



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. WAVE

WHAT YOU NEED: Large basket and items like toys or blocks for each child

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the items in the basket and place the basket on one side of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call a child's name and ask them to run to the basket and pull out a specific item then wave it in the air. Repeat until all children have had a turn.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in today's Bible story, people waved things in the air because they were excited to see Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Come stand with me. Do you see the basket on the other side of the room? (*Point.*) It has some cool stuff inside!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'll have you each look for something cool in the basket. When you find your item, show everyone that you found it by waving it high in the air! Are you ready?"

"[Child's name], run to the basket and look for the [item's name]. (*Pause.*) Yay, you found it! Now wave it in the air. (*Pause.*) Run back with your item.

"[Child's name], your turn! (*Continue until each child has a turn.*) Great job, friends! Everyone, wave your toy in the air one more time, then place it back in the basket. (*Pause.*) Great job."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a Bible story about some people who waved things in the air because they were so excited to see Jesus!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by waving your arms in the air as you walk to the story area.

BIBLE STORY

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.



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



1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and show the motions to the children. "I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever," (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18. (*Open 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.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we can celebrate that **Jesus is alive!**

BIBLE STORY

We celebrate Jesus because He is special.

PALM SUNDAY

MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Join me over here. We have a brand-new memory verse to learn this month. Everyone, listen and watch me. 'I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,' (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18." (*Open hands like a book.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,' (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's do it again. (*Repeat several times.*) Nice job, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus is alive for EVER and EVER! **Who is alive? Jesus is alive!** One more time. **Who is alive? Jesus is alive!**"

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.



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



4. SPECIAL PATH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Adult-size coats or jackets and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape a long, straight path on the floor. Set the pile of coats on the floor opposite the path.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Instruct children to line up single file behind the pile of coats. Ask a child to put on a coat and hop, skip, or walk to the tapeline. Then encourage the child to remove the coat, lay it along the path, and sit down next to the path. Once the first child sits down, encourage the next child in line to follow in the same way. Repeat so that every child has a turn.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how the people in our story used their coats.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand here with me. In our Bible story today, what did the people lay on the ground in front of Jesus? Do you remember? (Pause.) Yes! They were so excited to see Jesus that they took their coats off and laid them on the ground with palm branches so Jesus would have a special path. Line up here with me, and let's do that, too."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When it's your turn, I want you to put on a coat and walk, hop, or skip to the path. Then take off the coat, lay it down on the ground just like the people did in the Bible story, and have a seat by the special path. (Demonstrate.) Everyone will have a turn!"

"[Child's name], it's your turn! Put on a coat and hop, skip, or walk to the special path. (Pause.) Now, lay your coat down on the path and have a seat. (Pause.) Great job! [Child's name], your turn! (Continue until each child has a turn.) Look at the special path you made. That was SO fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The people in our story took off their coats and laid them on the ground with palm branches so Jesus would have a special path! The people were ready to celebrate saying, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' Let's say that together. Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! We can celebrate Jesus because He is so special! **Jesus is alive. Who is alive? Jesus is alive.**"

BIBLE STORY

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.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, Bible, cardstock, scissors, paperclip, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per group. Paperclip one card in the Bible at Revelation 1:18 and keep in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to your Small Group spot, sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Bible story and memory verse then write in the journal. Pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, every time we take three steps, we'll stop and say, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' Come on and count with me! (*Count out loud with each step. Every time you say, "three," stop and say, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!" Continue as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"One, two, three! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! We made it! Let's cheer for Jesus one more time."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

SGL: "Now 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.*)

"In our Bible story today, Jesus rode into town on a donkey. When the people heard Jesus was coming, they spread coats and tree branches on the road to make a special path for Him. Then they shouted, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' The people in our story knew Jesus is special, and so do we! So, when I ask you, '**Who is alive?**', I want you to say, '**Jesus is alive!**' Let me hear you say it! **Who is alive?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**Jesus is alive!**"

SGL: "Yes, **Jesus is alive!** And the Bible verse we'll begin learning today will help us remember that **Jesus is alive** because JESUS is the one saying the words! In this Bible verse, Jesus says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'I am alive for ever and ever,' Revelation 1:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Wow! Did you hear that? Jesus said He is alive forever and ever! Let's stand up

BIBLE STORY

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.



(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

and say what Jesus said with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “‘I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,’ (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “Yay! I love learning words that Jesus said! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

“Today in our Bible story, people celebrated Jesus by laying coats and branches on the road and cheering for Him, because Jesus is special. It’s good to celebrate, and there are lots of ways to do it! So when I say your name, tell me one way you like to celebrate. Like how you celebrate your birthday or Christmas, with party horns, confetti, balloons, or cake? (*Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

“Look at all of these fun ways to celebrate! Let’s pray and thank God for giving us Jesus to celebrate. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, **Jesus is alive**, and He wants to be our friend forever. THAT is worth celebrating! We can celebrate with (*read the list the children made*). Thank You for giving us Jesus! We celebrate Jesus today! In Jesus’ name, amen.”