



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

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, NlrV

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

Just for Fun
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 (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



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 poster, sticky notes, markers, and a blindfold

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Use a marker to draw a goal area on the large poster, like a target or a mountain.
- Set the large poster in your group area or hang it up if possible.
- Give each kid a sticky note and a marker.
- Direct the kids to write the answer to the following questions on their sticky notes:
 - "What is one thing you are hoping for?"
 - "What is one thing you want to achieve in the future?"
- Once kids have answered the questions, select a kid to go first.
- Blindfold that kid and spin them around a few times.
- Guide that kid to the large poster and give them a chance to pin their sticky note as close to the target area as possible.
- Repeat until every kid gets a turn.
- Once every kid gets a turn, gather the group together.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Well, that was fun! Great job, friends. The blindfold made it tricky to see where we were trying to place our hopes and goals, didn't it? When you can't see clearly, it can be hard to reach your goal. It's tough to reach your target when you can't see it. **[Transition]** Today we're going to hear a Bible Story about people who had big hopes when a Rescuer came into Jerusalem. Let's find out what happened on that special day!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Story" Activity Page, "Palm Story Instructions" Activity Page, scissors, staplers (or glue sticks); *Optional: coloring supplies*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Before group time, watch this video demonstration of the activity: bit.ly/3UPf5a0



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Give each kid a "Palm Story" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Direct the kids to cut out the strips.
- Invite the kids to form groups of two or three to review the Bible Story.
- Explain that each group will use the questions on their strips to review the Bible Story together.

Palm Story Strip Questions:

1. Why were the people so excited about Jesus coming to Jerusalem? (Answer: The nation of Rome ruled over them, so the people of Israel were not really free. There was a great hope that when the Messiah came, He would FINALLY restore them back to the great nation they once were.)
 2. How did the people in the crowd show their excitement and honor Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? (Answer: They took palm branches and their coats and laid them on the road. It was kind of like giving someone the red-carpet treatment as a way to honor Him.)
 3. Why was it significant that Jesus rode a donkey's colt into Jerusalem? (Answer: Many years earlier, the prophet Zechariah spoke about the King who would ride into Jerusalem or Zion on the colt of a donkey - and that's what Jesus did!)
- Follow the "Palm Story Instructions" Activity Page to guide the kids in folding and gluing the green strips into the shape of a palm leaf.
 - As the kids fold the strips, review the palm story strip questions.
 - After every kid has finished, set the completed palm leaves aside to take home as a reminder that God kept the promise to send a rescuer, and God is still working today!



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What do you think hope is?
- What are you hoping for?
- Why can we put our hope in Jesus?
- When has it been hard to have hope?
- Who can you talk to when you feel hopeless?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When Love Comes to Town

Palm Sunday
John 12:12-16

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Palm leaves from the Bible Story Extension Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Hand out the palm leaves from the Bible Story Extension Activity.
- Give kids a moment to think about personal experiences by asking this question:
 - Can you think of a time when something hard happened, but something good eventually came?
- Give any kids who would like to share a moment to do so.
- Call on a kid to explain the meaning of "Hosanna!". If they don't know, explain it to the group.
 - Hosanna is a cry for salvation. It means: 'Save us.'
- After a kid shares, encourage the group to collectively wave their palm leaves and say, "Hosanna!"
- Close in prayer, sharing gratitude that God is still working!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.