

3-5's | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

Today's Bible Story: Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus is powerful.

Key Question: Who is amazing?

Bottom Line: Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse: "We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Jump to the World

Build a Centurion

Heal People

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Say it With Me

Story Search

Power Pass

Centurion Shuffle

Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus is powerful.

Key Question

Who is amazing?

Bottom Line

Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse

"We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT

15 min

Social

5 min

Jump to the Word | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

- Painter's tape
- Plush friends

1
1

EveryChild Tips

- Allow children to walk, step, or roll instead of jumping.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a line on the floor with tape, about five feet long. Place five to ten plush animals on one side of the tape line.

During the Activity: Invite children to line up behind the plush friends. Ask children to stand over the plush friends, squeeze them in between their ankles/feet, and jump over the line while holding them. Ask the next group of children to take a turn, moving the stuffed friends back to the other side. Continue as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, today we are going to help these plush friends across the line. Watch me to learn how. (*Stand over a plush friend, squeeze it with your ankles, and jump over the line.*) Now you'll get a turn to help move the plush friends to the other side. (*Call several children up to help the plush friend over the tape line.*)"

During the Activity: "Now that we've got our friends ready, when I say go, I want you to squeeze the plush friend just like I did and jump over the line. Ready? Go! (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it! You got our friends to the other side! Come sit down, and we'll let our other friends have a turn. (*Continue until each child has a turn. Repeat as time and interest allow.*)

After the Activity: "I loved how you helped the plush friends. You helped get them from one side to the other! In today's Bible Story, we are going to hear how Jesus helped a young man, and Jesus did it just by speaking! Let's go hear all about it!"

5 min

Build a Centurion | Made to Play

What You Need

Slotted clothespins	1
Pipe cleaners	Several
Fabric scraps	Several
Aluminum foil	1
Washi tape	Several
Washable markers	Several
Large plastic container	1
Safety scissors	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut aluminum foil into 4×4-inch pieces and place them in the container with all the other supplies.

During the Activity: Encourage children to build a centurion with all the supplies, then play as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello, hello! It's great to see you today! Come over to the table with me."

During the Activity: "Today, we are going to build a soldier. Use the markers and things inside the container to build your own soldier. (Pause.) You can draw a face and wrap some fabric around a clothespin. (Pause.) Wow! Look at your soldiers. They look great! Now you can march your soldiers around the table and play together. (Pause.) That was fun!"

After the Activity: "Today, in our Bible Story, we'll hear about an important soldier called a Centurion. He needed Jesus' help to make someone better. Let's go hear how Jesus helped."

5 min

Heal People | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

Doctor's play kit



1

EveryChild Tips

- Provide a rolling pin or craft stick for children who struggle with hand strength to press open the Play-Doh ball.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place toy doctor's kit(s) on the table.

During the Activity: Go through the doctor's kit and identify each tool. Ask children to help you and other friends help you feel better.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Look at this neat toy! (*Hold up the doctor's kit.*) It's a doctor's kit."

During the Activity: "Let's open it up and see what's inside. (*Open the kit and hold up each piece and name it.*) This is a stethoscope. A doctor uses it to listen to your heart. And this is a thermometer. A doctor uses this to take your temperature. Let's play doctor. Can you help me? I have a hurt finger. (*Encourage children to use the different tools to make you better.*) Thank you, doctor, for making my finger feel better. Oh, I see [Child's name] is helping a friend feel better too! (*Continue as time and interest allow.*)"

After the Activity: "Wow, you guys are great doctors. You helped people feel better with all the tools in the doctor's kit! In today's story, we'll hear how Jesus made someone feel better, and He didn't even have to see them! That sounds amazing. Let's go find out what happened in today's story."

30 min

Groups

5 min

Say it With Me | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild Tips

- Encourage using large and small movements as you say the verse so all can participate.

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions.

During the Activity: Say the verse in different voices.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come over and spread out with me. Let's say our verse as we do the motions. Ready? 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today!' (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book). Super job, friends!"

During the Activity: "Let's say the verse in different ways. We'll start by saying the verse like a robot. (Pause.) That was good! Now let's say the verse as a singer. (Pause.) Wow! Now let's say the verse like a baby. (Pause.) This time, let's say it like a teeny tiny mouse. (Continue with different voices.) Great job saying the verse in all the fun voices!"

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that Jesus does amazing things like turning water to wine, walking on water, and healing people who are sick. In today's story, the centurion knew that Jesus could do anything, so he asked Jesus to make the young man better. The centurion knew that Jesus was so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man would be better. And he was because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing. Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Story Search | Made to Move

What You Need

“Story Search” Activity Page

1

Cardstock

1



EveryChild Tips

- Have children sit in chairs wearing the character necklaces if standing is challenging.
- Use lightweight, soft props for children who may not want to hold harder items like a plastic coin or fish.
- Show story images as visual cue cards to remind children what happens next in the story.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Story Search” on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Hide the pictures around the room.

During the Activity: Walk around the room together with the children to find the story pictures. Once all the pictures are found, review the story as you put the pictures in order.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hi, friends! It’s so good to see you today. We heard an amazing story about how powerful Jesus is, and I have a fun way for us to tell the story together.”

During the Activity: “First, we need to find our story cards. Let’s take a walk and look for them. (Pause.) Look, there’s a card. Let’s pick it up and take it with us. (Pause.) Great, let’s keep walking and looking. (Pause.) Oh! We found another one. (Continue until you’ve collected all the cards.) Now that we’ve found all the story cards, let’s sit down and put them in order as we tell the story.

“Our first story card has a picture of the centurion. The centurion was a very important soldier and he led of a lot of soldiers. Let’s lay this picture down here; it’s the first part of our story. (Pause.)

“The second story picture is the young man who worked for the centurion. He was sick and had to stay in bed. The centurion knew Jesus could help the young man because Jesus is the Son of God and **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing.** This is the second part of our story. We’ll lay this picture beside the first picture. (Pause.)

“This picture is the centurion talking to Jesus about the sick young man. We’ll add this picture next. (Pause.) Jesus said He would go and make him better. But the centurion knew that Jesus was so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak and the sick man would be all better. Jesus told the centurion to go home because he believed. And the young man was all better!

“See the centurion and the young man who was all better? (Pause.) That’s our last picture, and we’ll put it here at the end. (Pause.) Wow, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

After the Activity: “All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better. That is amazing! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

5 min

Power Pass | Made to Think

What You Need

⚽ Soccer ball	1
📍 Circle stickers in a variety of colors	1
📍 Washable markers	1
📍 Butcher paper	1
📍 Optional EveryChild Supplies: Soft foam ball	1
📍 Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue cards showing that actions that matches each color.	1



EveryChild Tips

- Allow kids to hand the ball instead of rolling or kicking.
- Use a soft ball.
- Keep the color/action key posted where kids can see, and point to each action as kids land on their color.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place one circle sticker on each white section of the soccer ball. On the butcher paper, create a key with the following actions, and change the colors to match your stickers.

- Blue = Say the Memory Verse
- Red = Make a heart with your hands
- Green = Fist bump a friend
- Yellow = Clap three times
- Purple = Shout **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus is amazing!"

During the Activity: Gather the children in a circle and demonstrate how to play. Hold the ball, look for the color closest to your right thumb, and perform the action. Then roll or pass the ball to the next child. Each child will look at the color near their thumb and complete the action before passing the ball to another friend. Continue until everyone has had several turns, refer back to the color/action key as needed.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, we're going to play a game called Power Pass! I put colorful stickers on this ball, and each color means something different. (*Turn the ball to the blue sticker.*) The blue sticker means we'll say our Memory Verse. The red sticker means we'll make a heart with our hands. The green sticker means we'll fist bump a friend. The yellow sticker means we'll clap three times. And the purple sticker means we'll shout, **'Jesus is amazing!'**"

During the Activity: "When the ball comes to you, look at the color closest to your thumb (*hold your thumb up and wiggle*) and do the color's action! I'll remind you what your color means as we play our game. [Child's name], here comes the ball. (*Roll the ball.*) Great catch! What color is near your thumb? (*Pause.*) You got [blue]. That's "Say the Memory Verse." Say the verse with me. 'We have seen amazing things today!' Luke 5:26 NLT. Nice! Now roll the ball to a friend. (*Pause.*) Oh, you got [red]! That means you get to make a heart with your hands. (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Keep it going! (*Continue until every child has a turn.*) Wow, that was fun!"

After the Activity: "You listened and followed directions, just like soldiers follow their leader. In our Bible Story today, we heard about a very important soldier, a centurion, who believed that all Jesus had to do was say the word and something amazing would happen, and it did! **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is amazing. Who is amazing? **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is amazing!"

5 min

Centurion Shuffle

What You Need

• "Centurion Shuffle" Activity Page	Several
• "Jesus and the Young Man" Activity Page	Several
• Cardstock	1
• Round plastic lids	1
• Clear tape	1
• Masking tape	1
• Scissors	1
• Table	1

EveryChild Tips

- Have an adult partner with a child who may need extra support.



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Centurion Shuffle" on cardstock and cut six cutouts per Small Group. Copy "Jesus and the Young Man" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Secure the picture of the young sick man on one end of your table with masking tape. Align the picture of the healed young man over it and secure it with masking tape along one side only. Place the picture of Jesus on the other end of the table and secure it with masking tape. Tape one centurion to the top of each lid, prepare six for each Small Group.

During the Activity: Encourage children to take turns sliding the centurion across the table from the sick man to Jesus and then back across the table. The leader will flip the picture of the young man over to reveal the healed man as children slide the centurion back across the table from Jesus. Continue with each child, making sure to flip the picture of the young man back and forth. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I have a fun game for us to play to help us remember today's Bible Story. Come stand with me at the table."

During the Activity: "Who do you see on the table? (Pause for answers.) That's right! There's Jesus (point) and there's the sick young man. (Point.) And who is this? (Hold up a lid with the centurion on it.) You got it! It's the centurion. We're going to take turns moving the centurion from the sick man to Jesus. (Slide the lid to Jesus, flip the sick man picture over. Walk to the side of the picture of Jesus and slide the centurion back to the young man.) Then you'll send the centurion back to the young man. (Slide the centurion.) Jesus is so powerful that all He had to do was speak, and the young man was all better! (Point.) Hooray![Child's name], it's your turn! (Flip the picture so the sick man shows.) Come stand at the sick man and send the centurion to Jesus. (Pause.) Great! Now walk over to Jesus and slide the centurion back. (Flip the picture before child slides the lid.) Hooray! You did it! Jesus made the sick man all better! (Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.) That was a super fun way to remember our story!"

After the Activity: "Jesus can do amazing things because Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is so amazing that all He had to do was speak, and the young man was all better. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets | Made to Create

What You Need

▢ "Jesus Puppet" Activity Page	1
▢ "Centurion Puppet" Activity Page	Several
▢ Cardstock	Several
▢ Crayons or washable markers	Several
▢ Clear tape	1
▢ Googly eye stickers	Several
▢ Scissors	1
▢ Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Jesus Puppet" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Copy "Centurion Puppet" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Copy "Fun at Home Note" on cardstock and cut one note per child. Write each child's name on their bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their puppets, then help children fold and tape the tabs of each puppet together. Ask children to slide their Jesus puppet on a finger of one hand and the centurion puppet on a finger of another hand, and re-enact the story. Once finished re-enacting the story, put the puppets and a "Fun at Home Note" in each child's bag.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come to the table and let's make our own story puppets to help review today's true story from the Bible!"

During the Activity: "Everyone has a Jesus puppet and a centurion puppet to color. (Pause.) Now that you've colored them, we can fold them and tape the sides together. (Help children as needed.) Okay, slide one puppet on a finger on one hand and the other puppet on a finger on the other hand. (Pause.) Great.

"Our story starts when the centurion, everyone hold up your centurion puppet, walked up to Jesus. Hold up your Jesus puppet. (Pause.) The centurion asked Jesus for His help. The centurion said, 'There is a young man who works for me. He is at home, and he cannot move at all. He's in a lot of pain.' Jesus loved helping people, so He was ready to go help the young man. But the centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that's what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Thank you for helping me tell the story with your puppets today. Let's put your puppets and this card in your bag, then close it up."

After the Activity: "Jesus didn't have to go to the young man who was sick. He didn't have to give him bandages or medicine. He didn't even have to be right next to him! All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

1

Encourage the children to march like soldiers as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

1

During the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of amazing things.

1

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we are soldiers like the centurion and march to our Small Group spot. March like this and follow me! (March as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"Halt! (Stop suddenly.) Halt means stop. We're here! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)

During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story, we heard how powerful Jesus is! The centurion knew that Jesus could do amazing things because Jesus is God's Son. So the centurion asked Jesus to help a young man who works for him. The young man is at home, and he cannot move. The centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that's what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** That's why when I ask you, **'Who is amazing?'** you can say, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Ready? **Who is amazing?** **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

"The Bible verse we're learning says: 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today!' (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book). Let's say that together! Just stand up and say what I say and do what I do! 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today!' (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book).

"Way to go! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.)

Today, we'll make a list of powerful things Jesus can do. We know that Jesus can do amazing things because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

It can be when Jesus turned water to wine, or when Jesus calmed the storm. Whatever you think is powerful, tell me when I say your name, and I'll write it in our journal. *(Say each child's name and write down what they say beside their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

After the Activity: "Thanks for helping me make this list. *(Hold up the journal for the children to see.)* These are really powerful things! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our AMAZING friend forever. Jesus really is amazing, He can do things no one else can! Our list is full of powerful things Jesus can do! *(Read the list you made with the children.)* We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Supplies

Jump to the Word | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Painter's tape	1
2. Plush friends	1

Build a Centurion | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Slotted clothespins	1
2. Pipe cleaners	Several
3. Fabric scraps	Several
4. Aluminum foil	1
5. Washi tape	Several
6. Washable markers	Several
7. Large plastic container	1
8. Safety scissors	1

Heal People | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Doctor's play kit	1

Story Search | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. "Story Search" Activity Page	1
2. Cardstock	1

Power Pass | Made to Think

	Quantity
1. Soccer ball	1
2. Circle stickers in a variety of colors	1
3. Washable markers	1
4. Butcher paper	1
5. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Soft foam ball	1
6. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue cards showing that actions that matches each color.	1

Centurion Shuffle

	Quantity
1. "Centurion Shuffle" Activity Page	Several
2. "Jesus and the Young Man" Activity Page	Several
3. Cardstock	1
4. Round plastic lids	1
5. Clear tape	1
6. Masking tape	1
7. Scissors	1
8. Table	1

Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets | Made to Create Quantity

1.	"Jesus Puppet" Activity Page	1
2.	"Centurion Puppet" Activity Page	Several
3.	Cardstock	Several
4.	Crayons or washable markers	Several
5.	Clear tape	1
6.	Googly eye stickers	Several
7.	Scissors	1
8.	Permanent marker	1

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect Quantity

1.	"Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder	1
2.	Journal	1
3.	Fun-shaped pen	1