

WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Take You at Your Word
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus came to be our Savior.

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in him will
not die but will have eternal life."**
John 3:16, NIRV

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Kid volunteers
- Bible
- Robe for the kid playing Jesus
- Two stick horses
- Scroll (blank)—i.e. a long piece of paper attached to two wooden dowels

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Easter—Celebrating that
Jesus is alive**

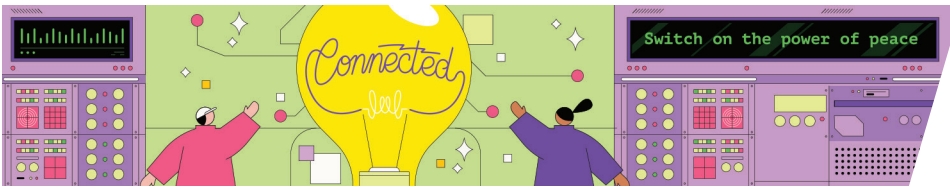
Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Random, soft items to create "obstacles" for the course—such as pool noodles, traffic cones, pool inflatables, bean bags, etc.
- Large plastic bin(s)
- Lots of inflated balloons (inflated with air, not helium)

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Take You at Your Word
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus came to be our Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in him will
not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Easter—Celebrating that
Jesus is alive

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

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

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everybody! Today is a really exciting day because we're talking about Palm Sunday and getting ready to celebrate Easter!"

"We've been talking this month about how we can switch on the power of peace. And as we celebrate Easter, we'll look at how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. Jesus made it possible for us to have peace with God!"

"Here's what we're celebrating at Easter:

SLIDE: VIRTUE (EASTER)

"We're **celebrating that Jesus is alive.**

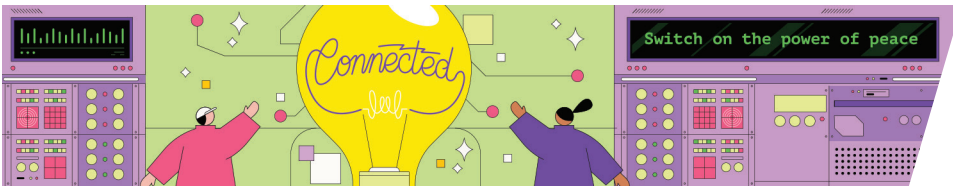
"Because of what Jesus did for us, we know that [**Basic Truth**] **we can trust God no matter what.** We can have true peace in our lives, no matter what's happening around us.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"I've got a fun Easter-themed game for us to play as we kick off our time together. As you can see, we've set up an obstacle course here in the room. But since it's almost Easter, this is a 'Hopstacle Course'! Everyone go ahead and line up here behind the starting line.

Point out and explain the obstacles in the track you've set up in your Large Group room (pool noodles, traffic cones, inflatables, etc.)



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Note: Depending on how many kids you have, you may want to have two or three lines—and parallel courses—so multiple kids can go at the same time.

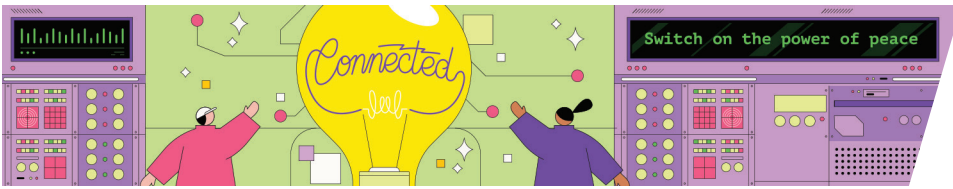
“When it’s your turn, you’ll make your way through the course while avoiding the obstacles along the way. But instead of running, you’ll be hopping while holding a balloon between your knees—like this! (*Demonstrate.*) If you drop your balloon, just put it back between your knees and keep going. When you make it across the finish line, go back and put your balloon back in the bin at the starting line. Then come back to the finish line to cheer for your friends.

“Let’s see how fast everyone can get through the course. Are you ready? Set? Let’s go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Cheer for everyone as they complete the “Hopstacle Course.” Celebrate big when everyone completes it!

“Whoa—that was a lot of fun. Way to go, everyone! Give someone a high-five and then we’ll sing some fun songs to worship God together.”



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I hope you're ready to sing some fun songs and praise God with us. Before we get started, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): [LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL](#)

"I'm thankful for the way Jesus showed us what peace is all about. His peace fills our hearts with hope and joy. Now it's our turn to live that out by making peace with others. Let's give Jesus praise for His love, kindness and peace. Sing this with me, everybody.

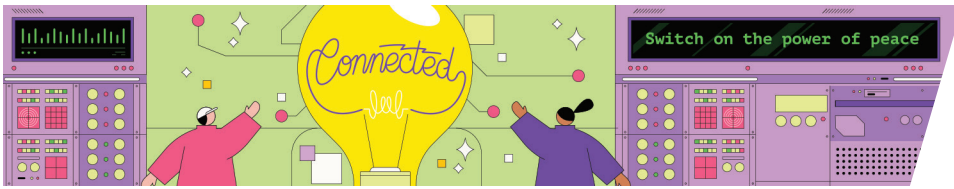
AUDIO: ["JESUS IS PEACE" / TRACK 8 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU](#)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): ["JESUS IS PEACE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)

"In Psalm 17:6-7, David prayed: *'My God, I call out to you because you will answer me. Listen to me. Hear my prayer. Show me the wonders of your great love.'* (NirV) When we take the time to think about what God has done, we are filled with awe. We can't help but worship! I'm excited to sing this song with you today because it's about the amazing love of God. Let's worship God now."

AUDIO: ["HOW AMAZING" / TRACK 6 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME](#)

OPTIONAL VIDEO: ["HOW AMAZING" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! Today we’re looking at something Jesus did that we can read about in the book of Matthew—the first book in the New Testament. (*Hold up Bible.*)

“As Jesus traveled around, teaching and healing people, large crowds followed Him. But this made the religious leaders upset, because they didn’t believe that Jesus is really God’s Son. As Jesus became more and more popular, the religious leaders were afraid of losing their power . . . and so they wanted to stop Jesus.

“When Jesus raised a dead man back to life, you’d think that would have convinced the religious leaders to change their minds about Him. But instead, the leaders decided that the time had come for them to get rid of Jesus. They decided that the Passover week would be the best time to do it.

“As we get into what happened next, I’ll need some help from some of you who would like to act on stage. First, let me choose some of you to play Jesus and some of His friends. Raise your hand if you’d like to do it.

Choose a kid to play Jesus and give him the robe to wear. Also choose two other boys to represent the disciples. Have all of them stand together on stage.

FINDING A DONKEY

STORYTELLER: (*Referencing the kids*) “Okay—so here we have Jesus and some of His closest friends, the disciples.

“As Jesus and His closest friends made their way toward Jerusalem, they paused on the Mount of Olives in a small town called Bethphage. Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead of the rest of the group.

Quietly tell the kid playing Jesus to point forward (above the audience). Move the other two boys to the front of the stage.

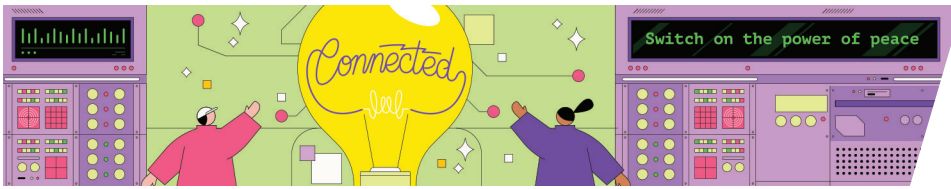
“Jesus said to them:

Open the Bible to Matthew 21:2-3 (NirV) and read.

“Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away.” (NirV)

(To the two disciples) “Okay, disciples. You heard Jesus. If you head all the way to the back of the room, you’ll find the donkey and her colt. Please bring them back up here as quickly as you can. (*Referencing the audience*) While you do that, we’ll give you a giant round of applause!

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 1: DONKEY (PLAY REPEATEDLY)



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Clap for the two boys as they go to the back of the room, find the two stick horses, and bring them back to the stage. Keep clapping and hyping up the audience to cheer while this is happening, to avoid any awkward silence.

THE PROPHECY

STORYTELLER: "Okay! Thank you so much, disciples. I guess these look more like horses, but we can pretend they're donkeys.

Take one of the stick horses from the boys and hold it while you continue.

(Hold up Bible.) "Believe it or not, God had actually predicted that the Messiah, Jesus, would enter Jerusalem on a donkey. God sent this message through the words of the prophet Zechariah, hundreds of years before. *(Hold up Bible.)* Zechariah spoke about a King who God would send to rescue the Israelites.

"Who would like to play Zechariah?"

Choose a kid on the opposite side of the room and have him stand up. Give him the scroll, and quietly tell him to just move his mouth while you read what he said.

"Okay, let's rewind and hear what Zechariah had to say.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 2: REWIND

Open the Bible to Zechariah 9:9 (NIRV) and read.

*"City of Zion, be full of joy!
People of Jerusalem, shout!
See, your king comes to you.
He always does what is right.
He has won the victory.
He is humble and riding on a donkey.
He is sitting on a donkey's colt." (NIRV)*

"Now let's jump ahead to where we left off.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 3: FAST FORWARD

Give the kid playing Zechariah a high-five, take the scroll back from him, and have him sit down.

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

STORYTELLER: "Jesus did exactly what Zechariah said. He rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey's colt.

Give one of the stick horses to the kid playing Jesus and have him sit on it.

"All of the people of Jerusalem were so excited! *(Pause.)* All of the people—that's all of you!

"They tossed down their coats on the road. *(Pause.)* Here, everybody do this, like you're tossing down a coat.



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Do a “tossing down a coat” motion.

“They also cut palm branches, waved them, and laid them down to make a path for Jesus. (Pause.) Here, try this.

Do a motion like you’re waving a palm branch, then laying it down.

“The people shouted: ‘Hosanna! . . . Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’ (Matthew 21:9, NIV).

“Okay, let’s put all of that together. Remember, our friend [kid’s name] is playing Jesus, so in just a second, he’ll walk through the crowd. *(To the kids playing the disciples)* Disciples, you can walk right behind him. *(To audience)* Meanwhile, let me see all of you tossing your coats on the road *(do the motion)* . . . waving your palm branches and setting them down *(do the motion)* . . . and shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ Are you ready? Here we go!

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 4: CROWD CHEERING/CELEBRATION

As the sound effect plays, do the motions with the audience and shout “Hosanna” with them, while the kid playing Jesus makes his way through the audience.

(When the sound stops) “Great job, everyone! Let’s give a big hand to our actors as well.”

When the sound stops, collect the props, thank the kid actors and send them back to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, He fulfilled the words Zechariah had written so long before. He showed that He really was, and IS, the Savior God had promised. And the crowds cheered for Him as their King!

“Of course, Jesus also knew that the really difficult part still lay ahead. He knew that the religious leaders were out to get Him . . . and that eventually He would need to die on the cross for the sins of the world. So, as Jesus arrived in the city, He stayed focused on what He had come to do.

“As we get ready to celebrate Easter this coming week, let’s remember all that Jesus did for us. Let’s remember why Jesus came to the world in the first place.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

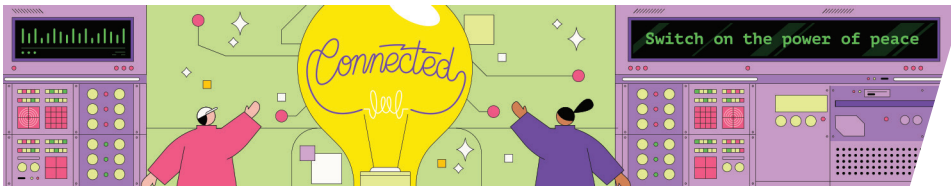
“Jesus came to be our Savior.

“Will you pray with me?”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to be our Savior! You loved us enough to send Jesus FOR us, just as You promised. We can see how the people celebrated Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. We see how they honored Him as King. Please help us to do that too, and to celebrate all that Jesus has done for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "It's pretty amazing to think about just how big God's Big Story really is.

"In the very beginning, people turned away from God . . . and the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right. God had a plan to rescue us! God chose one family, the Israelites, and God promised to bless the whole world through them. God promised to send a Savior through that family.

"When Jesus rode a donkey's colt into the city of Jerusalem, the people celebrated and honored Him as King. But at the same time, they didn't fully understand what Jesus had come to do. You see, Jesus didn't come to take over and fight the Romans, like many people would have expected. Jesus showed a whole new way to live. He showed everyone that it's more important to love and serve people. And as we'll celebrate at Easter, Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. He made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever!

"Jesus fulfilled the promise God had made.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Jesus came to be our Savior!"

"In John 3:16, we can read why God sent Jesus for us.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 3:16)

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. (John 3:16, NIV)

"That's a great verse to learn and remember! You can head to Small Group now and talk some more with your friends about why Jesus came for us. I'll see you next time when we celebrate EASTER!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP