

Curriculum for Preschoolers



Lifepoint Kids Littles April 2, 2023

Today's Bible Story: We celebrate Jesus because He is special.

Palm Sunday • *Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16*

Memory Verse: "I am alive for ever and ever!" *Revelation 1:18, NIV*

Key Question: Who is alive?

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Memory Verse Review

LARGE GROUP (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Palm Sunday Pop-Up

Yay, Jesus!

Review and Prayer

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first look

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

-Activities designed to introduce children to Today's Bible Story prior to Large Group

1. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Say the memory verse and show the motions to the children. Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times. Talk about how we can celebrate that Jesus is alive!

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* “Friends! Join me over here. We have a brand-new memory verse to learn this month. Everyone, listen and watch me. ‘I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,’ (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: “Now, let’s do it together! ‘I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,’ (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let’s do it again. (*Repeat several times.*) Nice job, friends!”

After the Activity: “Our memory verse tells us that Jesus is alive for EVER and EVER! **Who is alive?** [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus is alive!** One more time. **Who is alive?** [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus is alive!**”

STORY: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways

- 1. Play First Look Video (April, Week 1)**
- 2. Worship DVD**

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GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Palm Sunday Pop-Up

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Encourage children to color their pictures. Show children where to glue their picture of Jesus riding the donkey. Fold their paper to make it pop up. Review the Bible story.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* “Friends, it’s Palm Sunday! What a great day to celebrate Jesus! Let’s make a picture of our story.”

During the Activity: “You have two pictures: a big picture of the people beside the special path of coats and palm branches and a smaller picture of Jesus riding a donkey. Color both pictures. (*Pause.*) These look great, but I have something to make your picture really neat. Rub some glue on this part. (*Point to the area marked ‘Glue here.’*) Put the picture of Jesus here. (*Help children line up their pictures.*) Now for the neat part. (*Fold their paper so Jesus on the donkey pops ups.*) Wow! So neat!”

After the Activity: “In our Bible story, we heard how Jesus was coming to the town of Jerusalem and everyone was so excited! They took off their coats and laid them on the ground with palm branches so Jesus would have a special path. Some people held palm branches and waved them in the air. They were all ready to celebrate. Jesus was riding a donkey on the path. When the people saw Him, they waved their branches and said, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! YAY, JESUS!’ The people were so excited to celebrate Jesus because Jesus is so special! We can celebrate Jesus, too, because Jesus is so special and Jesus is alive! **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.**”

2. Yay, Jesus!

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Give each child a piece of streamer, tissue, or fabric. The children will pretend the material is a palm branch like in the Bible story. As you review the Bible story, lead the children in waving their “branch” in the air while you cheer, “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!” Talk about how the people cheered for Jesus because Jesus is special.

What You Say: *During the Activity:* “Today, our Bible story was about Jesus! Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son. In our story, people waved palm branches in the air and cheered for Jesus, because Jesus is SO special! Let’s cheer for Jesus like they did in our Bible story. We can pretend this is a green palm branch! (*Pass out the green streamers.*) Follow me, and let’s cheer for Jesus! (*Lead the children around the room waving their branches.*)

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Say that with me as you wave your palm branch. Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!” (*Continue walking and cheering as long as time and interest allow.*)

After the Activity: “We cheer for Jesus because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive**, AND Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Yay, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**”

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3. Review and Prayer

SGL: In our Bible story today, Jesus rode into town on a donkey. When the people heard Jesus was coming, they spread coats and tree branches on the road to make a special path for Him. Then they shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ The people in our story knew Jesus is special, and so do we! So, when I ask you, ‘Who is alive?’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line]** ‘Jesus is alive!’ Let me hear you say it! **Who is alive?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line]** “Jesus is alive!”

SGL: “Yay! I love learning words that Jesus said! Now let’s sit down so we can talk to God.”

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever. THAT is worth celebrating! Thank You for giving us Jesus! We celebrate Jesus today! In Jesus’ name, amen.”