

CITY LG - March 16-17, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Take You at Your Word (Palm Sunday) • *Matthew 21:1-11*

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)*

LG Supplies needed – 4 balloons per service, 4 cones and carpet tape

WORSHIP

Movin Me
Dance

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! Today is a really exciting day because Palm Sunday is next week, and we are getting ready to celebrate Easter!

We've been talking this month about how we can switch on the power of peace. And as we celebrate Easter, we'll look at how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. Jesus made it possible for us to have peace with God!

Here's what we're celebrating at Easter:

SLIDE: Virtue (Easter)

We're **celebrating that Jesus is alive.**

Because of what Jesus did for us, we know that we can trust God no matter what. We can have true peace in our lives, no matter what's happening around us.

SLIDE: Theme

I've got a fun Easter-themed game for us to play as we kick off our time together. We are going to have a relay race. But since it's almost Easter, this is a Bunny Hop Relay, and I need some contestants!

*Pick out 2-4 kids, depending on your space.
Have them line up being the starting line.*

When I say "go" you will head down, go around your cone and come back to the starting line. But instead of running, you'll be hopping while holding a balloon between your knees—like this!

(Demonstrate.) If you drop your balloon, just put it back between your knees and keep going. The winner will be the first one who crosses the finish line.

Let's cheer for our friends! Are you ready? Set? Let's go!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

*Cheer for everyone as they complete the Bunny Relay.
Celebrate big when everyone completes it!*

That was a lot of fun. Way to go, everyone!

Today we're looking at something Jesus did that we can read about in the book of Matthew—the first book in the New Testament. *(Hold up Bible.)*

As Jesus traveled around, teaching and healing people, large crowds followed Him. But this made the religious leaders upset, because they didn't believe that Jesus is really God's Son. As Jesus became more and more popular, the religious leaders were afraid of losing their power . . . and so they wanted to stop Jesus.

When Jesus raised a dead man back to life, you'd think that would have convinced the religious leaders to change their minds about Him. But instead, the leaders decided that the time had come for them to get rid of Jesus. They decided that the Passover week would be the best time to do it.

Let's see what happened next...

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

It's pretty amazing to think about just how big God's Big Story really is.

In the very beginning, people turned away from God . . . and the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right. God had a plan to rescue us! God chose one family, the Israelites, and God promised to bless the whole world through them. God promised to send a Savior through that family.

When Jesus rode a donkey's colt into the city of Jerusalem, the people celebrated and honored Him as King. But at the same time, they didn't fully understand what Jesus had come to do. You see, Jesus didn't come to take over and fight the Romans, like many people would have expected. Jesus showed a whole new way to live. He showed everyone that it's more important to love and serve people. And as we'll celebrate at Easter, Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. He made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever!

Jesus fulfilled the promise God had made. Let's take a look at our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Jesus came to be our Savior!

In John 3:16, we can read why God sent Jesus for us.

SLIDE: Memory Verse (John 3:16)

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, NIV)

That's a great verse to learn and remember! In Small Group you can talk some more with your friends about why Jesus came for us. I'll see you next time when we celebrate EASTER!

Will you pray with me?

Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to be our Savior! You loved us enough to send Jesus FOR us, just as You promised. We can see how the people celebrated Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. We see how they honored Him as King. Please help us to do that too, and to celebrate all that Jesus has done for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

OFFERING

We've been talking the ministry we are raising money for with our offering. Does anyone remember what it is? Yep...Morning Star Mission. It's a mission right here in Joliet, IL that helps people who are struggling financially. If you brought your offering, go ahead and put it in the container. Let's take a look at this video of a family of 6 who lost their home and needed help.

VIDEO: Family of 6 live in car

SLIDE: Theme

What a great mission to support. Morning Star changes lives! See what you can do this week to raise some money for this awesome mission.