



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When Love Comes to Town
Palm Sunday
John 12:12-16

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,
remember God is still working.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world."
John 16:33b, NlrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something
good can come out of
something bad

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUg>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



Before kids arrive, pray that you will have a great time with your kids connecting and building relationships. Pray that your kids will learn and develop tools to better deal with disappointment when things don't work out the way they anticipate.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container; die; pattern blocks, wooden blocks, or similar

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids with a smile as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Set the pattern blocks (or similar) in the center of the circle.
- Explain the game:
 - Kids will create an intricate spring flower design using a limited number of blocks based on the number the leader rolls on a die.
 - Choose one kid to go first, rolling the die and encouraging them to collect that same number of blocks.
 - Do the same for each kid, rolling the die and collecting blocks until there are no more blocks.
- Begin the game.
- Roll the die and direct the kids to take turns collecting that number of blocks from the pile.
- Continue rolling the die and allowing the kids to collect blocks until someone completes their spring flower design.
- If interests allow, continue playing to let the rest of the group finish their flower.



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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Large poster, sticky notes, markers, and a blindfold

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Use a marker to draw a goal area on the large poster, like a target or a mountain.
- Set the large poster in your group area or hang it up if possible.
- Give each kid a sticky note and a marker.
- Direct the kids to write the answer to the following questions on their sticky notes:
 - "What is one thing you are hoping for?"
 - "What is one thing you want to achieve in the future?"
- Once kids have answered the questions, select a kid to go first.
- Blindfold that kid and spin them around a few times.
- Guide that kid to the large poster and give them a chance to pin their sticky note as close to the target area as possible.
- Repeat until every kid gets a turn.
- Once every kid gets a turn, gather the group together.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Well, that was fun! Great job, friends. The blindfold made it tricky to see where we were trying to place our hopes and goals, didn't it? When you can't see clearly, it can be hard to reach your goal. It's tough to reach your target when you can't see it. **[Transition]** Today we're going to hear a Bible Story about people who had big hopes when a Rescuer came into Jerusalem. Let's find out what happened on that special day!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared pot with soil, seeds, watering can (or water bottle), tarp or plastic tablecloth

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the tarp or plastic tablecloth on the floor or a table.
- Gather your group around the tarp (or plastic tablecloth).
- Place the pot filled with soil in the center.
- Explain to the kids that, like planting and watering a seed, we don't always see what we hope for right away, but something is constantly growing beneath the soil!
- Give each kid a seed.
- Encourage them to think about a situation in their life that they would like to ask God for help with.
- Direct the kids to plant their seeds in the soil one at a time.
- Once all seeds are planted, add some water to the top.
- Ask:
 - What does it feel like to wait and have hope, even when we don't see results right away?
- Determine if you will keep the plant at church or take it home. Remind the kids that they can always ask God for hope when things get tough.

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[Make it Personal] Share about an age-appropriate time when you needed God's help to get you through a difficult time. What gave you hope? How did you hold on to that hope?



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Story" Activity Page, "Palm Story Instructions" Activity Page, scissors, staplers (or glue sticks); *Optional: coloring supplies*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Before group time, watch this video demonstration of the activity: bit.ly/3UPf5a0



- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Give each kid a "Palm Story" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Direct the kids to cut out the strips.
- Invite the kids to form groups of two or three to review the Bible Story.
- Explain that each group will use the questions on their strips to review the Bible Story together.

Palm Story Strip Questions:

1. Why were the people so excited about Jesus coming to Jerusalem? (*Answer: The nation of Rome ruled over them, so the people of Israel were not really free. There was a great hope that when the Messiah came, He would FINALLY restore them back to the great nation they once were.*)
2. How did the people in the crowd show their excitement and honor Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? (*Answer: They took palm branches and their coats and laid them on the road. It was kind of like giving someone the red-carpet treatment as a way to honor Him.*)
3. Why was it significant that Jesus rode a donkey's colt into Jerusalem? (*Answer: Many years earlier, the prophet Zechariah spoke about the King who would ride into Jerusalem or Zion on the colt of a donkey - and that's what Jesus did!*)

- Follow the "Palm Story Instructions" Activity Page to guide the kids in folding and gluing the green strips into the shape of a palm leaf.
- As the kids fold the strips, review the palm story strip questions.
- After every kid has finished, set the completed palm leaves aside to take home as a reminder that God kept the promise to send a rescuer, and God is still working today!



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What do you think hope is?
- What are you hoping for?
- Why can we put our hope in Jesus?
- When has it been hard to have hope?
- Who can you talk to when you feel hopeless?

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MADE TO MOVE

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cups, pencils, prepared bin with paper balls and an empty bin, "Memory Verse Pieces" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into three teams.
- Designate space in your group area for three challenges.
 - In the first area, place six plastic cups.
 - In the second area, place ten pencils.
 - In the third group area, place one empty bin and one bin with paper balls in it a few feet apart.
- Share with the kids that they must complete a series of challenges at three different stations.
- After each challenge, explain that you will give each team a piece of this month's Memory Verse from the "Memory Verse Pieces" Activity Page.
- Explain the stations:
 - **Station 1 Cup Stack Challenge:** Kids must stack six plastic cups into a pyramid and unstack them. Once completed, give them the first part of the memory verse.
 - **Station 2 Pencil Balancing Challenge:** Kids must balance a pencil on their finger while counting to 10 without dropping it. Once completed, give them the second part of the memory verse.
 - **Station 3 Paper Ball Toss Challenge:** Each child gets three chances to toss the paper balls into a small bin from a short distance. Once completed, give them the third part of the memory verse.
- After each task is completed, give each team a piece of the Memory Verse and rotate them to the next station.
- Once all the pieces are collected, instruct each team to arrange the verse correctly to complete the challenge.
- Encourage them to say the verse together as a team.
- Challenge kids who want to recite the verse not to look at the "Memory Verse Pieces" Activity Page.

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Palm leaves from the Bible Story Extension Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Hand out the palm leaves from the Bible Story Extension Activity.
- Give kids a moment to think about personal experiences by asking this question:
 - Can you think of a time when something hard happened, but something good eventually came?
- Give any kids who would like to share a moment to do so.
- Call on a kid to explain the meaning of "Hosanna!". If they don't know, explain it to the group.
 - Hosanna is a cry for salvation. It means: 'Save us.'
- After a kid shares, encourage the group to collectively wave their palm leaves and say, "Hosanna!"
- Close in prayer, sharing gratitude that God is still working!

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Pattern blocks, wooden blocks, or similar; enough for the Small Group to share
- Die, one for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large poster, one for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for each kid
- Markers, one for each kid
- Blindfold, one for each Small Group

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pot, one for each Small Group
- Soil, one bag for each Small Group
 - Before group time, fill the pot about $\frac{3}{4}$ with soil
- Seeds, one for each kid

- Watering can (or water bottle), one for each Small Group
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Palm Story" Activity Page on green cardstock, one set for every kid
- Print "Palm Story Instructions" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- Scissors, one for each kid
- Staples (or glue sticks)
 - Before group time, watch the following video to see the palm leaf activity modeled (bit.ly/3Upf5a0)
- Optional: provide coloring supplies for decorating

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic cups, six for each Small Group
- Pencils, 10 for each Small Group
- Plain paper, 30 sheets for each Small Group
- Small bin, two for each Small Group
 - Before group time, crumble each sheet of paper up into a ball. Place the paper balls into one of the small bins
- Print "Memory Verse Pieces" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, three sets for each Small Group

THE BIG
PICTURE

KEEP
HOPE
ALIVE



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Palm leaves from the Bible Story Extension Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**