



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for giving us so much to celebrate! Thank Him for being our Savior and loving us enough to make the greatest, most miraculous sacrifice in history for US! Pray for your kids to understand how much God's love is worth celebrating.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Will Wait
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Wait for the Lord.
Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord.**
Psalm 27:14, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, green construction paper, scissors, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group as they arrive.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give each kid a piece of green paper and a pencil.
- Set out the scissors.
- Ask the kids to trace their hand on the green paper and cut it out.
- Set aside the green "palms" for later.
- Talk together about celebrations. Ask:
 - What is your favorite holiday?
 - What is your favorite non-holiday celebration?





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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



PALMS DOWN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palms Down Questions" Activity Page, Green "palms" from "Early Arriver," large craft sticks or paint stirrers, masking tape, small dry erase board, and dry erase markers

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the green "palms" from "Early Arriver."
- Set out the craft sticks or paint stirrers and the masking tape.
- Direct kids to tape the sticks to the palms so they can wave them.
- Set the dry erase board where everyone can see it.
- Write "T" and "F" on the board. (If you don't have a board, write a huge "T" and "F" on separate sheets of paper.)
- Invite two kids up to the board with their green "palms."
- Tell the kids that you will read a True or False question. They get to use their "palms" to slap either "T" for True or "F" for False.
- Read one of the questions from the sheet.
- The first person to hit the correct corresponding letter, wins.
- Rotate through the kids and make sure everyone gets a chance to answer a question.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd was ready to celebrate! They were ready to see God's rescue plan happen in front of them. For many years, the people had waited for God's promise to come true.

"Palm Sunday reminds us that **you can celebrate even when you're waiting.** A way to show patience is to keep your eyes on the good that is happening right now, instead of only focusing on the future stuff that isn't here yet.

"We know that the biggest celebration of the whole church year is right around the corner—Easter! But what good things can you celebrate right now? (*Invite responses—good days at school, fun time with family, prayers answered, feeling healthy and strong, etc.*) God is always good to us, so we always have a reason to celebrate!"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What is one thing you can celebrate this week? How has God been good to you?
- What big things are you waiting on right now?
- What small things do you find yourself having to wait for a lot lately?
- What can you do when you can't think of anything to celebrate?



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



CELEBRATE AND WAIT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: dry erase board, and dry erase marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give everyone a piece of paper.
- Direct the kids to work together to come up with a quick list of “celebratory” movements, such as:
 - jumping up and down
 - dancing
 - skipping
 - “lawn mower” dance move
- Ask the kids to line up on the far side of the wall for a game of “Leader, May I?”
- One at a time, allow the kids to ask you for permission to move across the room, using one of the celebratory movements.
- For example, they can ask, “Leader, may I take four jumps up and down?”
- You will respond, “No, you need to wait,” or “Yes, you may.”
- The kids are only allowed to move if you give them permission.
- The first kid to make it to you, wins!
- Try to make the winner the kid who celebrates with the most enthusiasm.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“Even when we have to wait, there’s still so much to thank God for and so much to celebrate. When we take time to celebrate, it helps us wait better and more patiently, too! If you’re waiting on brownies to bake, the wait goes by so much faster if you celebrate how good they will be when they’re done! When you’re waiting for all the fun Easter celebrations to come next week, you can celebrate and thank God for sending us Jesus. You can even use these celebration streamers to help you do that! **[Make it Personal] (Tell the group about a time you celebrated while you were waiting.) You can celebrate even when you're waiting.**”





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PASS AND WAIT [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, spoons and plastic egg

WHAT YOU DO:

- Quickly review Psalm 27:14 and ask if anyone wants to say it from memory.
 - Instruct kids to sit in a circle.
 - Give each kid a plastic spoon.
 - Tell them that you will give one kid a plastic egg, and they will say the first word of the memory verse. Then, they pass the egg to the kid on their right, using only their spoon.
 - That kid will say the second word of the verse as they pass the egg to their right.
 - "Wait" (pass egg), "on" (pass egg), "the" (pass egg) and so on, until the entire verse has been recited.
 - Whoever ends up with the last word of the memory verse is out of the game and can sit on the sidelines and celebrate their other teammates!
 - Continue passing the egg and repeating the verse until there is only one kid left.
- Note: To keep the game short enough, divide into two groups if you have more than five kids and give both groups spoons and an egg.*

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Waiting isn't so bad when you're having a good time! Have you ever found yourself waiting for something, but the time flew by because you were having so much fun? (Allow time for kids to think and share responses. If they have a hard time, prompt them with examples: *Maybe you were on a long road trip, but your family played a ton of fun games on the way!*) No matter where you find yourself waiting this week, remind yourself that **you can celebrate even when you're waiting.**"





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: No materials needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell kids that even though there are fun things planned for Easter, we still have to wait for those things to arrive.
- Ask for a few examples of how we can celebrate this week while we wait for the big Easter celebrations.
- Close the group in prayer.
- After prayer, stand up again and encourage kids to wave pretend palm branches while they shout, "Hosanna!"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Will Wait
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us that waiting doesn't always have to be boring! If we look hard enough, there is joy and celebration to be found, even in the challenging times. When we are tempted to be irritated or impatient this week, remind us that **you can celebrate even when you're waiting.** Let our responses to waiting show the people around us that You are worth celebrating and praising! In Jesus' name, amen!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to wave their pretend palm branch. Ask them to shout out the word the people said when Jesus entered the city—Hosanna! Remind them that this week **you can celebrate even when you're waiting.**

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