



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. BUBBLE WRAP WALK

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubble wrap, scissors, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Roll out the bubble wrap on the floor of your activity area. Secure the sides to the floor with

tape. Gather the children to stand on either side of the bubble wrap path.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call one child at a time to walk along the path as the rest of the children cheer and celebrate. Repeat until every child has a turn.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand here with me on either side of this fun bubble path."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's take turns walking along the path. We'll go one at a time. Listen for me to call your name. [Child's name], come walk down the path, and we'll clap and cheer and celebrate you! (*Clap and cheer.*) Hooray for [child's name]! Listen to the path pop as you walk! Great job! Come sit down and help us cheer for [child's name]. (*Continue with each child until everyone has had a turn.*) That was SO fun! You did a great job celebrating each other."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we're going to learn about people who celebrated Jesus when He came to town. How exciting! Let's go."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out different ways to walk—tiptoe, hop, jog, march, baby steps, giant steps, etc.

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.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



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5. GO TEAM JERSEY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Go Team Jersey" Activity Page, cardstock, washable markers, stickers, stamps, washable ink pads, hole punch, yarn or ribbon, scissors, baby wipes, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Go Team Jersey" on cardstock, one set per child. Punch a hole in the top corners of each Activity Page. Write each child's name on their jersey, above the statement, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Cut yarn/ribbon 18", two per child. Create a wearable sandwich board by running one piece of yarn/ribbon through the holes on the left side of the jersey front and the right side of the jersey back. Knot to secure and then repeat on the other side.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their jerseys, then wear them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's make a cool team jersey! Come sit down at the table and we'll get started."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Decorate your team jersey with the markers, stickers, and stamps. (Pause.) Great job! Jesus loves you and wants you to be part of His team! Let's put your jersey on and you can wear them while we review today's Bible Story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we learned about the very first Palm Sunday. Jesus was going to the town of Jerusalem and the people were so excited! They wanted to celebrate and cheer for Jesus because they knew He was special, and they had heard about all the amazing things Jesus had done. The whole town lined up on the street to see Jesus. They took their coats off and laid them on the ground to make a special path for Jesus, then waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!" The people waved their palm branches and celebrated Jesus! We can celebrate Jesus today and every day because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15. Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to wave their hands in the air as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions, then encourage children to help you make a list in the journal of things they love about Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to cheer for Jesus and wave our hands in the air while we walk to our small group spot. Hands up! It's time to cheer for Jesus and follow me! (*Cheer for Jesus and wave your hands in the air as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay, Jesus! Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, lots of people cheered for Jesus when they saw Him coming down the road. What else did the people do? (*Pause.*) Yes, they spread their coats on the road, and they cut tree branches and spread them on the road too. They knew Jesus was special, but they didn't know the BEST part yet! Jesus was coming because He wanted to be their friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** You got it! Jesus wants to call everyone His friend, just like He said in the Bible verse we have been learning. 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.*) Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.*)



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"You sound wonderful! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we're going to make a list of things we love about Jesus. You could love that Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Jesus always listens when you pray. Jesus wants to help you. Jesus loves you. Jesus loves EVERYONE! Jesus can do anything! Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is always with you. Wow! There is so much to love about Jesus! When I say your name, tell me one thing you love about Jesus and I will write it in our journal. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: (*Hold up journal.*) "Look at all the things we love about Jesus! Let's use this list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus! We love Jesus so much! We love Jesus because (*read the list the children made*). Please help us to cheer for Jesus every day because Jesus is AMAZING! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."