

Bright Side: Find the Light in the Dark

WEEK
TWO

APRIL 2019

GRADES
2-3

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

This I Promise You
Palm Sunday
John 12:9-16

MEMORY VERSE

**"In this world you will have trouble.
But be encouraged! I have won
the battle over the world."**
John 16:33b, NIV

LIFE APP

**Hope—Believing that
something good can come
out of something bad**

BOTTOM LINE

**Whatever happens, remember
God keeps His promises.**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Palm Decor

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Everywhere I Go" from *Every Beat*
"You Are My Hope" from *Every Beat*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

In My Mind's Eye
Palm Path
Palm Verses
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Paper
- Markers

PALM DECOR

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Palm leaves (real or fake)
- Masking tape

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. IN MY MIND'S EYE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Markers
- Paper
- Clipboards

2. PALM PATH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Palm Leaf" Activity Page; ten for each small group
- Print the "Trail of Palm Leaves" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Die
- Masking tape

3. PALM VERSES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Green construction paper; one piece for each kid
- Scissors
- Craft sticks; one for each kid
- Tape
- Markers

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Kids' palm leaves from the "Palm Verses" activity

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

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CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help you and your kids remember that whatever happens, He keeps His promises. Ask God to help you show kids that even when we have troubles in this world, God promises He has won the battle.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to draw pictures of things they are excited about. It could be something they're looking forward to about celebrating Easter, something they're going to do over the summer, or something as simple as an upcoming fun activity at school.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.

BIBLE STORY

This I Promise You
Palm Sunday
John 12:9-16



EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

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2. PALM DECOR

WHAT YOU NEED: Palm leaves, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to decorate your small group space with the palm leaves and the pictures they drew during Early Arriver.
- Ask kids if they have any guesses as to why they are hanging up palm leaves.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This room is looking pretty festive! I feel like I'm in a tropical place!

[Transition] In Large Group today, we are going to hear a story about some people who were so excited for something that they waved palm branches in the streets."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

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IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

* 1. IN MY MIND'S EYE

WHAT YOU NEED: Markers, paper, clipboards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to pair up.
- Tell kids that one will be the artist and one will be describing something to draw.
- Pass out paper, markers, and a clipboard to the artists.
- Instruct the "describing" person to imagine the coolest house, car, or robot they can possibly think of.
- Tell the artists to draw what their partner describes as best they can, without letting their partner see it.
- When the picture is finished, have them reveal it to their partner and see if it looks anything like what they were imagining.
- Switch roles and repeat.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The people in our story today were waiting for a king for a very long time. They had a picture in their minds of what they thought the king would be like—what he would look like and what he would do. When Jesus came, He wasn't necessarily what they had imagined. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time when something didn't turn out the way you imagined it would.)** When the people actually met Jesus and He wasn't what they expected, that didn't make Him any less of a king. God had promised to send a king, and **whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

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2. PALM PATH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Palm Leaf" Activity Pages, "Trail of Palm Leaves" Activity Page, die, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the "Palm Leaf" Activity Pages on the ground to form a path.
- Invite kids to line up at the start of the path.
- One at a time, they will roll a die.
- Whatever number they roll, read that instruction to them from the Activity Page.
- Have them do that action for that number of spaces to move down the path.
- When they reach a space, have kids share a promise they have made or that someone has made to them.
- Keep taking turns rolling the die and moving forward or back.
- Kids should stay on their space between rolls.
- When kids reach the end of the path, have them wait for everyone to finish before the game is over.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys have made a lot of promises, and a lot of promises have been made to you. Sometimes it can be hard to keep our promises, and sometimes the people around us don't keep theirs either. It can be hurtful when someone doesn't keep their promise. But **whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**"

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

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3. PALM VERSES

WHAT YOU NEED: Green construction paper, scissors, craft sticks, tape, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct each child to trace their hand onto green construction paper and then cut it out.
- Let them write out the memory verse on their hand cutout.
- Guide kids to tape their hand onto a craft stick.
- Pair kids up and encourage them to practice the verse together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse reminds us that the Lord has already won the battle against the world. We don't need to worry that God won't do what He says He will, because **whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.** Take these palms home this week and stick them in a potted plant so you can remember our verse whenever you see it."

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: Kids' palm leaves from the "Palm Verses" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into two groups.
- Guide the groups to line up facing each other (as if they were lining the streets of a parade).
- Invite kids to wave their palm leaves as you pray together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Lord, thank You for always keeping Your promises to us. You came to Earth to show us how to live, just as You promised You would, and You left us with Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Your Word promises that You will come again one day, and we know that You will because You always keep Your promises."

As adults arrive to pick up, have kids show parents the palm leaves they made and tell them why they made palm leaves.