



PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

We can celebrate Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-11,15-16**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"I have called you friends."

**JOHN 15:15, 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.

**LARGE GROUP**

**ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.**

**WORSHIP**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files; and "I Love You So Much," available on [OrangeKidsMusic.com](http://OrangeKidsMusic.com); *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](http://OrangeKidsMusic.com), and "I Love You So Much," available from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](http://OrangeKidsMusic.com)*

*Worship Leader enters.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Friends, welcome to [name of environment]! My name is [your name]. I'm SO glad you're here because today, we're going to talk about Jesus, our forever friend. God sent Jesus, His only Son, because God loves us! Did you know that Jesus wants to be your friend and my friend forever? It's true!

"When I ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "That's right. I'm SO glad God gave us Jesus. There is no better friend. Let's sing this together.

*Lead children in singing "Never Better," this month's worship song.*

"Thank you for singing and moving with me! The Bible teaches us that Jesus said, 'I (point up) have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers) friends;' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.) Jesus says that to you and me! Let's learn our Memory Verse together. Let's say it together.

*Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.*

"Great job! Jesus calls us His friend. What does Jesus say when He thinks of us? Jesus thinks, 'I love you so much!' Sing with me."

*Lead children in singing "I Love You So Much."*

"I just love that truth. Jesus loves you SO much. Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the



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wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

*Host enters as Worship Leader exits.*

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Megaphone

*Host enters with the megaphone as Worship Leader exits.*

**HOST:** "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name].

(*Into megaphone.*) "G-O, go team! G-O, go team!"

*Put down the megaphone.*

"Do you know what this is? This is called a megaphone. It helps you cheer (*into megaphone*) really loud.

*Put down megaphone.*

"Do you want to make a megaphone? Put your hands by your mouth like this.

*Cup hands around mouth.*

"Now cheer, 'G-O, Go team!'"

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "G-O, Go team! G-O, Go team! G-O, Go team!"

**HOST:** "Megaphones down. Great cheering, friends. And today's Bible Story has lots of cheering! I can't wait for you to hear it. I'll see you later!"

*Storyteller enters as Host exits.*

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Painter's tape, coats, palm branches, and a Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

*Preset the coats and palm branches in the storytelling area. Use floor tape to mark a 2' wide path down the center of where the children sit for Bible Story time.*

*Option: If you have a raised stage or don't wish to have the Storyteller in the middle of the children, lay the coats along the front edge of the stage.*

*Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible, as Host exits.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I have an awesome TRUE story from the Bible.

*Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.*



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"Today's true story from the Bible starts in the town of Jerusalem when people found out that (excited) Jesus was coming! The people were so excited that Jesus was coming! Turn to your neighbor and with your best excited face say, 'Jesus is coming!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is coming!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Stand up on your feet. Now, turn to your other neighbor, jump up and down, and say, 'Jesus is coming!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus is coming!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Woo-hoo! That's how excited the people were. You can sit down now."

"The people were so excited and wanted to celebrate and cheer for Jesus because they knew Jesus was special, and they had heard about all the amazing things Jesus had done. Let's cheer for Jesus one more time. Say, 'Yay, Jesus!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Yay, Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER:** "The whole town lined up on the street to see Jesus. See this taped path on the floor? Everyone, scoot apart so we can see the path."

*Lead the children to scoot apart to reveal the taped path on the floor where they're sitting. Then begin laying the coats out flat along the path.*

"They took their coats off and laid them on the ground to make a special path for Jesus."

*(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)*

Pick up the palm branches and begin to wave them.

"And the people held palm branches up high so they could wave them like flags. When they saw Jesus, they wanted to be ready to celebrate and cheer for Jesus. Quick, let's get ready too! Pretend to have a palm branch in your hand."

"Let's pretend Jesus is coming! Wave your pretend branches in the air like this, and we're all going to shout, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!'"

*Wave palm branches and shout with kids.*

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER:** "One more time!"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great job, everyone. You can put your arms down now."

*(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)*



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"Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, and the people waved their palm branches and celebrated Jesus. And we can celebrate Jesus today and every day because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

**STORYTELLER:** "It's true! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

### PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever! Just like the people in Jerusalem cheered and were SO happy to see Jesus, help us to love and celebrate Jesus too! We want ALL our friends to know about Jesus, the best friend of all. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

*Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.*

### OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "Wow! So many people wanted to celebrate Jesus. They knew Jesus was special. We can celebrate Jesus too!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "Got it!"

**HOST:** (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good! Jesus wants to be our friend forever! So now, let's cheer for Jesus like the people in the story."

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

**HOST:** "Great job! I hope you keep cheering for Jesus! [Transition] And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Host dismisses small groups and exits.*