



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Take You at Your Word
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why are promises important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus came to be our Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in him will
not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Easter—Celebrating that
Jesus is alive

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.

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



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HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray that you would be able to have great conversations with your kids about everything we can learn from the story of Palm Sunday. Prepare to celebrate with them how amazing God is at keeping promises.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, basket, two dozen plastic Easter eggs, and stopwatch

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to sit on the floor.
- Ask for a volunteer.
- Instruct the volunteer to sit facing the rest of the group.
- Hand the volunteer the basket filled with mismatched eggs.
- Recruit another kid in the group to use the stopwatch to time the kid who is matching the eggs.
- When you say, "Go!" direct the kid to match all of the eggs and snap them together as fast as they can.
- After the first kid has matched the eggs, invite the other kids in the group to help you take them apart, place them back in the basket, and mix them up.
- Ask for another volunteer who would like to take a turn.
- Continue playing until everyone who wants to try has taken a turn.
- Keep track of each kid's time.
- Whoever matches the eggs in the least amount of time is the winner!



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Assorted obstacle course supplies, pool noodle, and stopwatch

WHAT YOU DO:

- Create an obstacle course in your space with your assorted supplies.
 - Consider incorporating something Easter-themed, such as searching for a hidden plastic egg.
- Include one obstacle that requires a kid to gallop on a pool noodle, like they're riding on a donkey.
- Once the obstacle course is set up, demonstrate the course to the group.
- Instruct the kids to line up at the "start" of the obstacle course.
- Invite the first kid in line to go through the course as quickly as they can.
- Use the stopwatch to keep track of how long it takes them to complete the course.
- Give each kid in the group a turn to complete the obstacle course.
- Time each kid as they go through the obstacle course.
- The kid who completes the obstacle course in the least amount of time is the winner!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who knew you'd all be so good at riding a fake donkey?! **[Transition]** Let's go to Large Group to hear about someone else's much more important donkey ride."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning
through hands on experimentation
and discovery



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Assorted items that require power
cords, or "Plugged In" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the group to sit where they can all see you.
- If possible, stand or sit with the group near an electrical outlet.
 - If this is not possible, use the "Plugged In" Activity Page instead.
- Set out the assorted items that require power cords.
 - Or the stack of cards from the "Plugged In" Activity Page.
- Recruit a kid to hold up one of the items (or pick a card from the "Plugged In" Activity Page) and show it to the group.
- Ask the group:
 - What is this item?
 - What is it used for?
 - What will happen when it is plugged in?
 - What will happen when it is turned on?
 - What will happen if you try to turn it on after unplugging it?
- If you're using the items, plug the first item in.
- Ask the kid who is holding the item to switch it on for a moment.
- Repeat this process for all items, choosing different kids to hold the items or pictures.
- After you've completed the process for each item, talk with the group about how we can always be plugged in with God because of Jesus. God kept the promise to send a Savior by sending Jesus. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God so we could always stay connected.
- Ask:
 - What are some ways we can rely on God's power?
 - What did Jesus come to the world to do?
- **[Make It Personal] (Share a story about a time when you had to rely on God's power to help you with something. Be sure to point out how having Jesus as your Savior gave you strength to do what you needed to do.)**

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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: Elastic headband, "Character Trivia" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose a volunteer to go first.
- Give the kid the elastic headband.
- Instruct the kid to place the headband on their head so the strap is stretched across their forehead.
- Set out the cards from the "Character Trivia" Activity Page facedown.
- Without letting the volunteer see, pick a card from the stack of "Character Trivia" cards, and secure it with the elastic band on the volunteer's forehead.
- Instruct the rest of the group to provide clues to the volunteer about the character(s) who are on their head so the volunteer can guess who the character(s) is.
- Direct the group to think of clues that don't completely give the answer away.
- One at a time, choose a kid to share their clue until the kid with the character on their forehead guesses the correct answer.
- Continue playing more rounds, giving different kids in the group turns to wear the headband and guess.
- After all the character cards have been used, ask:
 - Has anyone ever followed through on a promise they made to you a long time ago?
 - What does it tell you about someone who keeps their promise to you?
 - What does it prove about their relationship with you?
- Remind the kids the events leading up to Easter are extremely significant because they fulfill promises that were made long, long ago by God. This plan and promise show us the love God has for us.

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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 does it feel like when someone doesn't keep their promise?
- Why are promises important?
- What does the word "Savior" mean?
- Why does it mean to have a relationship with God?
- How do you know God loves you?

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal understanding
and application



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, pencils, "Power Prophets"
Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get into pairs and sit together.
- Hand each pair of kids a Bible, a pencil, and a copy of the "Power Prophets" Activity Page.
- Instruct the pairs to work together to look up the verses on the "Power Prophets" Activity Page and answer the corresponding questions.
- Once every pair of kids has finished, call on different pairs to read the verses out loud and answer the questions.
- After reviewing the verses and questions, ask:
 - Who were the prophets we learned about in these verses? (*Micah, Zechariah, Isaiah, and Nathan*)
 - Why is it important to consider what the prophets said about Jesus?
 - How does it make you feel when you think about how God kept the promises to send a Savior?
- Use a Bible to look up John 3:16 and read it to the group.
- Invite the group to come up with a creative way to remember this verse.

Answer Key:

1. Micah 5:2 - Israel; Bethlehem
2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince Who Brings Peace (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)
3. Zechariah 9:9-10 - Donkey (donkey's colt); peace
4. 2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-13 - Nathan; forever
5. John 3:16 - Jesus; eternal

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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Palms" Activity Page, scissors,
and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask these questions and let kids take turns sharing their answers:
 - When and where do you like to pray?
 - Is it challenging to make time for prayer?
- Give each kid a copy of the "Prayer Palms" Activity Page, a marker, and a pair of scissors.
- Instruct the kids to spread out.
- Direct the kids to cut out the palm branches on the "Prayer Palms" Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to write down different things they want to pray about on the fronds of the leaf.
 - Share that their prayers can be about anything. They can write down prayers for themselves or other people. They can write things they want to thank God for.
 - Remind kids that prayer is simply a conversation with God, and they can talk about anything.
- After kids have finished working on their "Prayer Palms," encourage them to take them home to use as a reminder to pray in the days ahead.
- Remind the kids the palm branch can be a symbol of the promises kept by God, which reminds us that God loves us.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Brightly colored basket, one for each Small Group
- Stopwatch, one for each Small Group
- *Plastic Easter eggs, two dozen of various colors for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Open all the Easter eggs and separate the two halves.
 - Place all opened halves of the Easter eggs in the basket and shuffle them up.

* Note: Keep the plastic eggs to use again in Week 5.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Assorted items that could be used for an obstacle course. For example:
 - Hula hoop
 - Jump rope
 - Chair
 - Balls
 - Eggs and basket from the previous activity
- Pool noodle, one for each Small Group
- Stopwatch, one for each Small Group

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

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small electrical items that require power cords, four or five items for each Small Group, like:
 - Small lamp
 - Electric pencil sharpener
 - Phone charger/phone
 - Desk fan
- OR print on paper and cut apart "Plugged In" Activity Page, one set for each Small Group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Character Trivia" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Elastic headband, one for each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Power Prophets" Activity Page on paper, one for every two kids
- Bibles, one for every two kids
- Pencils, one for every two kids



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GETTING READY

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

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Prayer Palms" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Markers, one for each kid
- Scissors, one pair for each kid

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**