



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When Love Comes to Town
Palm Sunday
John 12:12-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,
remember God is still working.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world."
John 16:33b, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something
good can come out of
something bad

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUg>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Palm Pictures
Application Activity: Friction and Faith
Memory Verse Activity: Keep Them Up
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Large kids puzzle, and timer; *Optional:* Towel or blanket

* Before group time, assemble and cover or hide the puzzle so the kids can't see it. After the kids are separated into teams, divide the puzzle into that number of teams, and give each team puzzle pieces that fit together within the same section.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into teams of three.
 - Make sure the teams are spread out but not too far apart.
- Give each team a portion of the puzzle to work on.
- Explain that the teams will have two minutes to assemble as much of their portion of the puzzle as they can.
- Set the timer for three minutes.
- On your "Go!" signal, start the timer, and instruct teams to begin putting their section of the puzzle together.
- When time is up, pause and invite teams to bring their completed sections together.
- Put the entire puzzle together to reveal the big picture.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Whatever happens,
remember God is still working.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome job teaming up and fitting your pieces together! Did you know what the puzzle would be before it all came together? (*Invite responses.*) Each team had a smaller portion of the bigger puzzle, and at the end, we got to see the big picture! **[Transition] Today, we'll hear a true story about some people who got to see just a glimpse of a bigger plan. Let's go find out more!**"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
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the world."
John 16:33b, NIV**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Hope—Believing that something
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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



* 1. PALM PICTURES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Pictures" Activity Page, safety scissors, glue sticks, craft dowels, tape, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Give every kid a "Palm Pictures" Activity Page, a glue stick, and a pair of safety scissors.
- Direct the kids to use the scissors to cut out the four review pictures carefully.
- Point out the numbers next to each blank square on the palm branch.
- Share with kids that "1" is where the story will begin.
- Explain to the kids that they will use the glue stick to secure the Bible Story pictures onto the blank squares of the palm branch in the correct order.
- One at a time, read the review points below. Pause after each review point to give kids a few moments to glue each picture.

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Review Points:

- Picture 1: "Jesus had just done something amazing—He brought His friend Lazarus back to life! People were amazed and started believing that Jesus was the Rescuer God had promised. But some leaders started to worry about all the people following Jesus. What did those leaders want to do to Jesus?" (*They wanted to get rid of Him.*)
- Picture 2: "What very important task did Jesus give His friends?" (*He sent two of His disciples into the village to find a young donkey.*) "That's right! Jesus told them exactly what to do and say, so they knew it was important. He was getting ready to go to Jerusalem in a very special way."
- Picture 3: "When people learned that Jesus was on His way, what did they lay down on the road?" (*Their own coats and palm branches.*) "Yes! They were SO excited because they believed Jesus was their King and Rescuer!"
- Picture 4: "Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, just like God had promised long ago. What did the people shout to show honor and respect as Jesus rode into the city?" (*Hosanna!*)

- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Encourage the kids to write their names on the back of their palm branch.
- Instruct the kids to color their palm branches.
- Direct the kids to use scissors to cut out the palm branch.
- Give each kid a craft dowel.
- Using tape, model how to secure the palm branch to the middle of the dowel from the back by placing three pieces of tape across the dowel.
- Once the kids finish, invite them to hold up their palm branches.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome job recapping the Bible Story, everyone! What were the crowds



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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25 MINUTES

(* 1. PALM PICTURES, CONTINUED)

in Jerusalem shouting as they were waving their palm branches? (*Hosanna!*) That's right! They were honoring and respecting Jesus. You know, for the people of Jerusalem, life probably felt a little scrambled and confusing—they couldn't see how God was working behind the scenes. But God was still at work, friends! When we focus on the big picture, we can remember that God kept the promise to send a Rescuer, and it was Jesus, the Son of God! The good news is that God is still at work today. We can trust God and look for the ways God pieces everything together for good! Ask God to give you HOPE this week, and **whatever happens, remember God is still working.**"



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. KEEP THEM UP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons from the “Friction and Faith” Activity, and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Make sure each group has a Bible.
- Together, guide the kids to find John 16:33b using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 16. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 33 in chapter 16. Explain that the letter “b” stands for the second part of the verse.*

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- Review the verse together as a group by repeating it a few times.
- Collect the Bibles, but keep one open for yourself as a reference.
- Explain to kids that they will play a giant game of “Keep Them Up”—where every kid gets a balloon, but any kid can help keep any balloon up.
- Share the rules:
 - Kids can move around to keep any balloons up.
 - Kids are to only use their hands to try and keep all the balloons in the air.
 - Kids aren’t to grab any balloons.
 - If a balloon touches the ground, the round is over, and the entire group is to pause and attempt to recite the Memory Verse to begin a new round.
- Give each kid a balloon.
- Instruct the kids to start the game by gently tossing their balloon into the air.
- Assist the kids with the verse as balloons touch the ground.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.
- Collect the balloons once the game is finished.
- Gather your group to discuss.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Way to keep those balloons in the air, everyone! You repeated Jesus’ true message in this month’s Memory Verse when a balloon fell. Jesus reminds us that sometimes things may be tough in our lives, but we can have hope knowing that Jesus is our ultimate Rescuer! When we believe in Jesus, the big picture is always bigger, and God can bring something good out of what we’re going through—even if we can’t see it yet. We can trust that **whatever happens, God is still working.**”



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Finished palm branches from the “Palm Pictures” Activity, and markers; *Optional:* Index cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their “Palm Pictures” palm branch (or an index card).
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a marker.
- Challenge the kids to think about a difficult thing they’re facing or something they’re worried about.
- To get them started, share an example like:
 - “Maybe you switched schools and are nervous about making new friends. Plus, you miss your friends from your old school.”
 - “Maybe thinking about bad things that happen in our world makes you sad or worried.”
- Prompt kids to write down or draw a picture of their difficult thing on the back of their palm branch (or on their index card).
- Encourage kids to display their palm branch (or index card) at home to remind them that Jesus can give us hope, no matter what happens!
- Close the group in prayer.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for our time together today! Each of us faces our own unique challenges and worries, and we are so thankful that You are always with us through them! Help us to remember that **whatever happens, [You are] still working** in our lives. Thank You for bringing something good out of something bad when Jesus gave His life to rescue us. Give us hope and help us to see the bigger picture! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt kids to show off their palm branches. Ask, “What did the people of Jerusalem say when they waved their palm branches?” (*Hosanna!*) Encourage the kids to use their palm branches to retell today’s Bible Story to their grown-ups.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.