

March Week 4
Backyard
Go Team

March 24

CRAFT WEEK 4

Palm Leaves

SUPPLIES: Palm cut out, green watercolor tablet, paint brush, wet wipes, smocks

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid a wet mess, place several drops of water directly on the watercolor tablet and only re-wet as necessary. Do NOT give children bowls of water. They don't know how to pace themselves and not drench their papers. 😊

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Put smocks on children. Give each child a paintbrush and a Palm cut out. Place watercolor tablet bowls around the table.**
 - *"Today in our true bible story we learned that the people waved palm branches in the air when Jesus came to town. We are going to make our own palm branches today!"*
- ⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus**
 - *"Great job! Your leaves look awesome. In our Bible story, the people in Jerusalem praised Jesus by waving palm leaves and shouting, 'Hosanna, Hosanna!'"*
 - *We can praise Jesus, too! It does not matter how old we are or where we are, we can always praise Jesus because he is our friend! He will be our friend forever!*
 - *Let's say our memory verse together! 'I have called you friends.'*
John 15:15
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"
- ⇒ **Clean up hands with wet wipes and take off smocks.**

****TIP – If any palm leaves are really wet, use a paper towel to blot them so they will dry quicker!**

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ACTIVITY # 1

Pin the tail on the donkey

SUPPLIES: Donkey poster, tails, blue wall tape, tacky tape

SET UP: Tape the donkey poster to the wall, prep each tail with a rolled piece of tape on the back or tacky tape

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children up for the activity.**

- *“In our true Bible story, Jesus rode into town on a donkey and the people cheered and praised him! And look! We have a donkey right here!*
- *When you look at this donkey picture what do you think is missing? Yes! His tail! Look what I have here – tails! Let’s see if we can get the tail in the right spot!”*

⇒ **Let the children take turns closing their eyes and trying to pin the tail on the donkey.**

⇒ **When all children have had a chance to go, complete the activity and bring it back to Jesus.**

- *“That was fun! When Jesus rode into town on the donkey the people waved their palm leaves and shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay Jesus!’ They knew that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. Jesus loved them and he loves you the same way! Boys and girls, Jesus wants to be your friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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Activity #2

Praise Party freeze dance

SUPPLIES: CD player, Worship CD, colorful scarves, palm leaves

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children space out around the room. Pass out palm leaves and/or colorful scarves.**

- *“Friends, today in our true Bible story we heard about how the people celebrated and praised Jesus! They knew how much Jesus loved him and that he wanted them to show his love to others!*
- *When I think about how much Jesus loves me it makes me want to sing and dance and praise him! Let’s dance together! You can hold a palm leave or a colorful scarf to dance with. When I turn the music on, I want you to show me your best dance moves. When I pause it, FREEZE!”*

⇒ **Play music and let children dance. Pause and have them freeze.**

- *“Great moves everybody! It’s so fun to praise Jesus together! Let’s all shout, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay Jesus’ together!*
- *‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay Jesus!’”*

⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *That was so fun! The people waved their palm branches to celebrate Jesus! And we can still celebrate and praise him today because Jesus wants to be our friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Story Reenactment

SUPPLIES: Palm leaves

SET UP: No prior set up needed

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Guide children to stand in two lines several feet apart facing each other in order to create a pathway. Make sure each child has a palm branch.**

- *"We heard a wonderful bible story today and we are going to act out that story here in our classroom. Does everybody have their palm leaves? Give them a wave in the air for me!"*

⇒ **Select one child to go first.**

- *"_____ is going to pretend to be Jesus. We have a perfect path here for Jesus to ride in on his donkey. As Jesus comes down the path let's wave our palm branches in the air and say together – 'HOSANNA! HOSANNA! YAY JESUS! Let's try that together!'"*

⇒ **Repeat until every child has had a chance to be Jesus. Then, Bring it Back to Jesus!**

- *"Great job, friends! 'I'm SO glad to have a good, good friend like Jesus. We can celebrate and praise him and worship him because he is always with us and will be forever!"*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?**
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"*

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY
MARCH WEEK 4

PASS OUT MOON SAND

⇒ Can you make your moon sand look like a palm leaf?

READ

⇒ *The True King*, The Beginner's Bible, p. 427

- Read the bible story and then say: *Wow! Jesus is the one true King and the people celebrated him! We can celebrate Jesus every day by loving others like he does!*

REVIEW (You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

Who wants to be your friend forever?

Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

⇒ Memory Verse

- **"I have called you friends." John 15:15**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ "Today, we are going to do something special. I am going to write Jesus here [on the board/on our paper]. Then, when I write your name down I am going to draw a line and connect it to Jesus. Then I want you to say, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!" Are you ready?

⇒ What a wonderful way to celebrate our love for Jesus! Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and pray: "

- *"Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. He is so kind and teaches us how to love everyone. And He can do amazing things that only He can do! Jesus is SO worth celebrating! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."*