. Suppose someone slaps you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to them also. Suppose someone takes you to court to get your shirt. Let them have your coat also. Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with them. Give to the one who asks you for something. Don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow something from you."

"Think about the people listening to Jesus. They were probably shocked! This was not something they were used to hearing or doing. Jesus was saying that we do not have to fight back when someone is unkind. We can choose peace and kindness instead. Let's imagine what this might look like.

"Let's pretend our 'unkind person' says something hurtful. Pretending mean volunteer, fold your arms and say meanly, 'We are playing video games and you can't play with us.'

Pause while the volunteer says the line in a mean way.

"Ouch. That's so hurtful. Would that hurt anyone's feelings here? (*Raise your hand and pause as the kids do.*) Same! A lot of people would say something mean back.

"But what did Jesus say to do?"

"Jesus said to choose peace and be kind.

"Other volunteer who just heard those words, let's react in kindness and say kindly, 'Okay, maybe next time.'"

Pause as the volunteer says those words.

"Wow, wow, wow. That is so powerful. The person who said the mean thing probably thought you were going to respond meanly back. But since you didn't, instead they're feeling the power of love! That's living upside-down!

"Volunteer who is pretending to be mean, can you act surprised?"

Pause as the volunteer does so.

"Great! That's what happens when we choose kindness and love in response to meanness! It's surprising and powerful!"

STORYTELLER: "Jesus kept teaching. He said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-45 (NIRV) and read.

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.' But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't."

"Wowwww. Love your enemies ... this is a hard thing to do. But Jesus shared an image of how God does it. God makes the sun shine and brings the life-giving rain on people who do good things and people who do wrong things. God is kind even to people who are not kind to Him. And Jesus said we should do the same thing since we are His kids.

"He said to love your enemies and pray for people who hurt you. That's so upside down! But it's exactly how Jesus lived.

"Let's see how that might look.

"Volunteer who had mean things said to them, let's pray for the volunteer who said the mean things. Say, 'Dear Jesus, please help [volunteer's name] see how much You love them.'

Pause as the volunteer does so.

"Wow. That's a powerful way to respond. Instead of being mean back, you chose kindness and prayer. You just poured out love on a hard situation. God does that every day with the sun and the rain! So when you do that, when you choose kindness in response to meanness, you show others what God's love looks like.

"Thank you, volunteers! You both were great actors! You can take a seat!

Pause as the volunteers return to their seats.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus finished by teaching this.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:46-48 (NIRV) and read.

"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people do that. So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

"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 NIRV).

"Not a single person ever has been perfect, except for Jesus! But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can grow more and more to be like Jesus as we learn to love our enemies like He does."

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "That day on the mountainside, Jesus showed everyone that God's love turns everything upside down. Instead of getting even, we can choose kindness. Instead of staying angry, we can forgive. Instead of being mean back, we can pray. When we do these things, we show the world what Jesus' love looks like. But remember, loving your enemies doesn't mean you ignore it when you are getting hurt. If someone is continuing to hurt you, make sure you talk to a grown-up about it.

"The amazing thing is ... this is how Jesus lived. He didn't just tell people to do things, He lived it out. When people were mean to Jesus, He did not fight back. Even when they hurt Him, He forgave them. That is the kind of love that changes everything.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "The love of Jesus changes people. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "Love like Jesus even when it's hard."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week we learned a hard, hard truth that Jesus taught. Jesus taught us that when someone hurts us, we are to show them love back. But Jesus wasn't teaching us something that He didn't live out. In fact, He lived it out on the biggest scale ever. We had so many sins, and sins grieve God. Not only that, but all people for all time had sinned and grieved God. But on the cross, even though Jesus had lived a perfect life, Jesus took on all of that sin, and paid for it. Jesus said, 'Forgiven!' It is the ultimate power when love defeats sin, and that's exactly what Jesus did, for all of us.

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"And this week, we learned how Jesus taught us that we should love our enemies!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "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.

"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."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to the 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."

Supplies

OPENER	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. Table	1
3. kid volunteers for each round you do (You will ask for three new kid volunteers at the start of each round!)	3
4. sets of blocks, enough for three kids to make an object	3
5. small containers of Play-Doh®	3
6. sheets of aluminum foil, long enough to make an object (may need more depending on how many rounds you do)	4

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Bible	1
4. Table	1
5. Adult volunteers	2