



Memory Verse:

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIVV

Bottom Line:

I can love like Jesus.

WEEK 4 - March 2021 - TWO'S

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

-Donkey Races

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.

-Coats and leaves
-Celebrate dance
-Driving like Jesus

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Donkey Races

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

What You Need: "Donkey" Activity Page, cardstock, two pool noodles or wrapping paper tubes, scissors, and masking tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Donkey" on cardstock and cut out, two "donkeys" per small group. Tape a cutout to the top of each noodle or tube. These are your donkeys. Tape a start line and a finish line about ten feet apart on the floor of the activity area. Be sure the lines are long enough to accommodate two teams.

During the Activity: Have the children stand in two lines at the start line. Give the first child in each line a donkey. Help the child place the noodle or tube between their knees so that the head of the donkey is at their chest like a stick horse. Encourage the two children to "ride" the donkey to the finish line and back. When they return, the children give the donkeys to the next two children in line. Repeat activity until all of the children have had a turn to race the donkey.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We have donkeys to ride! (*Hold up a donkey.*) Let's race!"

During the Activity: "Let's make two teams. (*Pause.*) We will start at this line (*point*) and ride to that line (*point*) and come back. (*Demonstrate.*) Are you ready?" (*Pause and do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! You are great donkey riders! Today in our Bible story, we will hear about a special person who rides a donkey. I am so excited for our Bible story today!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to ride a donkey as you move to the story area.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE (*snack*)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Welcome, everyone! Do you know what time it is? (*Pause.*) It's time for worship! We can sing and dance to show Jesus we love Him. Worship time is the BEST time! You probably know this song by now, so sing it out with me.

Lead children in singing "Love Like Jesus," this month's worship song.

"I'm SO glad to know for sure that Jesus LOVES me and Jesus LOVES you. Because He loves us, we can love others, too. **Who can love like Jesus?**"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: [Bottom Line] "I can love like Jesus."

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Coats and Leaves

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: floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape a pathway on the floor in shape of a leaf (or a coat) in the activity area.

During the Activity: Have the children walk on the pathway as they say the memory verse. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today in our Bible story, people laid down their coats and leaves for Jesus to walk on. Let's walk on coats and leaves as we say our memory verse just like Jesus did!"

During the Activity: "Here are the coats and leaves (*Point.*) Let's start walking so we can say our awesome memory verse!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us so much and He wants us to love each other like He loves us! **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**"

2. Celebration Dance

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: Music player, "Love Like Jesus," and green streamers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Give each child a streamer to represent palm leaves.

During the Activity: Play "Love Like Jesus" and encourage the children to wave the palm leaves around while they dance to the music. Stop the music several times during the song. When the music stops, shout with the children, "YAY JESUS!" Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's dance together and wave our palm leaves! (*Do activity.*) When the music stops, everyone shout, 'YAY Jesus! Are you ready?'" (*Stop music and continue the activity.*)

After the Activity: “Friends, you have some awesome dance moves! That was so fun. Jesus loves us and wants us to love each other like He loves us. Tell me, **who can love like Jesus?** **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**”

3. Driving for Jesus

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:

Option One: “Car Front” and “Car Back” Activity Pages; cardstock; dot markers or crayons; scissors; hole punch; yarn; and a permanent marker

Option Two: “License Plate” Activity Page; cardstock; sentence strips; scissors; tape; dot markers or crayons; and adhesive VELCRO® dots

Option Three: “License Plate” Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; small or medium packing boxes; black dessert plates; washable markers; and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: **Option One**—Copy “Car Front” and “Car Back” Activity Pages on cardstock, one set per child. Punch a hole in the top corners of each Activity Page. Cut yarn into 12 to 18-inch lengths, two per child.

Options Two and Three—Copy “License Plate” Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one per child.

During the Activity: **Option One**—Encourage children to decorate their car front and back. Tie one length of yarn to the front and back of the car on one side and the other length of yarn to the front and back of the car on the other side. Write child’s name on their car. Hang over their shoulders like suspenders. Drive around the room, beep horn, and say, “Yay, Jesus!”

Option Two—Encourage children to decorate their license plates. Measure the sentence strip around each child’s waist. Cut and tape together as needed. Attach one side of a dot on the back of both the license plates and the other side of the dots to either side of the sentence strip. You are attempting to make a belt with the license plates as front and rear buckles. When each child is wearing their license plates, drive around the room, beep horn, and say, “Yay, Jesus!”

Option Three—Encourage children to decorate their box, adding paper plate tires and a steering wheel. Glue the license plates to the front and back of their cars. Drive around the room, beep horn, and say, “Yay, Jesus!”

After the Activity: Talk about how you can love like Jesus anywhere you go.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me. We’re going to make a car to drive around and celebrate Jesus.”

During the Activity: (Adjust the following according to whichever option you chose.) “We have the front of the car with the license plate that says, ‘I can love like Jesus,’ and the back of the car with a license plate that says, ‘Yay, Jesus!’ Decorate both parts of your car. (Pause.) Nice job! Now, let me add the yarn to both sides. (Pause.) Okay, let’s put these on and drive around with me. (Pause.) Stop right here and shout, ‘Yay, Jesus!’ (Repeat.) Okay, let’s drive some more. (Pause.) Stop and shout, ‘Yay, Jesus!’ (Repeat.) Let’s keep driving. (Repeat as long as desired.) Park your cars right where you are.”

After the Activity: “The people in our story were so excited to see Jesus that they waved their palm branches and shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ But we don’t have to have a palm branch to celebrate Jesus. We can sing, we can dance, we can pray, and we can yell ‘Yay, Jesus!’ every day! The best way we can celebrate Jesus is to love like Him. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”