

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# Overview Card

## Entry Celebration

**Key Question:**

Who is your good friend?

**Bottom Line:**

Jesus is my good friend.

**Memory Verse:**

"A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Bible Story:**

Everyone can praise Jesus.

Entry Celebration

Matthew 21:1-16

**Coloring Page:**

Jesus enters Jerusalem (Week 1)

A Crowd Welcomes Jesus (Week 2)

**Music:**

Hosanna Rock

Great Big God

Go

**Bible Lesson:**

God's Story for Me

Palm Sunday

Pages 409 - 414

**Service Time:**

69 minutes (Week 1)

74 minutes (Week 2)

**Story Time:**

*Just My Friend & Me*

by Mercer Meyer



**April Memory Verse -**  
**"A friend loves at all times."**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIV**

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Lock It Up

**What You Need:** Painter's tape.

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Make a start and a finish line on the floor with the tape. The two pieces of tape should be about 10-15 feet apart.

*During the activity:* Separate the children into pairs. Have each pair of children line up behind the start line. Have the children lock arms with their partner. When you say, "GO!" have the first pair of children hop to the finish line while keeping their arms locked. Once they reach the finish line allow the next pair of children to go. Continue until each pair has had a turn.

*At the end of the activity:* After all of the children have had their turn; shout as a class, "You are my friend!" Repeat as many times as desired.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* "I am so glad to see all of my friends today! It is so nice that we are all friends. We are going to play a game and we will need one friend to help us. Everyone can choose a friend or a partner to help them with our game. (*Assist the children in pairing up.*) Great! We are ready!"

*During the activity:* "Everyone will need to line up behind this line (*point to starting line*) with your partner. Lock arms with your partner like this. (*Demonstrate.*) When I say, 'GO!' the first two friends will hop like bunnies to this line (*point to finish line*). Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Get set! GO!"

*At the end of the activity:* "Nice job! I loved how you hopped with your friends. You all worked together with your friends so nicely! Now look at your partner and say, 'You are my friend!' (*Pause.*) Awesome! One more time! You are my friend! (*Pause.*) Today in our Bible lesson we learned about someone who is our BEST friend of all. Do you remember who that was?"



April Memory Verse -  
"A friend loves at all times."  
Proverbs 17:17 NIV

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Leaf Patterns

**What You Need:** Play-Doh® in different colors, rolling pins, and leaf-shaped cookie cutters.

#### What You Do:

*During the activity:* Show the children how to make leaves with the Play-Doh®. Roll the Play-Doh® flat with the rolling pins and then use the leaf cookie cutters to make leaves. Once the children have made lots of leaves, pair the children up with a friend and see how many color patterns they can make using the leaves.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “Come sit with me! I’ll show you how to make leaves with this Play-Doh®!”

*During the activity:* “Oooh, what color is this leaf? *(Pause.)* And what about this one? Let’s count the *(color)* leaves together. One, two, three ... *(continue counting)*. Now that we have lots of leaves, let me show you how to make patterns with them.”

*At the end of the activity:* “You did all kinds of things with your leaves today. Guess what the people in our Bible lesson do with leaves. *(Pause.)* They wave them in the air and cover a road with them to show Jesus how special He is!”



April Memory Verse -  
“A friend loves at all times.”  
Proverbs 17:17 NIV

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Palm Leaf Parade

**What You Need:** Palm leaves (these can be real or artificial).

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Give each child a palm leaf.

*During the activity:* Retell the lesson and have the children wave their leaves and shout, "HOSANNA!" at key points during the activity.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* "Today in our lesson, we heard about when Jesus came to Jerusalem. The people were so excited that Jesus was coming. They knew He was a good friend and could do things to help them."

*During the activity:* "Everyone lined the streets to see Jesus just like they would if they were watching a parade. They were so excited that they tore branches off of the trees. Do you have your branches? *(Pause.)* Great! These were called palm leaves. The people waved their palm leaves at Jesus. Let's wave our palm leaves. *(Wave leaves.)* Jesus rode in on a donkey while everyone waved their leaves. Do you remember what everyone said? *(Pause.)* Yes! They said, 'HOSANNA!' Let's say, 'HOSANNA,' while we wave our palm leaves. *(Wave leaves and say, 'Hosanna,' with the children)* Great job! It looks just like a parade in here!"

*At the end of the activity:* "Everyone was excited to see Jesus because they knew He was their good friend. **Who is your good friend?** *(Pause.)* You got it! **Jesus is my good friend!**"



April Memory Verse -  
"A friend loves at all times."  
Proverbs 17:17 NIV

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Donkey Relay

**What You Need:** Donkey Inflatables (2)

**What You Do:**

*During the activity:* Divide the children into two teams. Have the children stand in a single file line with their team behind the starting lines and give the first person of each team a donkey. Instruct them to place the handle between their legs and “ride” the donkey to the finish line and then back to the starting line. As they return to the starting line they will hand the donkey to the next person. Be sure that every child gets a turn. Repeat as many times as desired.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “Do you remember what Jesus was riding in our lesson today? (Pause.) Yes! He was riding a donkey. Let’s pretend we are riding donkeys with these donkeys.”

*During the activity:* “Let’s divide up into two teams. (Help children divide into teams.) When I say, ‘GO!’ you are going to ride like this (demonstrate) down to this line (point to finish line) and back to your team. Are you ready? (Pause.) GO!”

*At the end of the activity:* “Nice donkey riding! Jesus rode in on His donkey while the people were waving the palm leaves and shouting, ‘HOSANNA!’ They were excited to see Jesus because He was their good friend. **Who is your good friend?** (Pause.) Yes! **Jesus is my good friend!**”



**April Memory Verse -**  
**“A friend loves at all times.”**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIrV**

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Leaf Impressions

**What You Need:** White paper, palm leaves (real or artificial), and crayons.

**What You Do:** Show the children how to lay a piece of paper on top of a leaf or leaves and use the flat side of a crayon to rub over the paper. This will make an impression of the leaves on the paper.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* "Come sit with me. I'm going to show you a super cool way to make a picture of this palm leaf on this paper."

*During the activity:* "You're doing great! I can see the outline of the palm leaves on your paper. Cool! Do you remember what the people in our Bible lesson laid on the road when they saw Jesus coming? (*Pause.*) You got it! Palm branches and coats! They also waved the palm branches in the air and said, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay Jesus!' They knew Jesus was a good friend, so they cheered for Him! Jesus is your good friend, too! **Who is your good friend?** (*Pause.*) **Jesus is my good friend.**"

*At the end of the activity:* "Great job on your leaf prints! Now you can take them home with you and share with your family what you learned in our Bible lesson today."



**April Memory Verse -**  
**"A friend loves at all times."**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIrV**



April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# ACTIVITY

## Entry Celebration

### Leaves & Coats

**What You Need:** “Palm Leaf” and “Coat” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, tape, CD player and fun music.

#### What You Do:

*Before the activity:* Make enough copies of “Palm Leaf” and “Coat” from the Activity Pages onto white cardstock so that you have one picture for each child. Make a circle on the floor, alternating the two pictures, and tape them securely to the floor.

*During the activity:* Invite the children to come and stand on one of the leaf or coat pictures. Tell them to begin walking in a circle when they hear the music. When the music stops they will stop. You will then call out either “leaf” or “coat.” The children standing on the picture you call out will then say the Memory Verse together. *(Continue playing as long as there’s interest.)*

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “Come pick a leaf or coat picture to stand on! We’re going to play a game! When you hear the music, we’re going to walk around the pictures. When the music stops, we all stop. The people standing on the picture I call out get to say our Memory Verse together! Let’s play!”

*During the activity:* “‘A friend loves at all times,’ Proverbs 17:17”

*At the end of the activity:* “Yay! That was fun! And I know one friend that really does love us at all times—JESUS! Jesus is such a good friend! **Who is a good friend?** *(Pause.)* **Jesus is a good friend!**”



**April Memory Verse -**  
**“A friend loves at all times.”**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIrV**

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

CRAFT

Entry Celebration

### Memory Verse Picture Frame (April 5th/6th)

#### What You Need:

Picture frame, markers and/or stickers, magnets and memory verse.

#### What You Do:

Have the children decorate the picture frame with markers and/or stickers.

#### What You Say:

*During the activity:* "We have a new Memory Verse today! This is a very special Memory Verse. Everyone watch and listen to what I say and do. I am going to say our new verse. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17, Now can you say it with me? *(Pause.)* Okay let's try it! *(Say with children)* 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Awesome! Now watch what I do when I say our Memory Verse. *(Say again and add motions.)* 'A friend *(hook your pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times' *(stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle)*, Proverbs 17:17. *(Open your hands like a book.)* Now let's try that together. *(say verse and do motions with the children again.)* Perfect! Let's try it again!" *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

*At the end of the activity:* "You did great! Our Memory Verse is very special because Jesus is telling us what He wants us to do. He is telling us to ALWAYS love our friends no matter what! Even if your friend makes a bad choice you should always love them and forgive them. Jesus is always our friend even if we make a bad choice. He always forgives us!

**Who is your good friend?** *(Pause.)* You got it! **Jesus is my good friend!"**



April Memory Verse -  
"A friend loves at all times."  
Proverbs 17:17 NIV



April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

CRAFT

## Entry Celebration

### Jesus is my BFF Bracelets (April 12th/13th)

**What You Need:** Bracelets and Markers

**What You Do:**

Give each child a bracelet and let them decorate it with markers to make it a special reminder that Jesus wants to be their best friend.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “Jesus wants to be our best friend! Let’s make a special bracelet that will remind us that Jesus is my best friend!”

*During the activity:* Can you read the writing on your bracelet. It says, ‘Jesus is my best friend.’ Everyone will know that Jesus is your good friend! Great job!”

*At the end of the activity:* “You all did a FANTASTIC job! Let’s put your bracelets on. *(Put bracelets on the children.)* **Who is your good friend?** *(Pause.)* Yes! **Jesus is my good friend!**”



**April Memory Verse -**  
**“A friend loves at all times.”**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIrV**

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 5th/6th and 12th/13th

# SMALL GROUP

## Entry Celebration

### Small Group Time

**What you Need:** Bible, stickers, dry-erase board and marker

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “The people in our lesson today were SO excited to see our good friend Jesus that they waved palm branches in the air and shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ They even took off their coats and spread them on the road to make a special path for Him! This was their way of praising Jesus. Praise is when we show someone how special they are. Do you know we can praise Jesus, too? (*Pause.*) We sure can! We can praise our good friend, Jesus. **Who is your good friend?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “Jesus is my good friend!”

**SGL:** “You got it! Our Memory Verse this month says, ‘A friend loves at all times,’ Proverbs 17:17. Say that with me.

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “‘A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times’ (*stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle*), Proverbs 17:17.” (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

**SGL:** “Hmm ... praising our good friend Jesus is one way to show Him we love Him. Let’s make a list of things we love about Jesus. When we pray I’ll read it to Him. Then we will be praising our good friend Jesus, too!”

*Write down the children’s names on the dry erase board. Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and letters.*

### Prayer

**SGL:** “God, we want to praise Jesus today because He is our good friend. We love Him because ... (*read the list the children made*). Jesus is so special, God. Thank You for sending Him to be our friend forever. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



April Memory Verse -  
“A friend loves at all times.”  
Proverbs 17:17 NIV