



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Terra cotta flower pots; potting soil; trowel; grass seed; spray bottle of water; permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a planter and set out the markers. (Carefully supervise younger kids if they need it.)
- Encourage kids to write their names and today's date on the pots.
- If time allows, invite the kids to decorate the pots.
- Direct the kids to carefully fill their pots almost full of the potting soil.
- Instruct each kid to sprinkle a handful of grass seed evenly over their soil and gently mist it with the spray bottle.
- Set aside the pots for "Pray and Dismiss."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water
Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some great growing planters! It will take about a week for your grass to grow. So you can expect to see some sprouts by Easter! *(Adjust the following if your kids ministry doesn't meet on Sundays.)* **[Transition] Let's go hear what makes this whole week—from this Sunday to next Sunday—so important to us!**"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



1. WHAT'S FIRST?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Cards" Activity Pages and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Lay out the "Story Cards," face up.
- One by one, read each card to the group and show the kids the picture illustrated on it.
- Tape a line on the floor, long enough for kids to stand on together.
- Shuffle the story cards.
- Give each kid a card and set out the tape.
- Direct the kids to tape their card to the top of one foot.
- Instruct the kids to stand on the line.
- Challenge kids to move along the line to put the "Story Cards" in the correct order.
- Issue the challenge that one foot must always be in contact with the tape line as they move.
- When the kids feel like they have the cards in the correct order, instruct them to retell the story, taking turns to share what is on their "Story Card."
- Below is the correct order for the "Story Cards" and optional review questions for some of the cards.
 - Jesus' disciples bring Him a donkey and colt. (*What is a disciple? A person who followed Jesus*)
 - Jesus rides the colt to Jerusalem.
 - As He rode to Jerusalem, people laid coats on the ground and waved palm branches cut from trees. (*What did the people shout as Jesus rode by? "Hosanna," which is an expression of praise*)
 - However, not everyone was happy about Jesus coming to Jerusalem. (*Who was not happy about Jesus coming? The religious leaders who saw Jesus as a threat to their way of doing things*)
 - In Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples sit down to eat a Passover meal.
 - Jesus gets up and grabs a towel and a bowl of water.
 - Jesus washes the disciples' feet. (*How did the disciples respond?*)
 - Jesus explains, "I have given you an example." Jesus' example shows the importance of putting others first.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water
Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Growing in humility is sometimes very hard. It's hard to give up what we think we deserve. But in our story today, **Jesus put others first**, and He wants us to do the same. It isn't always easy to put others first, is it? Sometimes to put others first, you have to give up doing what you want to do. Maybe you help a friend rake his yard instead of going to the park with a group of friends. Maybe you read with your younger brother instead of watching your favorite TV show."



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. WHAT'S FIRST?, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Share an example of a time someone showed humility by putting you first. Maybe your car broke down and they changed their plans to drive you to work.)



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



*2. GROWING UP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Leaf" Activity Pages, prepared "Tree Mural," markers or colored pencils, tape, and Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids around the "Tree Mural."
- Give each kid a "Leaf," marker,
- Instruct kids to write a way they can put others first on the leaf.
 - Consider reading these questions to prompt kids' thinking:
 - You notice a friend having a bad day. What can you do to put them first?
 - You notice a kid without a lunch. What can you do to put them first?
 - What can you do to put your parents first? Or your brother or sister?
- Invite kids to share their responses with the group.
- Give each kid a loop or piece of tape.
- Instruct the kids to put their leaves on the Tree Mural.
- Tell the kids that each week, they will get an opportunity to add leaves to the tree.
- Read John 13:14-15 to the kids.
- Challenge kids to think of one way they'll try to show humility this week by putting others first.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water

Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus, God's very own Son, took a servant's job. **Jesus put others first** by washing the feet of His disciples. You probably won't go around washing peoples' feet, but you came up with some great ways for us to follow Jesus' example and put others first. (Review some of the examples kids wrote on the leaves.) This week, keep your eyes open for opportunities to follow Jesus' example and show humility by putting others first."



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Flower pots/planters made during "Opening Activity"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their planter.
- Make sure everyone knows to carefully water them every other day with just enough water to keep the soil moist.
- Encourage kids to listen to stories they hear this week at other church services about ways that **Jesus put others first.**
- If your church has Good Friday or other Holy Week services and opportunities, let kids know about them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You that **Jesus put others first** during His time on Earth and when He rescued us from sin. Please help us listen to the stories around us this week and look for ways to do the same. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take their flower pots/planters home. Invite families to any Holy Week services or activities.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water
Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.