



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

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: Coats and Leaves
Application Activity: A Palm Sunday Parade
Memory Verse Activity: Hosanna!
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time God was working in your life through a difficult time. Ask God to help each kid see how God is working in their lives—even when they can't understand it. Pray for kids who might feel discouraged or unsure of what's happening in their families, school, or friendships. Ask God to give them peace and assurance that God has a good plan for them!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and LEGOs® (or blocks)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet the kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the LEGOs® (or blocks) in the middle of the circle.
- Direct kids to use the LEGOs® (or blocks) to create something they like or something that makes them smile.
- Encourage the kids to use their creativity and offer suggestions if needed:
 - For example, an ice cream cone, school building, a house, etc.
- Walk around the circle and speak with kids about what they created.
- Ask:
 - What did you make?
 - Can you tell me why _____ makes you smile?
- Thank each kid for sharing!

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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

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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together.
- Explain how to play a word association game.
 - You will say a word or phrase that can often be thought of as negative (bad, sad, unpleasant, etc.)
 - The kids are to raise their hands to share one way that it could be thought of as "good."
 - The words kids choose don't necessarily have to be opposites, but they should think of something that could become good from the word that can be thought of as "bad."
- Share an example: "If I say 'lemons', you could say something that is good that can be made from lemons, like 'lemonade!'"
- Share the following words with your group, one at a time, to begin:
 - rain _____
 - sick _____
 - no money _____
 - broken toy _____
 - sadness _____
 - a friend moves to a new town _____
 - forget to charge your device _____
 - cold weather _____
 - doctor visit _____
 - yucky dinner _____
 - long book _____

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Good answers, friends! Hmm, how do you react when things seem bad or hard? What do you do? (*Invite responses.*) I wonder what we should do when things seem bad or hard? **[Transition] Let's go hear a Bible Story that can help us know what to do when things get hard. Come with me!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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



2. A PALM SUNDAY PARADE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plain white paper, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Explain that in today's Bible Story, Jesus rode into

Jerusalem on a young donkey. As Jesus arrived, people were excited and laid their coats on the ground to show honor and respect to Jesus!

- Ask: "What did the people shout as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?" (*Hosanna!*)
- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set the coloring supplies in the middle of the circle.
- Ask kids the following questions to begin:
 - "Did you know that in Bible times, people didn't have a closet full of clothes?"
 - "They might have had one or two pieces of clothing, like tunics or cloaks. What do you think it would be like to only have a couple of items of clothing?"
 - "Why do you think the people put their only coats down for a young donkey to walk over?"
 - "Would you be willing to put down your only coat if you were in the crowd?"
 - "The people shouted, 'Hosanna!' which means, 'Save us!' They were so happy to see Jesus! What would you shout if you saw Jesus coming down the road on a young donkey?"
- After some discussion, invite the kids to imagine they're in the crowd waiting for Jesus to come by.
- Instruct kids to draw or write on their paper what special item they'd be willing to lay down on the road for Jesus.
 - It doesn't have to be a coat—it could be any item they'd consider special!
- Direct the kids to draw or write what they would shout to show their excitement for Jesus.
- Line the kids up in two rows facing each other.
- Invite the kids to hold up their drawings and wave them as if Jesus was passing by.
- Encourage the kids to shout what they drew or wrote on their paper to express their excitement.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

[Make It Personal] (Share what you imagine it would have been like to be in the crowd laying something down for Jesus.)

"Today's Bible Story where people laid down their precious coats and waved palm branches and shouted their excitement for Jesus made me think—what if that was me? It's really neat to think about what we might have put down to show honor and respect for Jesus! Palm Sunday may have left some people confused. Maybe some of us would have felt confused that day! The good news is, you can still trust God even when you don't understand what's going on.

Whatever happens, remember God is still working."



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: "H.O.P.E." Activity Page (from Week 1)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay out the letters from the "H.O.P.E." Activity Page on the table or floor so the kids can easily see and read them.
- Gather your group around the letters.
- Remind the kids that the letters in the word "HOPE" can help us remember what to pray, especially when we're not quite sure what to pray.
- Point to the "H" and review that it stands for: "Help! Ask God for help when you need HOPE!"
- Ask: "Can anyone remember a time from the past week when you prayed to ask God for help?"
- Show kids the "O" and explain that it stands for: "Others! Talk to OTHERS who are Jesus-followers when you need HOPE!"
- Go around the group and invite each kid to name someone they know who loves Jesus and is a Jesus-follower.
 - It could be a trusted adult like a parent, their teacher, or a Small Group Leader.
- Remind the kids that they can talk to God and say, "Help!" when they need hope. They can also talk to "Others!"—people who love Jesus to encourage them and keep their focus on God.
- Close the group with prayer.
- *NOTE: Set the HOPE letters aside to be used each week this month.*

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for each of my friends here today! Sometimes, things get hard for them and for me. Help us all to remember to talk to other Jesus-followers when we need hope. Help us also to talk to You, because You care about the things that worry us. Thank You that these people can help us find hope and keep our focus on Your Son, Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, be sure the kids take their piece of the "road" to Jerusalem from the Coats and Leaves Activity. Encourage kids to recap the Bible Story with their grown-ups. Challenge them to tell someone else the events of Palm Sunday too!