

WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. As you prepare for the week leading up to Easter, reflect on the example Jesus set to love and serve others. Thank God for fulfilling the promise to send a Savior. Pray for the kids in your group—that they would be open to discovering that Jesus came to be our Savior.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Palm Sunday

Take You at Your Word
Matthew 21:1-11

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Palm Leaf" Activity Page, scissors, green paper, and pencils; *Optional: glue, craft sticks*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive. Introduce yourself to any guests who may be visiting for the first time!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the leaf templates from the "Palm Leaf" Activity Page.
- Set out the scissors, pencils, and green paper.
- Invite kids to trace the template on green paper.
- Instruct the kids to cut out the oval leaf shape, fold it in half, and cut the edges like palm fronds.
- Invite the kids to use their pencils to roll and shape the edges of the palm leaves so they curl.
- *Optional: Set out the glue and craft sticks so kids can glue a craft stick to the end of the leaf to create a handle.*
- Make sure kids write their names on the back of their palm leaves.
- Collect each kid's leaf and set them aside for the Wave Parade! activity after Large Group.
- NOTE: Kids can make more than one leaf to prepare for any latecomers who will need one during the Wave Parade! activity after Large Group.

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, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Easter—Celebrating that Jesus is alive

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



1. WAVE PARADE!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wave Parade!" Activity Page, palm leaves from Early Arriver activity or green crepe paper streamers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their paper palm leaf from the Early Arriver Activity or a strip of green crepe paper.
- One at a time, read a statement from the "Wave Parade!" Activity Page.
- If the fact is true, instruct the kids to wave their palm leaves (or green streamers) in the air.
- If the fact is false, direct the kids to keep their palm leaves (or streamers) at their sides.
- If the fact is false, ask a kid to share the correct fact.
 - If the kid comes up with the correct fact, invite everyone to celebrate with their palm leaves or streamers again!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You did a GREAT job remembering today's Bible story! Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, and the people were so excited that they waved their palm leaves in celebration. The crowds cheered as they celebrated Jesus as the Savior that God promised. Show me how you wave your palm leaves! (*Let kids wave and get excited!*) Even though the religious leaders wanted Him out, Jesus stayed focused on what He had come to do: **Jesus came to be our Savior.**"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus came to be our Savior.

[Make It Personal] (Talk about the time in your life when you decided for yourself to accept Jesus as your Savior. What helped you make this decision? What safe people in your life did you talk to? Follow your church's guidelines if any kids express interest in trusting in Jesus as their Savior. Include parents/guardians in this conversation.)

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

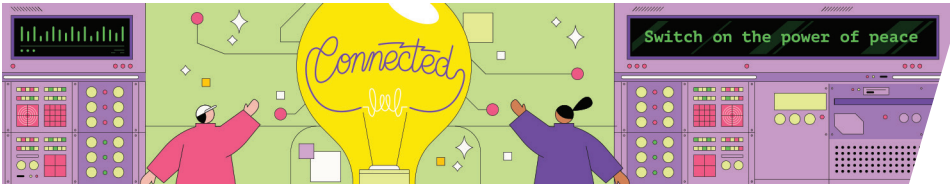
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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



*2. PROMISE KEEPERS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Promise Keepers" Activity Page, embroidery floss (or other yarn or string), colorful beads, letter beads, dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, and tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind the kids that God has given us many promises in the Bible.
- One at a time, read a verse listed on the "Promise Keepers" Activity Page.
- After you read each verse, invite the kids to share a promise the verse speaks about.
- Write down the promises on the dry-erase board. (Ideas are listed below each Scripture on the Promise Keepers" Activity Page.)
- Set out the embroidery floss and beads.
- Invite the kids to create a bracelet (or "promise keeper") to remind them of a promise God has made to them.
- Invite kids to use the letter beads to spell out one word that will remind them of one of God's promises.
- Kids can use the other, colorful beads to decorate their bracelet.
- Use the tape to tape down one end of the floss (or string) as the kids place the beads on the floss (or string).
- Once each kid is done, remove the tape and tie the bracelet around their wrists, leaving ample room to pull the bracelet on and off.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"The Bible is *filled* with promises that God has given us! What are some of the promises we heard today? (*Pause for responses.*) That's incredible!

"It's life-changing to know that there's a God who sees us, knows us, and loves us. Even when people turned away from God and the world was broken, God had a plan to restore us. God promised to send a Savior, and that promise came true when God sent us Jesus. Jesus didn't come to rescue the people from the Romans, like a lot of people thought. He came for an even bigger rescue. He came to rescue everyone from their sin and make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God that lasts forever!

"It's true, **Jesus came to be our Savior.** That's the best promise of all!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to refer to their open Bibles from the Roll Doubles activity.
- Read John 3:16 several times together.
- Use the discussion below to talk about the first half of the Memory Verse.
- Lead your group in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is a wonderful verse to remember as we get ready to celebrate Easter.

"God so loved the world: God loves the world so much and everyone in it. That includes everyone in the world—you, me, everyone in this room, and everyone in our families.

"that he gave his one and only Son. Jesus was given to us as a gift, as a way to make things right between us and God. When we follow Jesus, we can have peace and a relationship with God. That's right—**Jesus came to be our Savior.**

"Let's pray!

"God, thank You so much for loving us. Thank You for giving us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us to understand how big that love is! Give us opportunities to show love and kindness to others as we remember how much You loved us first. Help us to remember the promises You've given us, and to trust that You always keep Your promises. Thank You for everything You've done for us. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show the adults their "promise keeper" bracelets. Invite kids to explain why they chose the word they chose.

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