

Palm Sunday—March 2021, Week 4

Today's Bible Story: We can celebrate Jesus.

Palm Sunday • *Matthew 21:1-16*

Memory Verse: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

Key Question: Who can love like Jesus?

Bottom Line: I can love like Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

INTRO ACTIVITY: Celebrate

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

What You Need: Streamers; party horns; other party supplies; and a basket

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Put all the party supplies in the basket. Make sure you have enough supplies for each child to have one item.

During the Activity: Let each child pick a party supply out of the box. Talk about what you use these for. Ask how we can celebrate Jesus with them then dance, sing, and jump up and down with them.

After the Activity: Talk about how we'll hear a story today about celebrating Jesus.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends! I have a whole box of party supplies! Come sit with me, and let's see what's in the box."

During the Activity: "Wow! There are all kinds of fun things in here. (*Name all the things in the box.*) What can we use these things for? (*Pause.*) Yes, to celebrate! How can we celebrate Jesus with these party supplies? (*Pause.*) Can we sing to celebrate? (*Pause.*) Yes! Use your party supplies, and let's sing to celebrate Jesus! Lah, lah, lah! Nice singing! Can we dance to celebrate? (*Pause.*) Yes! Use your party supplies, and let's dance to celebrate Jesus! (*Pause.*) Super! Can we jump up and down to celebrate? (*Pause.*) Yes! Use your party supplies, and let's jump up and down to celebrate Jesus! (*Pause.*) Now show me how you celebrate Jesus. (*Pause.*) Fantastic!"

After the Activity: "Today, we'll hear a story and celebrate Jesus."

VIDEO: Palm Sunday: *Watch today's Bible Story Video with Pastor Robin!*

REVIEW ACTIVITIES Choose One of the Two Review Activities to Do With Your Child(ren):

1) Walk the Path (Movement Activity)

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: Painter's tape; and streamers, scarves, or cloth

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape a road with two solid lines on the floor then a dashed line down the middle.

During the Activity: Have children line up on either side of the road. Children will go down the road one at a time doing whatever movements they like. The children on the side will wave their streamers as they go past. Repeat as long as desired.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come stand on the side of the road with me. We need friends on both sides. (Pause.) Great! Here are some streamers you can wave to celebrate."

During the Activity: "Let's have [child's name] go first. You can move any way you want down the road. Friends on the side of the road, as they walk past, wave your streamers. Ready? Let's go! (Pause.) Awesome! Come join the friends on the side, and we'll have our next friend move down the road. (Repeat as many times as desired. Make sure each child has a turn to go down the road.) Everybody sit down where you are."

After the Activity: "In our Bible story today, the people heard that Jesus was coming to town, and they were so excited! They had heard that Jesus could do amazing things, and they wanted to see Him. The people wanted to show that Jesus is special, so they got coats to lay on the road and palm branches to wave. When Jesus rode by, the people waved their palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna, Hosanna, yay, Jesus!' We can celebrate Jesus every day by singing, dancing, and praying! The best thing we can do to celebrate Jesus is to love like Him. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

2) Paper Plate Palm Branch

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: "Plate Palm" Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; dessert-sized paper plates; green construction paper; large heart punch or die cut; glue sticks; large craft sticks; marker; and masking tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Plate Palm" Activity Page on label paper, one per child. Punch out hearts from the green construction paper. Each child needs at least six depending on the size of the heart punch. (Hearts should cover the plate.)

During the Activity: Have children glue the craft stick to the back of their plate then secure with masking tape. Have children add their label to the bottom of the stick. Encourage children to cover their plate by gluing the green hearts to their plate.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “What did the people in our story wave in the air? *(Pause.)* That’s right! A palm branch! Let’s make a palm branch to help celebrate Jesus.”

During the Activity: “Flip your plate over and glue the craft stick to the back. *(Pause.)* Super! Now put a piece or two of tape over the stick to help it stay. *(Pause.)* Great! Flip it back over and add your label to the stick. *(Pause.)* Now glue the green hearts all over the plate. *(Pause.)* Nice! Now you have your own palm branch!”

After the Activity: “Hold your branch in the air and shout, ‘Hosanna, Hosanna, yay, Jesus!’ *(Repeat.)* The people in our story were so excited that Jesus was coming to town that they put their coats on the road and waved palm branches to show Jesus how special He was. Palm Sunday is a special day to celebrate Jesus, but we can celebrate Jesus every day! We can celebrate Him when we sing, dance, and pray. But the best way to celebrate Jesus is when we love like Jesus. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

MEMORY VERSE

SAY: Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)*

“You can put your leaves behind you while we talk about today’s Bible story. *(Pause.)* Our Bible story was about celebrating Jesus. The people in our story spread their coats on the road and waved leaves in the air to celebrate Jesus. They cheered when they saw Him because they wanted Him to know they thought He was special.

“Before Jesus left, He said that if we love Him, we will go and love others the same way He loves us. That’s why we’ve been learning this Bible verse. *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“‘Love each other as I have loved you,’ John 15:12. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“That is Jesus talking to you and me. The best way we can celebrate Jesus is by doing what He said and love others the way Jesus loves us. Let’s stand up and say our verse together with the motions one time, then anyone who wants to try to say it can give it a try!”

“**Love each other** *(hug yourself)*
as I *(point up)*
have loved you, *(point thumbs to chest)*
John 15:12. *(Open hands like a book.)*

“You sound awesome! Good job! *(Give two thumbs-up.)* Let’s sit down. When it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it.

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paper/Prayer Journal, and A Marker or Fun Pen

SAY: “Let’s sit down again so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*”

“We have talked about a lot of different ways we can love like Jesus. We can help people. We can share what we have with people. And we can say kind words to people. When we do these things, we are celebrating Jesus!

“When I say your name, tell me one way you will love like Jesus. You can tell me someone you will help. You can tell me something that you will share. Or you can tell me someone you will say kind words to. Got it? *(Pause.)* Ok, when I say your name, tell me one way you will love like Jesus, and I will write it in our prayer journal.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“Thank you! This is a great list! Let’s use it when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

“Dear God, we want to celebrate Jesus every day by doing what He told us to do and love people the way He loves us. Please help [child’s name] to [what they listed] and *(continue to list each child and ask God for help with how they will love like Jesus)*. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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