



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11,15-16

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

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

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles!

Impressions 

Leaf Exploration

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Never Better"

Bible Story

Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Sports Verse

Like in the Story

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Palm Leaf Pennant

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's
natural desire to move
to help them learn



1. BUBBLES, BUBBLES, BUBBLES!

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubble solution and a large bubble
wand or bubble machine

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to stand in front of
you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Blow the bubbles in different directions and
encourage children to follow them. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand in front of me. Who loves
bubbles? (Pause.) Me too! Today we get to play with bubbles!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When I blow the bubbles, I want you to follow where
the bubbles go. Are you ready? (*Blow the bubbles in several directions.*) Great
job! Come back to me and let's follow them again. (*Repeat as desired.*) Wow,
friends, that was so much fun following the bubbles!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Bubbles make me so happy! Today we're going to hear
about how people were happy and cheered when Jesus came to town."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by having the children pretend to
catch bubbles and cheer when they do.

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11,15-16

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

KEY QUESTION

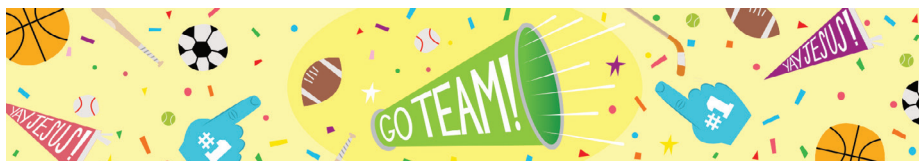
Who wants to be
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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. IMPRESSIONS*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, Play-Doh®, artificial or real leaves, and plastic toy horse or donkey figures

**Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11,15-16

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post at the classroom door. Set a ball of Play-Doh® at each spot at the table. Place the leaves and horse/donkey figures in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to pat the Play-Doh® flat with their hands and select one item from the center of the table. Demonstrate how to press the item into the Play-Doh® and then remove it to reveal the impression left behind.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a spot at the table! I have something fun for us to do with the Play-Doh® today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, let's pat the Play-Doh® flat with your hands like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Do you see the items in the center of the table? I see some leaves and a few donkeys/horses. Pick one item and press it into the dough. Then pull it back out like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Look at the cool impression the leaf/donkey left in the dough! Roll the dough into a ball, then flatten it again. Now, pick a different item to make an impression with. (*Repeat as desired.*) Great job, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We used some leaves to make impressions! In our Bible Story, we'll hear how the people waved big palm leaves to greet Jesus when He came to town. We also used a donkey to make impressions. Jesus rode into town on a donkey. Do you want to hear the Bible Story? Come with me!"

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
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Jesus wants to be
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TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by leading the kids to pretend they're riding on the back of a donkey or horse.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. LEAF EXPLORATION

WHAT YOU NEED: Real or artificial leaves, preschool-safe magnifying glasses, and a plastic bin

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place leaves in the bin and set on the table. Place magnifying glasses on the table next to the bin.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to use the magnifying glasses to look at the different leaves.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible Story and how people used leaves to celebrate Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over and look what I have in this bin! Look at all the beautiful leaves!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's use these magnifying glasses to look more closely at all the different leaves. Look at the front and back of each leaf. Aren't they amazing!? Pick another leaf to explore. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so much fun. Great job exploring all the leaves!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to hear a story about people who used leaves to celebrate Jesus. I can't wait to hear our story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting: **"Jesus wants to be my friend forever."**

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's
natural desire to move
to help them learn



1. SPORTS VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children near you. Review the motions for the Memory Verse.

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11,15-16

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead children to pretend to throw a football and then say the Memory Verse together. Repeat with different moves (*tossing a basketball, hitting a baseball, and kicking a soccer ball*).

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Memory Verse one more time and review the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's review our Memory Verse. Say it with me and do the motions. 'I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,' (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's pretend to throw a football and then say the verse. Everyone, hold your football in your hand like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now, throw! Great job. Let's say our verse. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Okay, let's toss a basketball into the hoop. Hold your hands like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now, toss that ball in the hoop. Fantastic! Let's say our verse. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Hmm . . . what's another sport can we pretend to play? Oh! Baseball! Everyone, hold your bat like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Hit the ball! (*Demonstrate.*) You are such great baseball players. Let's say our verse. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. I thought of another sport! Let's pretend to kick a soccer ball. One, two, three—kick! Wow! That was great. Let's say our verse. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Fantastic!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Say the Memory Verse with me and do the motions one more time. 'I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,' (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) You all have done a great job learning that verse.

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

"In our story today, we learned that people celebrated when Jesus and His friends came to town. They said, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' They celebrated Jesus, and we can celebrate Jesus too because He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**



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2. LIKE IN THE STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Like in the Story" Activity Page,
cardstock, scissors, craft stick, green crepe paper streamers,
and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Like in the Story" on
cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape Jesus to a craft stick. Make a line on the
floor with painter's tape. Cut crepe paper streamers into 6" strips, five per child.
Put the streamers in a pile so you can repeat the activity several times.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to pretend the tape is the road
Jesus rode a donkey on, and the green streamers are palm branches, like in the
story. Ask children to stand on the other side of the activity area. When you hold
up the Jesus cutout, encourage children to run and pick up palm branches and
lay them on the road to make a special road for Jesus, like the people in the story.
Put the Jesus cutout behind your back and hold it up repeatedly so the children
can run back and forth getting more palm branches to put on the road. Repeat
as long as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to stand on each side of the road
to cheer for Jesus and say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over and stand at the tape line with
me."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's pretend this tape line is a road—like the one
Jesus rode a donkey on in our Bible Story. Now we need lots of palm branches.
Let's pretend these green streamers are palm branches. Everyone, come stand
over here. (*Place children where you want them.*) When you see Jesus coming,
run get a green palm branch, and cover the road, like the people did in our story.
Ready? Here comes Jesus! (*Hold up Jesus.*) Run get a palm branch and cover the
road! (*Pause.*) Yay, Jesus! (*Hide Jesus.*) Go back over there and wait. Do you see
Jesus? (*Hold up Jesus.*) Run get a palm branch and cover the road! (*Repeat as
desired.*) You all did such a good job making a special path for Jesus, just like in
our story today."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Come stand on each side of the road with me. Let's
cheer for Jesus like the people did in the story. Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! We're cheering for Jesus because Jesus wants to
be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants
to be my friend forever!** Yay, Jesus!" (*Clap and cheer.*)

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

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MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's
natural desire to move
to help them learn



3. HOSANNA! HOSANNA!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Activity Page,
cardstock, cheer poms or crepe paper streamers, and
scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Hosanna! Hosanna!" on
cardstock, one per Small Group. Cut streamers in 24" lengths, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in your activity area. Give each
child a cheer pom or a streamer. Hold up the picture of Jesus, and lead the
children to shake their poms/streamers and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay,
Jesus!" March around the room holding up the picture of Jesus, continuing to
chant.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand here with me. In our Bible Story
today, we heard about how the people cheered when Jesus came to town. We
can cheer for Jesus too!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: *(Pass out the poms or streamers.)* "Shake your poms/
streamers. Great job! *(Hold up Jesus.)* Shake your poms/streamers and shout:
'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' Again! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! March
with me and cheer. *(Hold up the picture of Jesus and march around the room
continuing to cheer.)* Great job, friends! I love hearing you cheer for Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The people were SO excited to see Jesus that they
made a special path, waved palm branches in the air, and cheered: 'Hosanna!
Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' And we can too, because Jesus wants to be our friend
forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my
friend forever!**"

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



4. PALM LEAF PENNANT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Leaf Pennant" Activity Page, cardstock, green washable ink pads, baby wipes, scissors, jumbo craft sticks, clear tape, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Palm Leaf Pennant" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help children ink their entire palm and press it on the pennant several times to fill the blank space. Clean hands. Ask children to flip their pennant over and help them tape the craft stick to the back. Encourage children to hold their pennants in the air and wave them back and forth as you shout: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What a wonderful day it is today! Happy Palm Sunday! Come, let's make a special craft to help us celebrate Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to make a pennant today. Sports teams have pennants that fans can wave in the air to celebrate, and we can wave ours to celebrate our friend, Jesus! Today in our Bible Story, we learned about the very first Palm Sunday. Do you remember what people waved in the air? (Pause.) That's right! They waved palm branches in the air to celebrate Jesus.

"To decorate your pennant, let's make palm branches from your handprints. We need to cover your whole hand with the green ink. Now, press it on your paper. (Pause.) Ta-dah! There is one palm print—let's make a few more and cover your pennant. (Pause.) Wow! These look amazing! (Clean hands.) Now we can tape the craft stick to the back and you can wave it around. (Pause.) Shout with me as you wave your pennant. 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' (Pause.) Again! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The people in Jerusalem were so excited when they found out Jesus was coming that they lined up on the streets to cheer for Him! They took off their coats and laid them on the ground to make a special path for Jesus. And they held palm branches up high so they could wave them like flags. When Jesus passed by, they waved their palm branches and shouted, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' Hold your pennants in the air and wave them as we shout, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' Let's say it louder! 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, JESUS!' Great job, everyone! The people waved their palm branches and celebrated Jesus. And we can celebrate Jesus today and every day because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

We can celebrate Jesus.

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MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible Story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. BUBBLES, BUBBLES, BUBBLES!

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bubble solution
- Large bubble wand or bubble machine

2. IMPRESSIONS*

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Play-Doh®
- Leaves, real or artificial
- Plastic toy donkey or horse figures

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post at the classroom door.

3. LEAF EXPLORATION

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leaves, real or artificial
- Preschool-safe magnifying glasses
- Plastic bin

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place leaves in the bin and set on the table. Place magnifying glasses on the table next to the bin.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. SPORTS VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. LIKE IN THE STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Like in the Story" Activity Page
- Cardstock and Scissors
- Craft stick
- Green crepe paper streamers
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Like in the Story" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape Jesus to a craft stick.
- Make a line on the floor with painter's tape.
- Cut crepe paper into 6" strips, five per child.
- Put the streamers in a pile so you can repeat the activity several times.



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GETTING READY

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3. HOSANNA! HOSANNA!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Cheer poms or crepe paper streamers
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Hosanna! Hosanna!" on cardstock, one per Small Group.

4. PALM LEAF PENNANT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Palm Leaf Pennant" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Green washable ink pads
- Baby wipes
- Scissors
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Palm Leaf Pennant" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_GoTeam