

CITY SG – April 5 - 6, 2025

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

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)

Monthly Virtue: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: party sized play doh (1 for each kid in the group- they can reuse them all weekend)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid as they arrive and help them feel welcome!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask kids if they remember the word we talked about in March? (*Cooperation!*)
- Give each child a small can of play doh.
- Direct kids to use it to create something they like or something that makes them smile.
- Encourage the kids to use their creativity and offer suggestions if needed:
 - For example, an ice cream cone, school building, a house, etc.
- Walk around and speak with kids about what they created.
- Ask:
 - What did you make?
 - Can you tell me why _____ makes you smile?

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Palm Pictures

Bible Story review

What You Need: "Palm Pictures" Activity Page (one per kid), scissors, glue sticks, coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give every kid a "Palm Pictures" Activity Page, a glue stick, and a pair of safety scissors.
- Direct the kids to use the scissors to cut out the four review pictures carefully.
- Point out the numbers next to each blank square on the palm branch.
- Share with kids that "1" is where the story will begin.
- Explain to the kids that they will use the glue stick to secure the Bible Story pictures onto the blank squares of the palm branch in the correct order.
- One at a time, read the review points below. Pause after each review point to give kids a few moments to glue each picture.

Review Points:

- Picture 1: “Jesus had just done something amazing—He brought His friend Lazarus back to life! People were amazed and started believing that Jesus was the Rescuer God had promised. But some leaders started to worry about all the people following Jesus. What did those leaders want to do to Jesus?” (*They wanted to get rid of Him.*)
 - Picture 2: “What very important task did Jesus give His friends?” (*He sent two of His disciples into the village to find a young donkey.*) “That’s right! Jesus told them exactly what to do and say, so they knew it was important. He was getting ready to go to Jerusalem in a very special way.”
 - Picture 3: “When people learned that Jesus was on His way, what did they lay down on the road?” (*Their own coats and palm branches.*) “Yes! They were SO excited because they believed Jesus was their King and Rescuer”!
 - Picture 4: “Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, just like God had promised long ago. What did the people shout to show honor and respect as Jesus rode into the city?” (*Hosanna!*)
- Set out the coloring supplies.
 - Encourage the kids to write their names on the back of their palm branch.
 - Instruct the kids to color their palm branches.
 - Optional: Have them cut out their palm branches
 - Ask, “What were the crowds in Jerusalem shouting as they were waving their palm branches?” (*Hosanna!*)
 - Say, “They were honoring and respecting Jesus. You know, for the people of Jerusalem, life probably felt a little scrambled and confusing—they couldn’t see how God was working behind the scenes. But God was still at work! When we focus on the big picture, we can remember that God kept the promise to send a Rescuer, and it was Jesus, the Son of God! The good news is that God is still at work today. We can trust God and look for the ways God pieces everything together for good

2. HOPE and Faith

Application Activity

What You Need: Finished palm branches from the “Palm Pictures” Activity above and markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid their “Palm Pictures” palm branch.
- Give each kid a marker.
- Challenge the kids to think about a difficult thing they’re facing or something they’re worried about.
- To get them started, share an example like:
 - “Maybe you switched schools and are nervous about making new friends. Plus, you miss your friends from your old school.”
 - “Maybe thinking about bad things that happen in our world makes you sad or worried.”
- Prompt kids to write down or draw a picture of their difficult thing on the back of their palm branch.

- Let kids (who are willing) share what they are facing right now.
- Ask:
 - Who can help us when we are facing something difficult? (*GOD!*)
 - What does he give us? (*Hope!*)
 - Who can tell us our bottom line for today? (*Whatever happens, remember God is still working*)
- Encourage kids to display their palm branch at home to remind them that Jesus can give us hope, no matter what happens!
- Give kids a minute to silently bow their heads and ask God to help them with their situation.

3. Memory Verse Motions

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
 - "In this world you will have trouble. But, be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world." John 16:33b
- Tell the kids you are going to make up motions to the verse.
- You can either:
 - Divide kids into small groups and have each group make up motions to a section of the verse. OR
 - Make up the motions to the whole verse together as one group.
- If you did the activity in small groups, have each group teach the motions to their section.
- Practice reciting the memory verse as a group with the motions.

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