

**APRIL THEME**



**BIBLE STORY**

**Matthew 26:36-56 (Luke 22:39-46)**

The Way | Jesus Prays in Gethsemane  
**Spark Story Bible, pg. 468-473**  
Jesus in the Garden | Jesus is Betrayed

**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, NIV

**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

**●● THEME OVERVIEW**

**Key Question: How do you put others first?** Learning to put others first is an important skill. We often fall into the trap of making things all about us most of the time. We hope that through this discussion, families will discover simple ways to prioritize being humble and putting others first.

We start off the month in **Matthew 26:36-56**. Jesus had been with his disciples at a special Passover meal where he demonstrated humility as he washed their feet. Afterwards, Jesus led them to the garden to watch and pray. Jesus gave us an important lesson in humility as he prayed to his Father, “Not my will, but your will.” A short time later, Jesus was arrested and put on trial to humbly face the darkest moments of his life.

**Bottom Line: Put others first.** As we look at some of Jesus’ last interactions with his closest followers, we pray that kids will understand the importance of putting others first. This isn’t always our natural response, but when we choose to show humility and put others first, we get to point others to Jesus.

**●● THEME VIDEO**

**What You Do:** Watch this week’s video in the comfort of your family’s **@home prayer + worship** spot. The video can be found on [popmn.org/cm](http://popmn.org/cm) or [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/popchildrens). Then, throughout the week, use this guide to keep the conversation going...

**●● IN THE GARDEN**

**What You Need:** Spark Story Bible (or any Bible/children’s Bible)

**What You Do:** Read today’s Bible story in the Spark Story Bible, pgs. 468-473 (or Matthew 26:36-56 in any Bible/children’s Bible)

**What You Say:** “How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus being taken away? (*Scared, sad, confused*) The disciples thought that Jesus was going to become a king right away. They didn’t know that God had a different plan—a plan that seemed upside down from what everyone thought was going to happen. Because they were sad and confused and scared, they missed a chance to put Jesus first. Instead, they fell asleep and ran away when Jesus needed them most.

“There might be times when you’re sad or confused, too. Someone in your family may be sick. Or something sad might happen. But even when you’re sad or confused or scared, God can help you **[Bottom Line] put others first**. You can pray for others, you can color them a picture, or you can make cookies for them.

“What are some ways that you can **[Bottom Line] put others first?** (*I can share my toys, I can let my brother have the last cupcake, I can let my friend choose which game we play.*) Great ideas! There are lots of ways that you can **[Bottom Line] put others first!**”

## •• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Open the Bible to Philippians 2:3 and read this month’s Memory Verse. Ask someone else to read the Life App for the month—the word and definition found in the left column pg. 1 of this guide.

**What You Say:** “Our Memory Verse makes it pretty clear that in order to put others first and give up what we think we deserve, we have to value others more than ourselves. But how do we do that? Let’s look at another verse for help.”

**What You Do:** Look up and read Romans 12:10.

**What You Say:** “What a great reminder that love is at the center of all that we do...the foundation of who we are and whose we are.”

**What You Do:** Give each person a chance to honor the person to their right with their words by saying something kind that they value about the person. (*i.e. Chloe, you have the best smile. Dad, I love how you can always make us laugh. Mom, you’re great at finding verses in the Bible. Mariah, I love your singing voice.*) Keep going until everyone has had the chance to share about each person in your family. Remind everyone that one way to help ourselves remember to put others first is to remind ourselves why that person is valuable to us.

## •• PRAY

**What You Need:** Index cards, crayons

**What You Do:** Give each person an index card and invite them to draw a picture of/write the name of a person they can put first this week. Have everyone set their cards in front of them and then use the conversation below as a guide to lead your family into prayer...

**What You Say:** “We live in a world that’s all about putting ourselves first: WE want to win the game, WE want to choose the movie, WE want to play the game OUR way, and WE want to be first. But God wants us to think and act differently. God wants us to **[Bottom Line] put others first.** Who did we all choose to put first this week? (*everyone shares their card*) Like our Memory Verse, Philippians 2:3, says: Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves (*NirV*).

“Let’s pray. Dear God, you are amazing and wonderful and good. Thank you that with your help, we can **[Bottom Line] put others first.** This week help us **[Bottom Line] put others first.** We love you, Jesus. Amen.”

## •• ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the **GodTime Card** and the **Parent Cue Card** at [popmn.org/downloads](http://popmn.org/downloads). Use them this week to continue the conversation around our bottom line: **[Bottom Line] Put others first.**

## •• WHAT’S NEXT

Set a reminder to join us for WOW @home on Wednesday at 6:00 pm live at [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/popchildrens) or on demand at [popmn.org/youtube](https://www.popmn.org/youtube) for a time of worship centered around next week’s theme.