



WEEK 4 - March 2021 - PRESCHOOL

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.

Make it Fun

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

-Celebrate

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 drivin
-Leaf rubbing
-Party chute
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Celebrate

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

What You Need: Several different colors of streamers and a home center or other area

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the streamers near the home center or place you chose to decorate.

During the Activity: Allow the children to use the streamers to decorate the entire area. Help the children drape them on chairs, around other furniture, and even the floor. Encourage the children to use all of the different colors.

After the Activity: Stand with the children to admire the decorations.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's celebrate JESUS!"

During the Activity: "We can decorate our home center with these cool streamers! (*Hold up.*) You can put them anywhere you like! Let's use all of the different colors!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "WOW! Stand with me and look at the awesome job you did! I love all of your decorations. We are ready to celebrate Jesus just like they did in our Bible story today."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to blow up balloons for a celebration as you walk to the story area.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: We can celebrate Jesus. We will end the month with a huge celebration! Yes, palm branches will be involved and lots and lots of cheering for Jesus. We want to encourage our preschoolers to celebrate Jesus for showing us how to give and receive His amazing love. It is because of Jesus that we can love like Jesus, and that is worth celebrating!

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Memory Verse Drivin'

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: cardstock, washable inkpads, matchbox cars

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set the inkpads on the tables.

During the Activity: Give each child a matchbox car.. Encourage the children to first do the memory verse motions as you say the verse. Have the children press their matchbox car onto an inkpad then roll it along the outline of a heart to "paint" the verse.

After the Activity: Collect all matchbox cars and inkpads for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, we've been working on an AWESOME verse this month about loving like Jesus!"

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

"Let's take our cars and press them into the ink like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Roll your cars to make a heart like this! (*Demonstrate.*) Have you ever painted with cars before? It's so fun. Let's say our verse again as you paint. 'Love each other as I have loved you,' John 15:12."

After the Activity: "Jesus loves you and me SO much! In fact, **[Basic Truth] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Because Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever, we can love others like Jesus! So tell me, **who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

2. Leaf Rubbings

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: "Leaf Rubbings" Activity Page, copy paper, leaves, and crayons

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Leaf Rubbings" on copy paper, one per child. Set the crayons and the leaves in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Give each child a "Leaf Rubbings" page. Encourage them to select a leaf to place on the table. Have the children place their Activity Page on top of the leaf and use the side of a crayon to rub over the page to reveal the leaf underneath the page.

After the Activity: Collect all crayons and leaves for clean-up. Make sure each child's name is on their page and set aside for pick up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I have a few leaves here today. They are all so pretty and unique. And we're going to make leaf rubbings!"

During the Activity: "Select a leaf and place it flat on the table in front of you. Then place your page on top of the leaf. (*Demonstrate.*) Take your crayon and hold it like this to rub the side lightly over the page. Watch what happens! (*Demonstrate.*) Now it's your turn!"

After the Activity: "Your leaf rubbings are beautiful. Here at the bottom of the page, it reminds us that today is Palm Sunday! It's a day when we celebrate Jesus because He LOVES us! And when we know that Jesus loves us, we can share that love with others. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

3. Party Chute

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: Several different colors of streamers and a parachute or sheet

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the unrolled streamers on top of the parachute.

During the Activity: Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you and invite them to each pick up a section of the parachute. Encourage the children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Challenge the children to bounce the streamers to celebrate Jesus. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We can celebrate Jesus by putting decorations on the parachute. Let's bounce them HIGH!"

During the Activity: "Let's celebrate Jesus!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Awesome job! Jesus loves us and wants us to love each other, too! We should always celebrate Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**"

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Paper clipped "Memory Verse Card" in Bible at John 15:12, journal, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or a handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll use the leaves you made and have another parade for Jesus while we walk to our small group spot. Get ready to cheer and wave your leaves! Follow me! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! *(Repeat the cheer as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“Yay, Jesus! Thank you for celebrating Jesus with me. 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!”

CHILDREN and SGL:

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

SGL: “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. I have my [stickers or handstamp] ready! *(Allow children to try the memory verse.)*”

“You did it, [child’s name]! Here is your [sticker or handstamp]! *(Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*”

“Now when I count to three, I want everyone to show me their [sticker or handstamp]. One, two, three! Yay! I see them! I’m so proud of you! *(Clap and cheer for the children.)*”

“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

SGL: “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.”

