

# ALLEY SG – April 5 - 6, 2025

**Today's Bible Story:** When Love Comes to Town (Palm Sunday) • *John 12:12-16*

**Today's Key Question:** What are you hoping for?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Whatever happens, remember God is still working.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b (NIRV)

## 1. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** "Prayer Palms" Activity Page (one per kid), scissors, and markers

**What You Do:**

- Ask these review questions:
  1. Why were the people so excited about Jesus coming to Jerusalem? (*Answer: The nation of Rome ruled over them, so the people of Israel were not really free. There was a great hope that when the Messiah came, He would FINALLY restore them back to the great nation they once were.*)
  2. How did the people in the crowd show their excitement and honor Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? (*Answer: They took palm branches and their coats and laid them on the road. It was kind of like giving someone the red-carpet treatment as a way to honor Him.*)
  3. Why was it significant that Jesus rode a donkey's colt into Jerusalem? (*Answer: Many years earlier, the prophet Zechariah spoke about the King who would ride into Jerusalem or Zion on the colt of a donkey – and that's what Jesus did!*)
- Tell kids that the palm branch can be a symbol of the promises kept by God, which reminds us that God loves us and give us HOPE.
- God has promised us that he loves us and is here to help us. One of the ways he helps us is by hearing our prayers.
- Give each kid a copy of the "Prayer Palms" Activity Page, a marker, and a pair of scissors.
- Direct the kids to cut out the palm branches on the "Prayer Palms" Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to write down different things they want to pray about on the fronds of the leaf.
  - Share that their prayers can be about anything. They can write down prayers for themselves or other people. They can write things they want to thank God for or things they hope for.
  - Remind kids that prayer is simply a conversation with God, and they can talk about anything.
- After kids have finished working on their "Prayer Palms," encourage them to take them home to use as a reminder to pray in the days ahead.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Butcher paper, sticky notes, markers, wall tape, and a blindfold

**What You Do:**

- Use a marker to draw a target on the butcher paper.
- Set the target in your group area or hang it up if possible.
- Give each kid a sticky note and a marker.
- Direct the kids to write the answer to the following questions on their sticky notes:
  - "What is one thing you are hoping for?"
  - "What is one thing you want to achieve in the future?"
- Once kids have answered the questions, select a kid to go first.
- Blindfold that kid and spin them around a few times.
- Guide that kid to the large poster and give them a chance to pin their sticky note as close to the target area as possible.

- Repeat until every kid gets a turn.
- Once every kid gets a turn, gather the group together.
- Say, “The blindfold made it tricky to see where we were trying to place our hopes and goals, didn’t it? When you can’t see clearly, it can be hard to reach your goal. It’s tough to reach your target when you can’t see it.”
- Ask:
  - What does it feel like to wait and have hope, even when we don’t see results right away?
- Remind the kids that they can always ask God for hope when things get tough.

### 3. Discussion Questions

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**Ask:**

- What do you think hope is?
- What are you hoping for?
- Why can we put our hope in Jesus?
- When has it been hard to have hope?
- Who can you talk to when you feel hopeless?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

*Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Plastic cups (15 cups per bin), “Memory Verse Pieces” (2 sets per group)

**What You Do:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Share with the kids that each team will get 3 parts of the memory verse and that they will race to put the three pieces in order.
- Tell them in order to get the pieces, they need to complete a challenge.
- **Cup Stack Challenge:** One kid from each team must stack six plastic cups into a pyramid and unstack them. Once completed, give them the first part of the memory verse.
- Continue for rounds 2 and 3
- Once all the pieces are collected, instruct each team to arrange the verse correctly to complete the challenge.
- Encourage them to say the verse together as a team.
- Challenge kids who want to recite the verse not to look at the “Memory Verse Pieces”.

### AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

#### PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...  
 “Dear God, thank You for our time together today! Each of us faces our own unique challenges and worries, and we are so thankful that You are always with us through them! Help us to remember that **whatever happens, you are working** in our lives. Thank You for bringing something good out of something bad when Jesus gave His life to rescue us. Give us hope and help us to see the bigger picture! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to use their palm branches to retell today’s Bible Story to their grown-ups.