



WEEK 1 - April 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: 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.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-plush friends party

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-Memory verse
-Jesus Triumphant Entry
-Cut it out
-Journal and prayer

9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN

1. Plush Friends Party

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Several plush animals, paper party hats, paper cups, paper plates, and a plastic tablecloth

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover the table with a tablecloth. Set the party supplies and plush animals in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to set up a party for their plush friends! Instruct them to place a hat on each plush friend and place them around the table. Then guide them to set the table with the cups and plates. Children may use their imaginations to create a party for their plush friends.

After the Activity: Collect all the plush animals, cups, and plates for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I thought it would be fun to create a party for our plush friends! Do you see these party hats? Let's give each friend a hat today and then set the table for a party!"

After the Activity: "What a fun celebration! You are awesome party planners. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone else who is ALWAYS worth celebrating. Let's go find out who it is!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling out things you do at a party that children can pantomime as they walk, such as: dancing, hugging a friend, eating some yummy cake and ice cream, opening presents, etc.

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: We celebrate Jesus because He is special. We are going to celebrate Palm Sunday in a big way with our preschoolers and talk about how Jesus is special.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK

1. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and do the following motions in front of the children. "I am alive (point both hands up) for ever and ever!" (Twirl around.) Revelation 1:18. (Open your hands like a book.).

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I am going to say our new Memory Verse today. Everyone, watch me! "I am alive (point both hands up) for ever and ever!" (Twirl around.) Revelation 1:18." (Open your hands like a book.).

During the Activity: "Now let's do it all together! Are you ready?" (Lead the children in saying the verse and doing the motions several times.)

After the Activity: "Our Memory Verse tells us that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is ALIVE! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**"

2. Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: A coat, an artificial palm leaf, “Donkey Cutout” Activity Page, cardstock, a paint stick or large craft stick, and masking tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Donkey Cutout” onto cardstock and cut out. Tape the cutout to the paint or craft stick with the masking tape. Set the coat and palm branch on the floor of your activity area.

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Give one child the coat. Give one child the donkey. Let the children act out waving the palm branches or laying down the coats as the child with the donkey cutout walks by. Encourage the other children to say, “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!”

Every thirty seconds or so, stop the children with two claps and say, “SWITCH!” Children must put down what they have and choose a different child to play a different role for each round. Make sure as many children as possible have a chance to hold the donkey cutout.

After the Activity: Gather the coats, branches, and the donkey cutout and set aside for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “When Jesus came to town, the people were so excited to see Him. What did they wave as He entered Jerusalem? (*Hold up the palm branch.*) Yes, they waved palm branches and said, ‘Hosanna!’ What did they lay on the road? (*Hold up a coat.*) Yes, they put down their coats along the path. And Jesus entered riding on a what? (*Hold up the donkey.*) Yes! A donkey.”

During the Activity: “I want everyone to grab a coat or a palm branch or the donkey. Let’s pretend we were there that day! As the donkey walks by, say, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ If you have a palm branch, wave it! When I clap twice like this (*demonstrate*) and say, ‘Switch,’ I want you to switch what you have with someone else.”

After the Activity: “Everyone place your coats or branches or donkey right here. (*Designate a place for children to place these items.*) That was so fun! Can you imagine what it must have been like to see Jesus come to your own town? What a reason to celebrate. We celebrate because Jesus is special. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** today, and He loves it when we celebrate Him! **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.**”

3. Cut It Out

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: “Cut” Activity Page, green cardstock, adult scissors, and preschool-safe scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut the Activity Page leaves out on the dotted lines. Each child will need one leaf.

During the Activity: Give each child a leaf. Instruct the child to cut on the solid black lines around the leaf.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to cut it out!”

During the Activity: (Give each child a leaf.) “Use the scissors to cut on the black lines. (Assist children as needed.) Nice work!”

After the Activity: “Awesome! We have leaves just like in our Bible story today. The people waved the leaves as Jesus rode down the path. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**”

6. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Revelation 1:18. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. We are going to cheer for Jesus like they did in our story today while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me, and let’s cheer for Jesus!”

(Cheer for Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

CHILDREN and SGL: “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!”

(Repeat as you walk to your spot.)

SGL: “We made it! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“Our Bible story today was about the very first Palm Sunday. People got so excited when they heard Jesus was coming that they quickly cut some palm branches from trees and began waving them in the air! Some people took off their coats and spread

them on the road for Jesus to walk on. Everyone wanted to celebrate Jesus because He is so special!

“We still celebrate how special Jesus is because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Who is alive?**”

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

SGL: “And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“The verse says: *“I am alive for ever and ever!”* Revelation 1:18.

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Those are Jesus’ words. Jesus is saying: *“I am alive (point both hands up) for ever and ever!” (Twirl around.)* Revelation 1:18. *(Open your hands like a book.)* Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.

(Lead the children in saying the verse with the motions several times.)

“You sound awesome!

(Give high fives to the children.)

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

(Hold the journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“The people in our story showed Jesus He is special by waving branches in the air and putting coats on the road. What are some ways we can show Jesus He is special? Let’s make a list of ways we can show Jesus He is special. Maybe it’s telling Jesus we love Him, singing Him a song, or drawing Him a picture. There are lots of ways we can show Jesus we think He is super special!

(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.)

“This is a fantastic list! We can use it when talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, help us remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** and we can celebrate Him every day. We want to show Jesus how special He is by doing things like *(read the list the children made)*. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”