

April Weeks 1 and 2



April 1st/2nd
April 8th/9th

OVERVIEW CARD

PALM SUNDAY

Key Question:

Who is the best?

Bottom Line:

Jesus is the best!

Memory Verse:

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son."
John 3:16, GNT

Bible Story Focus:

We can praise Jesus.
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-16

Coloring Page:

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Music:

Shout
Praise the Lord Everyday
Hosanna Rock

Bible Lesson:

The Beginner's Bible
The True King
Pages 427 to 432

Story:

Just My Friend & Me
by Mercer Meyer

Memory Verse –

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son."

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only PALM SUNDAY

Musical Retell

Big Idea:

Have children play the musical instruments while they praise Jesus.

What You Need: Preschool musical instruments

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay all of the items in the middle of the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to play the instruments for a few minutes. Then ask the children to stop playing and retell the Bible lesson.

After the Activity: Allow the children to resume playing the instruments.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “WOW! (Point to instruments.) Look at all of these instruments. Let’s make some music!”

During the Activity: “Pick an instrument and make some music with it! We can play music to praise Jesus. (Pause.) Teach the following chant to the children as you play the music: ‘HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus!’ Great job! Now everyone put down your instruments for a minute. (Pause.) In our Bible lesson today, Jesus went to Jerusalem. He rode through the town on a donkey. The WHOLE town came to see Him. They had a PRAISE PARTY! They laid down their coats for the donkey to walk on and they shouted, ‘HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus!’ Can you say that with me again? ‘HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus!’ Awesome! Now you can play your instruments again and we can have a praise party for Jesus too!”

After the Activity: “**Jesus is the BEST!** We can praise Him anytime we want to! It does not matter how old we are or where we are, we can always praise Jesus because He’s the best. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**”

Memory Verse –

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 2 – 2's/3's only

PALM SUNDAY

Up in the Air

Big Idea:

Children will play with the parachute and pom-poms.

What You Need: Parachute, and green pom-poms “leaves”

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Invite the children to stand around the parachute. Encourage each of the children to take hold of the parachute and lift it off the ground. Place the green “leaves” (pom-poms) onto the parachute.

During the Activity: Instruct the children to move their arms up and down to move the parachute and send the “leaves” (pom-poms) up in the air.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus! Let’s praise Jesus!”

During the Activity: “Let’s send these leaves up in the air! Let’s pretend these pom-poms are like the leaves that the people waved to praise Jesus in our lesson today. Everyone pick up the parachute. Let’s see how high we can get the leaves! (Do activity.) Way to go!”

After the Activity: “WOW! We really sent the leaves up high! People gathered in the street to see Jesus to praise Him because **Jesus is the BEST! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!** Great job, everyone!”

Memory Verse –

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 3 - All

PALM

SUNDAY

Palm Branch Verse

Big Idea:

Children will say the memory verse while waving palm branches.

What You Need: Palm Branches

What You Do:

During the Activity: Give each child a palm branch to wave as you say this month's memory verse.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "I love our memory verse this month! It's all about how Jesus is the BEST. Let's say it together as we walk around the room waving our palm branches." *God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16 (GNT).* Great job, everyone!"

After the Activity: "When Jesus entered the town of Jerusalem, the people were SO excited! They waved palm branches and placed their coats along the road to welcome Jesus. God loved the world SO much that He gave us Jesus. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"

Memory Verse –

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son."

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only PALM SUNDAY

Pin the Tail on the Donkey

Big Idea:

Children will play a fun game of “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”.

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!’ I love how excited the people were to see Jesus in our lesson today. They wanted honor and worship Jesus because He is the best! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.**”

Memory Verse –

“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Leaf Parade

Big Idea:

Children will recreate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem by using palm leaves and an inflatable donkey.

What You Need: Palm leaves and inflatable stick donkey.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Give each child a palm leaf and have the children form two lines facing each other.

During the activity: Retell the lesson and have the children wave their leaves and shout, "HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus!" 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. Let's make two lines just like if we were there. (Have children form two lines facing each other) They were so excited that they tore branches off of the trees. (Hand out branches to each child.) 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! HOSANNA!' Let's say, 'HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Yay Jesus' while we wave our palm leaves. (Wave leaves and say, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay Jesus!' with the children) Great job! "Do you remember what Jesus was riding in our lesson today? (Pause.) Yes! He was riding a donkey. Let's pretend with this donkey (hold up the donkey and pick a child to walk down the aisle in between the children). When I say, 'GO!' you are going to ride like this (demonstrate) down to this line and take a spot at the end of the line. Are you ready? (Pause.) GO!"

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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CRAFT WEEK 1

PALM SUNDAY

Leaf Craft

What You Need: “Leaf Craft” Activity Page and dot markers

What You Do:

During the Activity: Encourage the children to color the leaf with the dot markers.

After the Activity: Set the leaves aside to dry before parents arrive.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make a palm leaf just like we heard about in the Bible lesson today!”

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and a dot marker.) “Use your marker to color the leaf.”

After the Activity: “Great job! Your leaves look awesome. The people used the palm leaves to praise Jesus because He is the best! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**”

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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CRAFT WEEK 2

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Leaf

What You Need: "Palm" Activity Pages cut out, green tissue paper, glue sticks, craft sticks and packing tape

What You Do:

During the activity: Talk about the Bible lesson as children fill their palm branch with green tissue paper. Attach a craft stick with packing tape to each palm leave once they have finished. Write the children's names on their palm leaves and place them inside 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 lesson 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 this tissue paper and fill in the palm branch. (Pause.) Great job!"

After the activity:

"Your palm branches look awesome! Great job, friends. I love how excited the people were to see Jesus enter Jerusalem. They loved and honored Him. They praised Him because He is the best. And we can praise Him too. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best.** Great job, everyone!"

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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SMALL GROUP PALM SUNDAY

Small Group Time

What you Need: Parent Take Home Card, Playdoh, Leaf Cookie Cutters, Rolling Pins, and Sticker Roll

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):

Let's think about our Bible lesson today. Were the people happy to see Jesus? (*Pause for response.*) Yes! They were so happy! Do you remember what they did to show how happy they were? (*Pause.*) Right! They spread their coats and palm branches down on the road where Jesus was riding a donkey. The people knew **Jesus is the best** and they wanted to show Him how happy they were to see Him! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"

SGL: "Who is the best?"

CHILDREN and SGL: "Jesus is the best!"

SGL: "Look at these cookie cutters. They are leaf cookie cutters! Let's make leaves out of Play-Doh. Flatten out your Play-Doh. (*Pause.*) Now push down the cookie cutter. (*Pause.*) Look at that! You made a palm leaf! Wonderful! (*Give high fives.*)

SGL: "Today we're going to think of ways we can show Jesus how happy we are that He wants to be our friend forever. We can do things like sing songs to Him, go to church like we did today, talk to Him, and then the best thing is love people the way He loves people! Think about how you want to show Jesus how happy you are that He wants to be your friend forever. When I say your name, tell me what you want to do. I love your ideas! These are such sweet ways to show Jesus how happy you are that He wants to be your friend forever."

SGL: "Ok, it's time to review our lesson. I am going to ask you some questions and you will get a sticker for answering them. I have some really cool stickers today. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Great! (*Ask the children the questions from the "Parent Take Home Cards". You can also make up additional questions from our video lesson. Don't forget to ask them to say their memory verse for another sticker. You can repeat the same questions over and over as repetition is good for preschoolers.*) You are such great listeners!"

"Now I'll pray before it's time to say goodbye until next week. (**Read the prayer on the back of the "Parent Take Home Card."**)"

Memory Verse –

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son."

John 3:16, GNT