



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



LEAF AND COAT PATTERNS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Leaf and Coat Pattern Strips" and "Leaf and Coat Cards" Activity Pages; cardstock; and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Leaf and Coat Pattern Strips" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; at least

one strip per child. Copy the "Leaf and Coat Cards" on cardstock and cut apart; one leaf and one coat per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Set the strips and cards on the table. Encourage each child to select a strip from the "Leaf and Coat Pattern Strips." Point out the empty square at the end of the strip. The children will look at the pattern to determine if a coat or leaf goes in the empty square. Once they have an answer, encourage them to place a coat or leaf card in the open square. After children finish one strip, let them select a new one to complete. Repeat as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect all strips and cards for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see this strip? (*Hold up one of the pattern strips.*) Do you see the empty box at the end? Look at the pattern on the card. I see (*name the pattern on the card*). Looking at this pattern, what do you think goes in this blank, a coat or a leaf?" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, friends! You found the pattern. In today's story, we'll hear about some people who put leaves and coats on the ground for someone special to walk on. Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out different patterns of colors for the children to complete. Examples: red, blue, red, (*blue*); green, yellow, red, green, yellow, (*red*); blue, black, blue, (*black*); green, purple, purple, green, purple (*purple*).

BIBLE STORY

We celebrate our friend, Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY

MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:20, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



HOSANNA

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Real or artificial leaves; Optional "Leaves" Activity Page, green cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Option-copy "Leaves" on green cardstock and cut out; one per child.

BIBLE STORY

We celebrate our friend, Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY

MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a leaf and encourage them to wave it in the air while marching around the activity area. Challenge them to move it up and down and side to side while saying, "HOSANNA!"

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's celebrate Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Give each child a leaf) "Let's pretend that this (point to leaf) is a palm leaf. Wave it high in the air. (Demonstrate.) Can you move it up and down? (Demonstrate.) How about side to side? (Demonstrate.) Let's march around the room while we wave our leaves. We can say, 'HOSANNA!' just like they did in our Bible story today!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We can celebrate Jesus in so many ways! We celebrate Jesus because He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



PALM LEAF DOT-TO-DOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Leaf Dot-to-Dot" Activity Page, copy paper, and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Palm Leaf Dot-to-Dot" on paper; one per child. Set a page at each spot at the table. Place the markers in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the dots on the page and show the children how to draw lines to connect one dot to another. As they finish, ask them what shape they see on the page (a *leaf*). Encourage them to color the leaf with the markers.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Make sure each child's name is on the page and set aside for pick-up. Gather the markers to put away.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's use a marker to connect the dots on the page, like this. What shape do you see? (Pause.) Yes, a leaf! Let's color our palm leaves."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! The people waved their palm branches to celebrate Jesus! He's the BEST friend ever. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 28:20; journal; fun-shaped pen; and red heart stickers

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll wave our hands like palm branches and shout 'Hosanna' for Jesus! Get your hands ready and follow me! (*Wave your hands in the air and say, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!" as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"One more time! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! (*Clap for a few seconds.*) Now let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"The people in our Bible story did what we just did when they heard Jesus was coming. They spread their coats on the road, waved palm branches in the air, and shouted 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' They were SO excited to see Jesus because they had heard all of the amazing things Jesus had done. He wanted to be everyone's friend. It's true! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!

"That's why, when I ask you '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', you say '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

SGL: "Again! Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

SGL: "He sure does! When Jesus is our friend forever, He can always be with us. And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that Jesus is always with us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'I am with you always,' Matthew 28:20. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Wow! Jesus said that! Let's stand up and say that together with these motions I'll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20." (*Open hand like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

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(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "Thank you for saying that with me. It's so special to know that Jesus is always with us. Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Since today is all about celebrating our friend Jesus, we'll do something special in our prayer journal to show Jesus we love Him.

"I will write JESUS in our prayer journal like this. (*Write JESUS across the page in big letters.*) See? (*Point to the letters as you say them.*) J – E – S – U – S! And now, when I say your name, I will give you a heart sticker to put around Jesus' name. Listen for your name! (*Say each child's name, give them a heart sticker, and encourage them to put the heart around JESUS in your journal.*)

"Look at all of the hearts! What a wonderful way to celebrate our friend, Jesus. Would anyone like to pray and thank God for Jesus before I pray?"

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

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. He is so kind and teaches us how to love everyone. And He can do amazing things that only He can do! Jesus is SO worth celebrating! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."