

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

TWO

APRIL 2019

LARGE GROUP
RUG

3-5

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

Emily Meredith

Kathy Hill

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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.
Leaf Pile
Donkey, Donkey, Where's Your Tail?
Music

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.
Memory Verse Walk
Coats and Leaves
Coat and Leaf Matching
Praise
Clothespin Donkeys
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

WORSHIP

Use the full mix of the monthly song provided with the curriculum to lead your preschoolers in worship. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17. You will need a CD player and this month's worship song, "Doesn't Matter," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves are available on the Hip Hip Hooray! Dance Moves DVD or in your monthly media package, if you subscribe.

LEADER: "Hello, everyone. It's a very big celebration day around here. It's Palm Sunday! That means it's almost Easter! Wahoo! I can't wait to sing with you today. But first, tell me: **Who is your friend?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is my friend.**"

LEADER: "Yes! **Jesus is my friend.** He's my friend and your friend. It doesn't matter where we are or what we're doing, Jesus is ALWAYS our friend. Are you ready to sing this month's song?"

(Lead children in singing "Doesn't Matter," this month's worship song.)

"Yay! What incredible singers you are. **Who is your friend?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is my friend.**"

LEADER: "Yes! **Jesus is my friend**, and friends love each other, don't they? That's what our memory verse says. Are you ready to do it with me? *(Pause.)* Let's do it! A friend *(hook your pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times *(stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle)*, Proverbs 17:17. *(Open your hands like a book.)* Let's do it again."

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "A friend *(hook your pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times *(stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle)*, Proverbs 17:17." *(Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat several times.)*



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

LEADER: "Way to go! You are doing great with that verse. Never forget that Jesus is your friend and that He loves you. **Who is your friend?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is my friend.**"

STORY

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, a palm branch (this can be made with green construction paper or a purchased artificial floral piece)

LEADER: "Hello to all friends! I am [your name] and today is a very special day. That is why I have my palm branch.

(Hold up palm branch.)

"Because today we celebrate Palm Sunday!

(Wave the palm branch in the air.)

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!

(LEADER puts the palm branch down.)

"Today I am going to tell you a true story from the Bible . . .

(Hold up the Bible, open it, and lay it aside.)

". . . about our good friend Jesus. **Who is your friend?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is my friend!**"

LEADER: "You got it! Today's story is about our good friend Jesus.

"A long time ago, Palm Sunday was the day when Jesus came riding into the town of Jerusalem. When all the people heard Jesus was coming, they got SO excited they grabbed palm branches and stood by the road so they could cheer for Jesus when He came by.

"When they saw Jesus (wave palm branch), they waved their palm branches in the air and said, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!'



PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

(Put the palm branch down.)

“Hey! I have an idea! I want you to stand up right where you are and pretend your hands are palm branches. I want you to wave your hands in the air when I wave my palm branch and we’ll say, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus,’ together. Are you ready? Here we go!”

(Wave the palm branch while the children wave their hands.)

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!”

LEADER: “Wave your hands in the air!”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!”

(Put the palm branch down.)

LEADER: “Great job! Thank you for doing that. You can sit back down.”

“The word ‘hosanna’ means praise. When the people shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ they were praising Jesus and telling Him how special He is.

“You see, the people thought Jesus was AMAZING because of all the AMAZING things He had done. Jesus had calmed a storm. Jesus had made sick people better. Jesus had even fed a whole lot of people with only a little bit of food. The people knew Jesus can do things no one else can do!

“The people also knew that Jesus was the one who had been teaching people how to love God and love people. Jesus taught them what to do with their money. Jesus taught them to obey their parents. Jesus even taught them how to be a good friend by being the best friend ever! Tell me: **Who is YOUR friend?**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “**Jesus is my friend!**”

LEADER: “He sure is! And Jesus is such a GREAT friend! Jesus listens when we pray. Jesus forgives us when we mess up. Jesus is always, ALWAYS there for us! Sooooo, let’s stand up (*pause as they stand*) and praise Jesus together one more time. Get your hands ready to wave in the air! Ready?”

(Wave the palm branch.)

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!”

LEADER: “Wow! That was awesome!”

“Okay, it’s time to pray now. I need everyone to sit down, put your hands in your laps, and close your eyes.”
(Wait for the children to get settled.)

PRAYER

LEADER: “Dear God, we praise Jesus today for being SO amazing! He is the best friend ever! Thank You for sending Jesus to be with us so we can know You and learn how to love people. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”