



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.

SMALL GROUP

10

MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

30

MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener
Worship "Happy Day" from *Orange Kids*, and "Good Good Father" by Yancy)
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 (*k-1st grade*), Palm Pictures (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Application Activity: A Palm Sunday Parade (*k-1st grade*), Friction and Faith (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Memory Verse Activity: Hosanna! (*k-1st grade*), Keep It Up (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! We're back and it's another great day here at [name of your environment]. This whole month we're talking about The Big Picture. We're finding out how we can find hope in God . . . even when things happen in our lives that are tough or scary or confusing.

"We can find true hope when we remember what Jesus did for us—how He died on the cross and then came back to life. That's what we celebrate at Easter, and it's getting SO close!

"Now, if we want to find hope in God, we need to put our focus on God—even if we can't actually SEE God with our eyes. I've got a super-fun game for us to play that reminds me of that idea. First, I'll need two Small Group Leaders to come up on stage: one from this side of the room (*reference a side*), and one from this side (*reference the other side*).

Bring up two adult leaders and direct them to sit in the chairs—each of which has a stack of five paper plates and a thick marker.

(To the two leaders) "[Leaders' names], thanks for being our contestants. I'll show a card to both of you that has a word written on it. You'll draw whatever is on the card. Meanwhile, your friends out here (*reference the audience*) will try to guess what you're drawing.

"Sounds easy enough, right? Well, here's the twist: you'll need to draw on a paper plate while you hold that plate on top of your head! I'll give you some time to draw your picture, and then I'll shout 'Guess!' At that point, you can take your plate and show it to your teammates in the audience so they can guess what you've drawn. Are you ready to get started? (*Pause for responses.*) Let's go!



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Show the first card to the leaders and cue them to start drawing on the paper plates on their heads. Let them draw for about 20 to 30 seconds. Then shout “Guess!” and allow the kids to guess what the leaders have drawn.

If the kids guess, you can comment on which team got the answer right . . . but this doesn't have to be a competition. Play all five rounds, cueing the leaders to use a new paper plate for each word. Make sure the last word is “donkey.” Collect the supplies as you thank the leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

“That was so fun! Thanks for playing, everyone. It’s not so easy to draw when you can’t see what you’re drawing! But you did a great job of guessing what your leaders were trying to do.

“We can have hope in life because we know God has a bigger plan—even if we can’t always see it! Let’s all jump up on our feet now and get ready to sing and worship God together.”



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey everyone! Get ready to jump, clap, and sing! We're starting with 'Oh Happy Day' by Hillsong United! This song is all about celebrating Jesus's resurrection and the joy it brings! Let's make some noise and celebrate together!"

VIDEO: "HAPPY DAY" LIVE LYRICS

"Wow! You guys are amazing! Now, let's shift our focus to a song that reminds us how much God loves us. It's called 'Good Good Father.' He's not just powerful; He's also kind and loving. Just like 1 John 3:1 says, 'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' Let's sing about our good, good Father."

VIDEO: "GOOD GOOD FATHER" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you for singing along! Let's take a moment to thank God for His joy and His love. Let's pray."



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! As you know, Easter is coming up soon . . . and today, we'll take a look at what happened in God's story (*hold up Bible*) that led up to Jesus dying on the cross and then coming back to life.

"We can go back to the very beginning and see how God made the whole world out of a deep, deep love. People turned away from God, and the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right and bring people back into relationship. When the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

"When Jesus grew up, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. Because of the amazing things Jesus did, some people wanted to crown Him king. They hoped He would defeat the Romans who were ruling over them at that time.

"But some of the religious leaders didn't like what Jesus was doing. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They all waited to see if Jesus would show up in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish tradition of Passover.

"As we get started today, I'll need a few volunteers to help me tell the story. Raise your hand if you'd like to come up and do some acting.

Choose three kids and two Small Group Leaders. Have the two leaders stand to the side.

"Okay, fantastic. (*Referencing the kids*) Here we have Jesus and a couple of His closest friends, the disciples. (*Referencing the adult leaders*) And here we have the grumpy religious leaders. [*Leaders' names*] aren't really grumpy, of course, but you know—we're acting! (*To the adult leaders*) Religious leaders, let me see fold your arms, shake your heads, and make some grumpy noises. (*They do.*) (*To audience*)

"I'll need the rest of you to be the crowd. Can you do that for me? (*Pause for response.*) Great!

LAZARUS IS RAISED TO LIFE

STORYTELLER: "All right. Now, as I was saying, the religious leaders weren't so sure about Jesus. They thought that everyone was going to start following Him. (*To the leaders*) Let me see you shake your heads, leaders. (*They do.*)

Walk over next to the kid playing Jesus.

"Right before Passover, Jesus did something incredible. Jesus' friend Lazarus had died and had already been placed in a tomb. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, He was very sad. Then He said, 'Lazarus, come out!'

Raise your hands in the air and nod for the kid playing Jesus to mimic you.

"And He brought Lazarus back to life! (*To audience*) Crowd—let me hear you say, 'Ooooooooooh! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!'"



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

AUDIENCE: "Ooooooooooh! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!"

STORYTELLER: "The religious leaders heard about this miracle, and they worried that everyone would believe in Jesus. *(To the leaders)* Show me another grumpy head-shake, leaders. *(They do.) (To audience)*

"These leaders decided to look for a way to get rid of Jesus. They knew that it was almost time to celebrate Passover, which was a tradition for the Jewish people. This meant that thousands of people *(reference the audience)* would travel to the city of Jerusalem.

"Crowd—let me hear you say, 'We're on our way!'"

AUDIENCE: "We're on our way!"

STORYTELLER: "The religious leaders thought it was likely that Jesus would show up in Jerusalem too. Were they right about that? Let me hear you say, 'Ding-ding-ding!'"

AUDIENCE: "Ding-ding-ding!"

JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM

STORYTELLER: "Jesus and His followers did come to Jerusalem for the Passover. *(To the three kids on stage)* Let's see the three of you walk in place like you're walking into the city.

Cue the three kids to walk in place.

"Jesus spoke to two of His disciples and gave them some instructions. *(To the kid actors)* Let me see you three huddle up. *(They do.)*

(To audience) "Here's what Jesus said.

Open the Bible to Luke 19:30-31 (NirV) and read.

"Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey's colt tied up. No one has ever ridden it. Untie it and bring it here. Someone may ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' If so, say, 'The Lord needs it.'" (NirV)

"And that's what happened. The disciples went to get the young donkey.

Hand the stick horse to the two kid volunteers.

"I'm not sure this is a donkey. But you get the idea!

"The disciples gave the young donkey to Jesus so that He could ride it into the city.

Cue the disciples to hand the stick horse to the kid playing Jesus, and have him act like he's riding it.

HOSANNA!

STORYTELLER: "Now, the people in Jerusalem saw that Jesus was on His way. Crowd—let me hear you say, 'Look! It's Jesus!'"



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

AUDIENCE: “Look! It’s Jesus!”

STORYTELLER: “The people laid down their own coats on the path, which was a way for them to show respect and honor to Jesus. Quick—everyone scoot back from these two lines so that we have a pathway through the middle of the room.

Walk along the taped pathway and motion for the kids to scoot back, behind the two tape lines.

“Now pretend to take off your coat and put it on the pathway to honor Jesus. *(They do.)* Good.

“The people also took branches from palm trees and waved them, which was also a way to honor Jesus as He came by. Let me see you wave your hands in the air like they’re palm branches. *(They do.)* Good!

“And that’s not all the people did.

Open the Bible to John 12:13 (NirV) and read.

They shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!” (NirV)

“Let me hear all of you shout, ‘Hosanna!’ *(They do.)* Turn to someone next to you and say, ‘Hosanna!’ *(Pause.)* Now turn to someone else and say, ‘Hosanna!’

“And look—here comes Jesus, riding into town!

Cue the kid playing Jesus to ride the stick horse along the pathway through the middle of the room.

“Let me hear you shout again: ‘Hosanna!’ *(Pause.)*

“Great job, everyone. *(To the actors)* And thank you to our actors. You can head back to your seats.

Dismiss the volunteers to their seats and collect the stick horse.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Now, we know that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He came to be our Savior. Why do you think He rode a young donkey? Why didn’t He come into Jerusalem leading a big parade or riding a big, powerful horse?”

“Well, Jesus actually rode a young donkey because that was something the prophet Zechariah said the Savior would do. Zechariah wrote:



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to John 12:15 (NirV) and read.

*“City of Zion, do not be afraid.
See, your king is coming.
He is sitting on a donkey’s colt.” (NirV)*

“It was clear that God was working through Jesus in a powerful way. God had sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world! And the people celebrated, even if the WAY Jesus came was maybe a little different from what they expected.

“Here’s what we need to think about today. It’s something we can remember when we face something tough or something that doesn’t happen the way we expect.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Whatever happens, remember God is still working. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Whatever happens, remember God is still working.”

Host enters.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem as a king . . . but maybe not quite in the way people were expecting.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! God was working in a big way, because Jesus had come to Jerusalem to do what He had come to this Earth to do.”

HOST: “To die on the cross for our sins . . .”

STORYTELLER: “. . . AND come back to life! That’s what we’ll celebrate next week at Easter!”

HOST: “We can find hope when we remember that God can bring something good out of something bad. In fact, that’s what hope really means.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“It’s about believing that something good can come out of something bad.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: “We all experience difficult things in life. But when those hard things happen, we can remember that God is still at work.”

HOST: “Even when we don’t understand everything that’s going on, and even though we can’t always see what God is doing, we can still trust that God is with us. **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what!**”

STORYTELLER: “If you’re ever feeling confused or unsure, you ask God to give you HOPE. You can trust that God can bring something good out of what you’re going through.”

HOST: “Let’s pray and thank God for that.”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “Dear God, thank You so much for helping us see today that You are always working. You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer, and He entered the city of Jerusalem on a young donkey—just like You planned long ago! No matter what happens today or this week or this month or ever, help us to remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** Help us to trust that You are always working for our good. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP