

# CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT

UPSIDE DOWN: JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING Humility isn't easy. If we're honest, WE want to be first in line. WE want that last slice of cookie cake. When something good happens, WE want the credit.

Let's face it; it's a "me first" kind of world. But when Jesus came, He turned that kind of thinking upside down . . . especially when He died on the cross for us. Jesus changed everything, and He still does today! He gave us the perfect example of humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

This month, set the tone in your environments for that "upside down" kind of thinking. You can make it super-obvious with upside down signage and stage props . . . Incorporate phrases that communicate humility ("You first," "After you," "I'm sorry," "Tell me more"). Also, the colors in our theme artwork will make a great backdrop for Easter and beyond.

Have fun flipping things over, under, and upside down as we discover together how we can follow Jesus' example of humility.

#### **THE STAGE**

As you think about what you can turn upside down, first, look at the pieces that are always part of your set. What could you turn or flip? What could you hang from your ceiling?

Consider hanging some lightweight "upside down" pieces from above—like inflatables, or paper airplanes (to match the theme art). Upside-down umbrellas or balloons can look really good, too—just be sure to use air instead of helium!

Consider using orange, blue, and white paper (or even plastic tablecloths) to make a colorful backdrop that ties to the artwork on screen. Use colorful tape to make arrows that show that you've flipped your environment upside down.

### THE HOST

Your Host can embrace the "upside down" idea by wearing upside down clothes . . . but in general, he/she doesn't need to do wear anything specific this month. That being said, if you have shirts with your environment or church logo, consider having custom shirt(s) made for this month with an upside-down version.

### THE WELCOME CENTER & HALLWAYS

Continue the same upside-down theming at the entrance and in the hallways. Bring in the blue, orange, and white colors and arrows on any long walls. Hang some paper airplanes in the hallways to complement the theme artwork. Create turned arrows with tape to indicate that you're turning things upside down this month.



GRADES

K-5



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The hallways would also be a great place to bring in some speech bubble signs with words and phrases that communicate humility: "You first," "After you," "I'm sorry," "Tell me more," "Let me help," "I understand," "I was wrong," "I saved you a spot," "Let me get that for you," "Thank you").

THEME FONTS Big John (<u>http://bit.ly/38tzhnf</u>)