



WEEK TWO – APRIL 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *This I Promise You* ▪ John 12:9–16

Bottom Line: *Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.*

Memory Verse: *“In this world, you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” – John 16:33b NIV*

Life App: *Hope – Believing that something good can come out of something bad*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Next, we head to an incredible moment John records in John 12:9–16. God’s people had waited for generations for God to send the Messiah. They were overwhelmed when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. God kept His promise. The mission to save the world was happening. This didn’t go exactly how they expected, but God was up to something bigger than they could imagine!

8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Waiting Strips” and “Waiting Cards” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Show kids the “Waiting Strips.” Point to each one as you read it aloud to the group, or invite a volunteer to read. Post or place the strips sequentially.
- Guide kids to take turns drawing a “Waiting Card.” Guide kids to look at the cards, decide how long they would need to wait for that thing, and then place the card by the appropriate time.
- Invite kids to name other things they’ve waited for. How long did they have to wait? Was it hard to wait? Why or why not?

2. Made to Worship

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Green construction paper, prepared “Palm Templates” Activity Page, markers, scissors, craft sticks, glue sticks, masking tape

What You Do:

- Show kids how to place a template on a piece of construction paper, trace it, and cut it out.
- Encourage kids to do their best, but reassure them that it’s okay if their tracing and cutting isn’t perfect. Tell them they can even cut fringes along the edges!
- Lead kids to glue a craft stick “branch” to the end of each frond to make a “handle.” Be prepared to use masking tape if glue sticks won’t hold.
- Guide kids to work together to make as many palm fronds as time allows.
 - *NOTE: Kids will use these to help dramatize the story during Groups.*

What You Say:

*“What do your cut-outs remind you of? (Pause.) Yes, giant leaves! In fact, they’re palm leaves. Do you know what palm leaves are called? (Pause.) Yes, palm fronds. **[Transition]** In today’s story, you’ll hear about a crowd of people who used palm fronds for something very important. Let’s go learn more.”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises. Because God keeps His promises, we can trust Him no matter what. Kids will face moments in their life where they might wonder if God will come through for them. We want kids to understand that God will come through. It might not be as they expected, but they can have hope that God will help them through their situation.*

9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Hosanna!

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through reenactment

What You Need: Bible (John 12); palm fronds from earlier activity

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to John 12. Ask leading questions to help kids recall the story.
- Choose volunteers to play the different parts (Zechariah, the Jewish leaders, Jesus, a few disciples, people in the crowd). Some kids can even be the donkey or special effects!
- Lead kids to reenact the following key points:
 - Long ago, Zechariah told the people about God’s promise to send a Savior: City of Zion, be full of joy! People of Jerusalem, shout! See, your king comes to you. He always does what is right. He has won the victory. He is humble and riding on a donkey. He is sitting on a donkey’s colt (Zechariah 9:9 NIV).
 - Many Jews believed that Jesus was their promised king.
 - Jesus had His disciples bring Him a young donkey.
 - Jesus got onto the donkey’s back and rode it toward Jerusalem.
 - When the crowds saw Jesus, they shouted: “Hosanna!” “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” (John 12:13 NIV)
 - The people waved palm branches and spread the branches and their coats on the road as Jesus rode by.

What You Say:

“The people had waited years and years and YEARS for God to send the Messiah, the Savior. And now He had come! The people were SO excited! Jesus, God’s Savior, was coming into Jerusalem to be king! God had kept his promise! His plan to save the world was happening.

*“Long ago, God kept His promise to send Jesus; and today—right now—He keeps His promises to you. **[Basic Truth] You can trust Him no matter what! So [Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**”*

2. God Keeps His Promises

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Palm fronds from earlier, markers, “God’s Promises” Activity Page, glue sticks

What You Do:

- Let each child choose a palm frond.
- Set out the markers and allow kids to decorate it if they’d like.
- Read the “God’s Promises” strips to the kids, or invite volunteers to read.
- Invite kids to choose one or more promise strip(s) to glue to their palm frond.

What You Say:

“Long ago, the people praised God for keeping His promise to send Jesus. What’s one promise God has made that YOU can praise Him for? (Pause for kids to read their verses.)

*“The people praised God by shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ How can you praise God? (I’ll sing to Him; I’ll shout, “Hosanna!”; I’ll dance for Him; etc.) **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way that you’ll praise God, too.)***

*“God loves you more than you could ever imagine! Long ago He loved you and kept His promise to send Jesus to be your Savior. And today—right now—He loves you and keeps His promises to you, too. So **[Bottom Line] no matter what happens, remember God keeps His promises.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Completed palm fronds from the “God Keeps His Promises” activity

What You Do:

- Read several promises from the kids' palm fronds. After each promise, guide kids to wave their fronds and shout, "Hosanna! God keeps His promises!"
- Close by directing kids to lay their fronds on floor as you pray. Thank God for always keeping His promises—especially His promise to send Jesus!

As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to show their palm frond to their parent and "read" the promise(s) they chose.