

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**TWO**

APRIL 2019

SMALL GROUP

**2**

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

### TEAM

#### CEO

Reggie Joiner

#### DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

#### DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

#### DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

#### DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

#### CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

#### WRITERS

Donna High

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is your friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is my friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience**

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Donkey  
Colors of Leaves  
Coats

**10**  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Doesn't Matter

**10**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Bible Story  
Prayer

**25**  
MIN

**GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Praise Parade  
Coat Path  
Bouncing Leaves  
Leaf Craft

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**



## MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who is your friend?

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### 1. DONKEY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Guide the children to stand in front of you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to pretend to ride a donkey. Encourage them to ride all around the activity area. Repeat as desired.

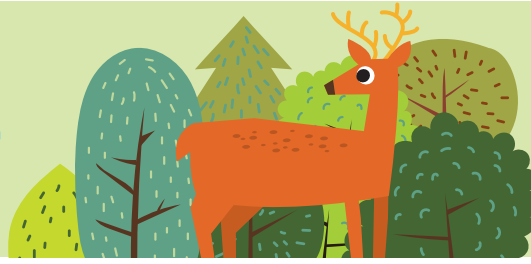
**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's ride a donkey all around the room!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to pretend that we all have a donkey. A donkey is like a horse. Everyone get on your donkey (*Demonstrate.*) Are you ready to go to riding?" (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "WOW! You are awesome riders. Someone in our Bible story rides a donkey, too. I cannot wait to find out who!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by pretending to ride a donkey to the story area.



PRELUDE

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15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

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**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**



## PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who is your friend?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is my friend.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 2. COLOR OF LEAVES

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 15-20 fake leaves or die cut leaves in yellow, green, red, and orange; a basket; and one piece of construction paper in yellow, green, red, and orange

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place the four pieces of construction paper in the activity area. Place all of the leaves in the basket. Place the basket near the construction paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Challenge the children to choose leaves out of the basket and place them on the matching color of construction paper.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all of the leaves!" (*Point to the basket.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "There are four different colors of leaves in the basket. I see yellow, green, red, and orange leaves. I also see yellow, green, red, and orange paper. (*Point to construction paper.*) We are going to work with our friends to match the leaves to the same color of paper! The green leaves go onto the green paper, the yellow leaves on the yellow paper, the red leaves on the red paper, and the orange leaves on the orange paper." (*Do activity*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go! You matched all of the leaves! We are going to talk about GREEN leaves today in our Bible story. I am ready for an exciting Bible story!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by looking for the color green as you walk to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**



## EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who is your friend?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is my friend.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 3. COATS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several coats (*adult and children's sizes*) and a full-length preschool-safe mirror

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Set the mirror up at preschool height in the activity area. Place the coats in a pile near the mirror.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Allow the children to try on the coats and look at themselves in the mirror. Make sure each child gets a turn.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's dress up!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Try on all of these beautiful coats. (*Point.*) You can look at yourself in the mirror and see how FABULOUS you look!" (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You all looked amazing! We are going to talk about coats in our Bible story, but the people did something different with them than try them on! I cannot wait to find out what they did!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by talking about the "path" you are walking on as you move to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
REVIEW



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**

**1. PRAISE PARADE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Music player and the monthly song

*(Option: You may consider adding preschool musical instruments to your Praise Parade.)*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Guide the children to line up in a single file line like they're in a parade.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Start the music and encourage the children to walk in the parade for a minute or two. Stop the music and lead the children in saying the memory verse. Then say, "Let's praise Jesus!" Restart the music and continue the parade. Repeat as long as interest holds.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's praise Jesus with a PARADE!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to line up, and when the music starts, we will walk in our parade. Let's praise Jesus! When the music stops, we can say our memory verse together. Are you ready? *(Pause and start music.)* Great job! Praise Jesus! *(Stop music.)* Let's say our memory verse. A friend loves at all times, Proverbs 17:17. Wahoo! Praise Jesus! Let's start our parade again!" *(Continue and finish activity.)*

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go! Jesus is our friend. Let's say that together! JESUS IS OUR FRIEND! Yay! **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**"

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**IMAGINE**

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine,  
and role play to enhance their learning

**BIBLE STORY**

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**MATTHEW 21:1-16**

**2. COAT PATH**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 8-10 coats (try to choose older coats that can be walked on)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Lay the coats in a pathway across the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to walk on top of the coat path while you retell the Bible story. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "A path of coats! This reminds me of our Bible story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's walk on the coats just like Jesus did. (Walk on coat path.) People were so glad to see Jesus that they laid their coats on the ground for Him and the donkey to walk on. They praised Jesus by waving palm leaves. They praised Jesus, and Jesus was their friend!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We can praise Jesus, and Jesus wants to be our friend, too. **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**"

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY  
MATTHEW 21:1-16**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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**3. BOUNCING LEAVES**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Green crepe paper and a parachute or sheet

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Tear the crepe paper into several one-foot sections and place them on top of the parachute.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you, and invite them to each pick up a section of the parachute. Invite the children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Ask the children to bounce the leaves as high as they can.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Our Bible story told us that people praised Jesus with palm leaves."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Do activity.) "We are going to have pretend leaves on our parachute and we are going to bounce them HIGH!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Awesome job bouncing the leaves. Jesus wants to be our friend. **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**"





PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**CREATE**

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

**BIBLE STORY**

We can praise Jesus.

**PALM SUNDAY  
MATTHEW 21:1-16**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**4. LEAF CRAFT**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Leaf Craft" Activity Page, white cardstock, three different shades of green tissue paper squares, glue sticks, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut the page in half on the dotted lines. Each child will need one half page.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Activity Page and all three shades of the green tissue squares. Each child will need about ten tissue squares. Help the children glue the tissue to the leaf outline on the Activity Page.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Send the Activity Pages home with the children.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus was praised with palm leaves as He rode the donkey on the path. We are going to make a leaf like the one in our Bible story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Give each child an Activity Page and the tissue squares.) "Use the tissue paper, and glue it on the leaf so that it will be green." (Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Perfect! You can take your leaves home and tell your family about how we can praise Jesus and that He is our friend. **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**"