

March Week 5



March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>

# OVERVIEW CARD

## I Can Love Like Jesus

**Key Question:**

How can I love?

**Bottom Line:**

I can love like Jesus.

**Memory Verse:**

"Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12, NIV

**Bible Story Focus:**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21: 1-16

**Coloring Page:**

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

**Music:**

I Can Do All Things

Great Big God

Hosanna Rock

**Bible Lesson:**

The Beginner's Bible

The True King

Pages 427 to 432

**Story:**

Just My Friend & Me

by Mercer Meyer

**Service Time:**

68 minutes

### Memory Verse –

"Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12, NIV

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# ACTIVITY 1

## I Can Love Like Jesus

### Palm Leaf Wave

*“Palm Leaf Wave” is an activity that incorporates movement with the main concept of the Bible story.*

**What You Need:** “Palm Leaf” for each child

#### What You Do:

*During the activity:* Have the children stand in front of you. Give each child a leaf. Lead the children to do the following movement with the palm leaf.

1. Wave the leaf over your head with both hands.
2. Make a circle in front of your body with the leaf.
3. Hide your face and play peek-a-boo with the leaf
4. Fan a friend with the leaf
5. Tickle a friend with the leaf

*At the end of the activity:* Repeat as desired.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “Everyone stand in front of me. We are going to talk about a special leaf today.” *(Hand out the palm leaves.)*

*During the activity:* “Everyone watch me and do what I do. *(Demonstrate as you explain.)* First we are going to wave the leaf over our heads. Wave it slow and then wave it faster. Great job! Now can you make a circle with your leaf in front of you? First make a small circle and then big circle. Now hide your face. Where did you go? *(Pause.)* Oh, there you are! Peek-a-boo!” *(Continue with all of the movements on the list.)*

*At the end of the activity:* “Great job! You all are really good at waving your leaves. In our lesson today, people were waving their leaves, too. Do you remember why they were waving their leaves?”

### Memory Verse –

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## ACTIVITY 2

# I Can Love Like Jesus

### Riding Along

*“Riding Along” is an activity that promotes gross motor skills and imagination.*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Have the children stand in front of you.

*During the activity:* Ask the children to pretend to be riding the following different animals: dog, bird, fish, giraffe, and donkey.

*At the end of the activity:* Retell the lesson after the children have “ridden” the donkey.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “I am so glad that you are here today! How did you get here? *(Pause.)* Did you fly here on a bird and or ride a horse? *(Pause.)* No? Oh! I am being silly today, huh? But what if we could ride an animal to church? Wouldn't that be so much fun? *(Pause.)* Let's pretend to ride different animals.”

*During the activity:* “First let's pretend to ride a dog—a really big dog! I bet he would run really fast! *(Act out what it would look like to ride a dog.)* Whoa! Now let's pretend to fly on a bird. *(Act it out.)* Whew! It is really high up here! Now let's go into the ocean and ride on a ... FISH! Hold your breath! *(Blow up your cheeks as you are holding your breath and act it out. Blow out breath.)* Now we are all wet! Now let's pretend we are riding a giraffe! We have to hold on to his really long neck! *(Act it out.)* You are all so great at riding animals! Okay, now let's pretend to ride a horse or a donkey. A donkey is a kind of like a horse but is smaller and is usually gray. Are you ready? *(Act it out.)* Keep galloping! Nice job!”

*At the end of the activity:* “You are so good at riding the different animals, especially the donkey. People in Jesus' time would ride donkeys when they needed to go somewhere. In our lesson today, someone special rode on a donkey, do you remember who that was and what the people did when He went by!”

### Memory Verse –

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## ACTIVITY 3

# I Can Love Like Jesus

### Leaf Patterns

**What You Need:** Play-Doh<sup>®</sup> 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. Do you remember what the people in our Bible lesson did with leaves. (Pause.) They waved them in the air and covered the road with them to show Jesus how special He is!”

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## ACTIVITY 4

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### Leaves & Coats

*“Leaves & Coats” is an activity that incorporates large motor movement, listening skills, and oral recitation to review this month’s Bible verse.*

**What You Need:** “Palm Leaf” and “Coat” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white card stock, 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!”

### Memory Verse –

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## ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's

# I Can Love Like Jesus

### Pin the Tail on the Donkey

*“Pin the Tail on the Donkey” is an activity that uses fine motor skills to play a game.*

**What You Need:** Donkey, tails, masking tape, and blindfolds

**What You Do:** Hang the donkey on the wall. Blindfold the first player. Spin the blindfolded player in circles for a few seconds and then allow the player to try and place the tail on the donkey.

#### What You Say:

Before the activity: “Do you see what I have here? (*Point to donkey.*) I have a donkey! There was a donkey in our lesson today. Do you remember who was riding the donkey (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus was riding a donkey. Our donkey is missing his tail. We are going to help him by taping his tail back on. To make it even more fun, we are going to try to do it without using our eyes. Everyone is going to have a turn so hopefully one of us will place it in the correct spot.”

#### After the activity:

“In our lesson today, everyone was so excited when Jesus came into their town. They cut special leaves called palm leaves off of trees, and they laid their clothing on the ground for Jesus’ donkey to walk on. The people were so excited that they began to wave their leaves and shout, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ Everyone wanted to celebrate that Jesus was there!”

“We can celebrate Jesus every day just by loving others like Jesus loves us. We can share and help people like Jesus does. We all can love like Jesus! **How can I love? I can love like Jesus!**”

### Memory Verse –

**“Love each other as I have loved you.”**

**John 15:12, NIV**

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# CRAFT – WK 1

## I Can Love Like Jesus

### Palm Leaf

***“Palm Leaf” is an activity that reintroduces the Bible lesson while children use their fine motor skills to make their own palm leaf.***

**What You Need:** “Palm” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, and green markers

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Copy “Palm” on cardstock, one per child.

*During the activity:* Talk about the Bible lesson as children fill in their palm branch with markers. Write the children’s names on their pictures and place them in the white bags.

*At the end of the activity:* Say the Bottom Line together.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “You get to make a palm branch to take home today! Come sit down with me.”

*During the activity:* “The people in our story were so excited to see Jesus come to town that they grabbed palm branches to line His path and to wave in celebration of His arrival. Take these markers and fill in the palm branch. *(Pause.)* Great job!”

*At the end of the activity:* “Jesus loves you and you and you! *(Point to all the children.)* We can love others like Jesus did. **I can love like Jesus. How can I love? *(Pause.)* I can love like Jesus.**”

### Memory Verse –

**“Love each other as I have loved you.”**

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# SMALL GROUP

## I Can Love Like Jesus

### Small Group Time

**What you Need:** Provide a “Small Group” poster, marker and stickers for each classroom.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “Forever is a loooooonng time. It’s a lot longer than we can even imagine! But Jesus said He wants to be your friend forever! That’s right! Friends forever! Who wants to be your friend forever?”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

**SGL:** “That should get us very excited, like the people in our lesson today. They got so excited about Jesus they waved palm branches in the air and shouted! Do you think we could get excited enough about Jesus loving us that we could love others? *(Pause.)* I think we can. We just need to love like Jesus! **How can I love?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “I can love like Jesus.”

**SGL:** “Okay, it’s the time you’ve been waiting for. It’s time to say our Memory Verse. We’ll say it one time together with the motions and then anyone who wants to say it by yourself can. I have my stickers ready! Here we go!”

“Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.”

“Wonderful! Now, who wants to give it a try and say it all by yourself?”

“I am so proud of you! Yaaaay! Now it’s time to write on our “Small Group” poster. I’ll write down your names and I want us to make a list of our bestest friends. Ready? *(Pause.)* Tell me. Who are your bestest friends?”

*(Write down the children’s names and what they say on the “Small Group” poster. Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and letters. Once complete hang the poster for parents to look at during child pick up.)*

“Wow! God has given you some awesome friends! We have one more name to write down, though—JESUS! *(Write ‘JESUS’ in large print at the top of the page.)* Jesus wants to be our VERY BESTEST friend forever! No one loves us like Jesus! Before I pray, would anyone like to say your own prayer?”

*(Give each child that wants to pray the opportunity to do so and then close with a prayer that includes the list the children made.)*

### Memory Verse –

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:12, NIV