



# SERVICE ORDER

## WEEK 1: Thinking Flipped

**NOTES:** Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

### GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Stack It Up": See game for supply list

**TUNE TIME:** (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

### REMINDE TIME:

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.

### TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about things in our world that can be flipped upside down
- **Teach Them:** Teaching about the Triumphal Entry and why the Israelites turned on Jesus
- **Challenge Them:** Powerpoints for Take-Away, Spotlight verse

**GIVE TIME:** (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

### CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents come

**EXIT:** Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents



# STORYTELLER SCRIPT

**WEEK 1:** Thinking Flipped

## ENGAGE them

**1<sup>st</sup> Segment:** (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **engage** them by getting them emotionally invested in the topic you are speaking on. To get the most out of this opening time, it's always good to ask yourself, "How do I get them to care?" Use props, stories and language from their everyday world that they can easily relate to. The script below is just a guide. If you have a better angle, story, or analogy, use it; you know your kids best. The **ENGAGE** section sets up the Bible lesson.

## MAIN elements

**TRUST Tagline:** I can count on God to be there for me.

**Bible:** John 12:13-19 – The Triumphal Entry

**Take-Away:** Jesus flips our thinking HERE so we can be fit for THERE.

**Spotlight Verse:** "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."  
~Luke 19:38

## PROPS n things

- Powerpoint® Slides
- Video: "Palm\_Sunday" located in Speaker\_Materials directory

# BEGIN speaking

**(Show opening slide of teaching series. Some kids may laugh)**

Okay, I want everyone to stand up! Now, I want you to bend over forward until you can see everything upside down. Ready? Go! Do things look the same as they normally do? Is it different? What if you always had to see the world this way? Would that be cool, or would that be weird? Okay, since the blood is rushing to your heads and you're probably getting dizzy, everyone stand back up straight, and then sit back down. Good job!

We've all seen things in our world that are flipped over, right? When we see a car flipped over on the freeway, we slow down and take a look, and wonder if everyone is okay. Have you ever seen a flipped over turtle that can't move? Makes you want to help the little guy out, because you know that something is different, something is wrong, and he probably is not enjoying being flipped over like that. When a cat or a dog flips over, much like our friend in the picture, it usually means something else. When dogs lay on their backs for their master, it's a sign of surrender. It's a very vulnerable position, as if the dog is almost saying to his master, "I know you won't hurt me...I know I can trust you."

This is a picture of how Jesus wants us to be towards Him. Now, we don't have to lie on our backs with our arms and legs in the air! That is not what Jesus is asking of us. But He does want us to be totally comfortable with Him, vulnerable with Him, be open and honest with Him. He doesn't want any layers of junk between us and Him that get in the way of having a close friendship. Like our furry friend here in the picture, we want to know Jesus in such a close way that we can honestly say, "Lord I know you won't hurt me...I know You love me, and You don't want something "from" me – You want something "for" me. And I know I can trust You."

Trust is an important thing, isn't it? For most of you, every day when you wake up, you trust in someone to make sure you have food to eat, that they will get you safely to school, that they will care that you have clothes and shoes to wear. You trust them to not lie to you when they say, "I'm taking you out for ice cream!" But that doesn't mean we trust everyone that way, does it? Let me ask you: is there someone in your life that you don't fully trust? *(Ask for a show of hands.)*

Sometimes, when someone hurts us, it makes it hard to trust them, right? We fight feelings of wanting to hurt them back, or say something mean back. Some people make it so hard to forgive them to we can trust them again.

In just a few minutes, we're going to read a famous story from the Bible. It shows how people were happy to see Jesus, wanted to see Him and be near Him, and did nice things for Him. And then, only a few days later, this same crowd was shouting angry and hurtful words towards Jesus, and wanting Him to die. Why is that? Why did they turn on Jesus so quickly? How can anyone be so nice and kind in one minute, and then be so mean in the next?

We're going to see what Jesus did when He was in that situation, and His response just may surprise you. But before we read our story, we want to hear from you. We want to get your opinion and thoughts about a few things.

## EXPLORE their opinion

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 1 - EXPLORE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

*(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)*

# TEACH them

**2<sup>nd</sup> Segment:** (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

## BIBLE text

John 12:13-19 – The Triumphal Entry

## PROPS n things

- Bible
- Powerpoints
- (10) \$1 bills

## BEGIN speaking

**(Show opening video: "Palm\_Sunday")**

Today is Palm Sunday. Can someone tell me why we call it Palm Sunday? (Wait for answers.) That's right. Today we remember Palm Sunday, the day Jesus entered the city gates of Jerusalem to the cheers and praises of men, in what the Bible calls the "Triumphal Entry."

### SETUP OF BIBLE STORY:

If you have your Bibles ready, we'll look at the Triumphal Entry in the Book of John, chapter 12, and we're at the point in the story where Jesus has just come from a small village called Bethany, where he shared a meal with his friends, Mary and Martha.

**(Show Slide: John 12:12)**

### **(JOHN 12, V12 – A GREAT CROWD)**

Let's all find the book of John. John is the fourth book of the New Testament. John is also one of the gospel books – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John! These four books tell the story of Jesus and His time here on earth.

And we pick it up in **John 12, verse 12: "The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem."**

### **SET THE SCENE:**

What does it mean by a "great crowd" and what was this "feast?" Well, here's what was going on. The city was extremely over crowded with people who normally wouldn't be there. It would be like going to your favorite theme park on spring break, and everyone is there, and you can barely walk through the crowd. Jerusalem was bursting with people.

There were two big reasons for this:

**(Show Slide: Week of Passover)**

#### **1. Week of the Passover - huge Jewish Holiday:**

Cities back then usually were surrounded by big walls to keep their enemies out. On a normal day, around 600,000 people lived there. That's a lot of people no matter where you are! A baseball park holds about 40,000 people, and a football stadium holds about 70,000 people. Imagine being in a crowd of 600,000 people!

But during Passover week, the city swelled to between 2 and 3 million. Imagine being around 3 million people. (Pull out 10 \$1 bills) If I had 3 million of these \$1 bills, and I kept stacking one bill on top of another bill until I had made a tall money tower of 3 million \$1 bills, this stack would be 716 feet tall!

**(Show Slide: Zumanjaro Drop of Doom)**

How tall is 716 feet? Well, let's just say that it's twice as tall as the Zumanjaro Drop of Doom, which is one of the tallest theme park rides in the world! You would need to stack two Zumanjaros on top of each other to reach 716 feet. Bottom line: there were a lot of people in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Thousands of families had come up from the country and into the city for the Passover Feast. They came to buy food, to purchase animal and grain offerings, and to bring their spring lambs to the butcher to prepare the meat for the Passover. It would have been easier to just go to the local grocery store, but that really wasn't an option back then! The Temple Mount, the place where they would hold their church service, could easily hold a population of 210,000 people. Can you imagine going to church with that many people?!

**(Show Slide: Word spread that Jesus was coming)**

## **2. Word spread that Jesus was coming:**

The other reason why the city had so many people in it was because word had spread that Jesus was coming to town. That was a really big deal, because Jesus was teaching the people, feeding thousands, performing miracles, and He just came from raising Lazarus from the dead. No one had ever seen or heard of someone with the power to raise a dead person back to life! People couldn't get enough of Jesus. It would be like hanging out with your favorite singer or movie star, following their every move just to see when he or she did next.

**(Show Slide: John 12:13)**

### **JOHN 12, V13 – HOSANNA:**

So here they were. All kinds of people from different places and different backgrounds, lined up on the path to get a glimpse at Jesus.

**Verse 13: “They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!”**

Now, on the surface, this just sounds like a really crazy, fun party, kind of like standing along the road on a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade waving a little American flag as the marching band goes by. But this was more than that. This was a desperate cry for help. Hosanna means, 'Save us now.' Can we all shout that together? I the count of 3, let's all shout, "Save us now!" Ready? 1, 2, 3: "Save us now!" Wow! You guys were loud! The crowd was shouting this over and over: "Hosanna! Save us now! Hosanna! Save us now!" You see....they were looking to be saved. But not the kind of 'saved' we find in the Bible, as in believing in Jesus and going to heaven.

No....the Jews were expecting someone to come and save them from their hard lives, the cruelty of the Roman Empire. The Jews were living almost like slaves in their own country. Rome owned and ruled over everything. They were not kind to the Jewish people – at all! So, the Jewish people wanted Jesus to be their savior, their king, their conqueror – the one who would fight the big, bad Romans and rescue them from their situation.

That day, the Jews were expecting Jesus to ride in like a hero on a big white horse, waving a huge sword. They were looking for a warrior who would kick the hated Romans out. But Jesus had different plans. He was about to flip their thinking once again.

**(Show Slide: John 12:14, 15)**

### **JOHN 12, V14,15 – RIDING ON A DONKEY:**

Let's go back to our Bible. It says in **Verse 14** ***“Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, (15) “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”***

Here is what this verse is saying: Way back in the Old Testament (Zechariah 9:9), hundreds of years earlier, it already predicted that this would happen – that their king, their savior, was going to come to them, riding on a donkey. The Jews knew their Bible well and they would have known that story, and they had been looking for that king to come for years and years.

Jesus was a great communicator. He knew that he did not have a strong enough voice to address the crowd. There were no microphones, no speakers back then – not even one of those big megaphones so He could shout His message: “I’m not that kind of king!” No. He needed a symbol.

So he purposefully chose to ride a donkey into town over a horse because donkeys were viewed as **peaceful noble animals**. The horse was viewed as a military, war-type animal. So...Jesus knew that the crowd would be going crazy expecting this great conqueror, so Christ comes on a donkey to show peace. See what He did there?

And isn't that just like Him to do something like that? He flipped their thinking. He flipped their view of Him in an instant! Just when you think you've got Him figured out...just when you think you know what He's going to do...He does the exact opposite. He flips the situation...He flips our thinking...He flips our hearts.

### **THEY TURNED ON HIM:**

We'll talk more about this next week, but just a little while after this amazing, triumphant, joyous day, Jesus stood before many of the same people. This time, they were not happy, they were very angry. They said mean words to Him, they spit on Him, they pushed Him around, and they beat Him up. How could that be? How could they turn on Him so quickly? It's because Jesus wasn't who they thought He was. They wanted a king to save them from the big, bad Romans. But Jesus came to save them from their own big, bad hearts.

### **EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE:**

Countless times in the Bible, Jesus showed those he talked with, walked with and stayed with that their thinking needed to be flipped upside down.

Like...when Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Do you think Jesus said,



"Sounds good to me."? No! Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (*Matthew 18:21-22*)

Jesus flipped Peter's thinking.

Do you remember the story of the woman who came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, and she broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. When the disciples saw this, they got upset and argued, "What a waste of perfume! That could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." But Jesus flipped their thinking and said, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (*Mark 14:1-9*)

Jesus flipped the thinking of the disciples that night in the room.

When Jesus was arrested in the garden, Peter wanted to fight back and protect Jesus, and so he pulled out his knife and cut off one of the ears of the servant of the high priest. Jesus scolded Peter and then touched the man's ear and it was healed. (*Luke 22:51*)

Jesus flipped the enemy's thinking and went willingly.

### **HE WANTS SOMETHING "FOR" US:**

That's why this Jesus guy is so fascinating! Jesus is more amazing than anyone before Him or after Him. He didn't think the way we do. He didn't act the way we do. He didn't say things in a way that we would say them. I guess you could say that Jesus flips our thinking – flips our views about people and about ourselves. It's so flipped, it's like looking at the world upside down! It makes us want to know more about Him, and what Jesus wanted us to know while He was here, and what we're supposed to do now that He's not here.

Think about it - Jesus came to show us how to love God and love others in the right way. And then, after He left earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside us and guide us in all our decisions each and every day! He didn't want anything "from" us; He wanted everything "for" us! He wants us to tap into His way of thinking, and discover what He is doing in the world today. He wants us to be willing to have our thoughts, our words, and our actions flipped by His love and His ways. The best way to learn about His ways of thinking and doing is by reading our Bibles. The Bible shows us a new way dealing with the world, other people, and even our own attitudes.

## US:

So – the next time someone hurts you or says something unkind or untrue, instead of striking back, allow Jesus to flip your thinking and do as Jesus would do; say as Jesus would say.

When we want to hate our enemies, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. (Matthew 5:44)

When we want to be prideful, puff out our chest, and brag about how great we are, Jesus calls us to be humble and to serve others. (Matthew 20:28)

When a friend has all the shiny new toys, and we start getting jealous and envious, Jesus tells us to be content and thankful for what He has given us. (Matthew 16:1-20)

We believe one thing to be true, and Jesus shows us quite another. Our job is not to fight it, but to fit into it. We must be more like our puppy friend and just open our arms and trust Jesus more. Our thinking is messed up because we live in a messed up world. It's time for us to listen - to allow our thinking to be flipped by Jesus here on earth so he can prepare us for how to live with Him in heaven.

### **Show slide ("Take-Away Point")**

Our Action Hero, Trustina, reminds us in our Take-Away Point that, "Jesus flips our thinking HERE so we can be fit for THERE." Let's say our Take-Away Point together: "Jesus flips our thinking HERE so we can be fit for THERE."

Jesus makes us fit for heaven, not by anything we have done, but by what He did on the cross. When we put our faith and trust in Him, we are made holy, because God now only sees Jesus when He sees us. Like putting on a coat, when we put on Christ, God see Christ, and that makes us fit for heaven.

## EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

*(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)*

# CHALLENGE them

**3<sup>rd</sup> Segment:** (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

## PROPS n things

- A Chair

## BEGIN speaking

Earlier, I said that Jesus doesn't want anything "from" us, but He does want everything "for" us. That's not totally true; there is one thing the Jesus wants "from" us. He wants us to trust Him. He wants us to not live life as we see it, but to live life as *Jesus* sees it, with Him right by our side guiding us in every decision we make.

### **Show slide ("Trust Tagline")**

When we say we trust God, what we are really saying, and believing, is this: "I can count on God to be there for me." Let's say this together: "I can count on God to be there for me." God is with you, kids! He is with you always. That's His promise to us, and he made good on that promise when He sent the Holy Spirit to make His home in us, and to teach and to guide us as we live life out.

### **CHAIR ANALOGY:**

*(Pull up a chair)* It's like me trusting that this chair will hold me when I sit down. I don't even think about it. I just know this chair is going to be there for me when I place my full weight on the seat. When we trust in God, it's like putting the full weight of our faith in Him. We give Him, not just a part of our lives; not just a little bit of faith; not just sitting lightly on the edge of our faith; but we are all in! God wants us to fully trust Him with our lives. That's what He wants "from" us. Everything else after that is what He wants "for" us.

### **Show slide ("Spotlight Verse")**

Say the Spotlight Verse with me from Luke 19:38: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Let's bless Him today. Let's thank Him today for how much He has

loved us. Let your hearts be glad that you have a God, the one and only true God, who is reaching out to you and to me, wanting a friendship – not just for here and now on earth, but forever.

Let's Pray: "Dear God, thank You for all the good things in our lives. Your Word reminds us in Matthew 7 just how much You enjoy giving good gifts to those who ask You. And Lord, I ask for each of these children, that you give them the gift of faith and trust in You. I ask that You show up in all kinds of ways and areas of their life, so they know without a doubt that You are with them always. I pray they lean into You, especially in tough times, and when they are confused or worried. Give them peace today as they think about how amazing You truly are! Thank you for flipping our lives upside down in a good way. We need that. We love You God! In Jesus Name, Amen."

Great job today! Have an amazing week trusting God for all things! We'll see you next week on Easter!

## ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



GRADES  
**4-6**

**EXPLORE**  
their opinion  
**EVALUATE**  
their understanding  
**ENCOURAGE**  
their walk

I CAN COUNT  
ON GOD TO BE  
THERE FOR ME



Stop at the  
Stop Sign,  
and wait for further  
instruction before  
moving to  
next segment.

Don't rush!  
Remember,  
the goal is not to  
just get through it,  
but to **get it through.**

Your 2 goals:  
**relate** with them,  
**reinforce** the lesson.



## WEEK 1: Thinking Flipped

### EXPLORE – their opinion

What kinds of things in our world do we flip over or turn upside down?  
*(Pancakes, upside down cake, burgers, eggs, turtles, etc.)*

Sometimes, we don't always do the right thing, or act the right way, or think the right thought. That's why we need others in our lives to help flip our stinkin' thinkin'. Who is in your life that helps you think about things in a different way?  
*(Parents, grandmother, aunt/uncle, older brother or sister, etc.)*

Good answers! God puts people in our lives to help us think and act in a way that is pleasing to others, which is pleasing to God.

### EVALUATE – their understanding

Why did Jesus choose to ride into town on a donkey?

- A. Because donkeys are built lower to the ground
- B. Because donkeys are better pack animals
- C. Because donkeys are slower
- D. Because the donkey symbolized "peace"**

What did the crowd expect Jesus to save them from? **(Rome. The Romans were mean to the Jews, and treated them like slaves in their own land.)**

Why did Jerusalem have so many more people within its walls during the Passover?

- A. Because they were coming to see the big football game
- B. Because the people came to the city to worship, purchase supplies, and have their spring lambs prepared for the big celebration
- C. Because people had heard that Jesus was coming to town
- D. Both B & C**

Just when we think we've got Jesus figured out, he flips our thinking.

- When we want to push another kid on the playground because they were mean to us, Jesus tells us to do what? **(Forgive them and walk away)**
- When we want to hate our enemies, Jesus wants us to do what? **(Love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us.)**
- When we want to be prideful and puff out our chest, Jesus calls us to be what? **(Humble and to serve others.)**
- When we want to be jealous or envious of a friend's new toy, Jesus calls us to be what?
- **(Content and thankful for we have.)**





GRADES  
**4-6**



**EXPLORE**  
their opinion  
**EVALUATE**  
their understanding  
**ENCOURAGE**  
their walk

I CAN COUNT  
ON GOD TO BE  
THERE FOR ME



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse**.

**Prepare to Give** is for children's programs that take an offering.

## ENCOURAGE – their walk

What is one thing you learned about the triumphal entry and Palm Sunday that you didn't know before today?

LET'S PRAY: *Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring enough about us to flip our thinking, and flip our hearts so that might treat others as You would want us to treat them. Help us to forgive those that are mean to us, and be kind to those who aren't always kind to us. Help us to be more like Jesus every day. Amen.*



I'm handing you some Easter invitation cards. Just like you send out Birthday invitation cards to your friends, you can send out these cards to invite your friends, who may not have church to attend next week, to be your special guest. Your friends will hear a great message about Jesus, and have a lot of fun too!

## MEMORIZE – God's Word



**SPOTLIGHT VERSE:**  
"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Jesus is the King of our hearts, and the King of our lives. He is a good King, and He deserves our love, honor and respect, even when things aren't always going right.

## PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

The Bible says that we are not owners of our time, our money and our possessions; God is. We are only managers of His things.

When you think of yourself as a manager of God's things, how much more careful should you be with His stuff?

Let's always be ready to give back what is already His, and do it with a joyful heart.

Let's pray that God will help us remember our offering each week: *"Dear God, show us how to love people in the same way that You love them. One way to show we love you and others is to give our offering money so that your church can help others. Help us to remember on our own without our parents reminding us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*