



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

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.

Bubble Wrap Walk
Coats and Leaves Patterning
Coats

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.

Memory Verse and Cheer
Sport Bag Story
Trace That Face
Parachute Leaves
Go Team Jersey
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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LARGE GROUP

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

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files; *Optional: Dance Moves Video for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

LEADER: "Friends, welcome to [name of environment]! My name is [your name]. I'm SO glad you're here because today, we're going to talk about Jesus, our forever friend. God sent Jesus, His only Son, because God loves us! Did you know that Jesus wants to be your friend and my friend forever? It's true!

"When I ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

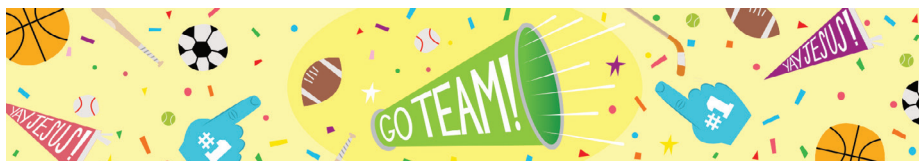
LEADER: "That's right. I'm SO glad God gave us Jesus. There is no better friend. Let's sing this together.

Lead children in singing "Never Better," this month's worship song.

"Thank you for singing and moving with me! The Bible teaches us that Jesus said, '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.) Jesus says that to you and me! Let's learn our Memory Verse together. Let's say it together.

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

"Great job! Jesus calls us His friend. I just love that truth. Jesus loves you SO much. Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (wiggle hands), so we can hear (cup hands behind ears) what the story's all about!"



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10 MINUTES

STORY

What You Need: Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I have an awesome TRUE story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's true story from the Bible starts in the town of Jerusalem when people found out that (excited) Jesus was coming! The people were so excited that Jesus was coming! Turn to your neighbor and with your best excited face say, 'Jesus is coming!'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus is coming!"

LEADER: "Stand up on your feet. Now, turn to your other neighbor, jump up and down, and say, 'Jesus is coming!'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus is coming!"

LEADER: "Woo-hoo! That's how excited the people were. You can sit down now.

"The people were so excited and wanted to celebrate and cheer for Jesus because they knew Jesus was special, and they had heard about all the amazing things Jesus had done. Let's cheer for Jesus one more time. Say, 'Yay, Jesus!'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "The whole town lined up on the street to see Jesus. Everyone, scoot apart so we can make a path.

Lead the children to scoot apart to make a path on the floor where they're sitting.

"They took their coats off and laid them on the ground to make a special path for Jesus.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

Can you pretend to take off a coat and put it on the ground for Jesus? (*Demonstrate.*) Yes, great job! The people wanted to make a special path for Jesus.

"And the people held palm branches up high so they could wave them like flags. When they saw Jesus, they wanted to be ready to celebrate and cheer for Jesus. Quick, let's get ready too! Pretend to have a palm branch in your hand.

"Let's pretend Jesus is coming! Wave your pretend branches in the air like this, and we're all going to shout, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!'"

Wave pretend palm branches and shout with kids.



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10 MINUTES

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "One more time!"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "Great job, everyone. You can put your arms down now."

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

"Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, and 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?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

LEADER: "It's true! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

LEADER: "God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever! Just like the people in Jerusalem cheered and were SO happy to see Jesus, help us to love and celebrate Jesus too! We want ALL our friends to know about Jesus, the best friend of all. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

[Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Lead small group to first activity.



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GETTING READY

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

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, placed in Bible at John 15:15

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download song and have it ready to use.

2. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W4 01
- Story Image W4 02

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Option: Copy the Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.*

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY: First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at [OrangeStore.org](https://www.OrangeStore.org) or as part of your monthly Media Package.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

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