



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER



Editor in Chief: Kathy Hill

Copy Editor: Dana Wilkerson

Curriculum Writer: Ashley Hiers

Illustrator: Jodi Blackwell

Graphic Designers: Sharon van Rossum, David Hill

FL Creative Team: Sue Miller, Lois Pallansch, Kathy Hill, Kendra Fleming, Autumn Ward, Ashley Hiers, Donna High, Danielle Schneller, Mary Beth Brannan

Chief Executive Officer: Reggie Joiner

Chief Operating Officer: Reggie Goodin

Executive Director: Sue Miller

Technical and Web Support: Hadley Brandt

Partner Support: Deb Springer

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. ©2016 Orange. All rights reserved. First Look® and the First Look® logo are trademarks of Orange.

“STATEMENT OF FAITH” USER AGREEMENT

Orange gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor First Look® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we’ve expressed in our Statement of Faith.



BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND
FOREVER.**

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

**“Come, and follow me,” Jesus
said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV**

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do
something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

MAKE IT FUN

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

- **Bubble Excitement**
- **Donkey Races**
- **Find the Donkey**

MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- **Worship**
- **Bible Story**

MAKE IT STICK

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today's Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

- **Palm Leaf**
- **Palm Sunday**
- **Leaves in the Air**
- **Hosanna**

Check out an example or inspiration for this activity at [Pinterest.com/firstlookcurr](https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr)



MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

BUBBLE EXCITEMENT

"Bubble Excitement" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children use gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination to try and pop the bubbles.

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubbles and bubble gun (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Spread out in an open area of the room.

During the Activity: Blow bubbles and have the kids try to pop them. Repeat as many times as desired.

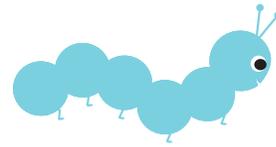
After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hello, boys and girls! Look what I have for us today—bubbles! Spread out a little. (Pause.) Great!"

During the Activity: "Here we go! Try to pop the bubbles! Super duper!" (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Clap your hands if you are you excited! (Pause.) Me too! I love bubbles! Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a whole big town with lots of people that were super excited because someone special was coming."



MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



GAME

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

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

DONKEY RACES

"Donkey Races" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while encouraging kids to use their hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to match and clip the heart to the matching color.

WHAT YOU NEED: Pool noodles, brown or black felt, rope, white cardstock, black and brown construction paper, scissors, and hot glue gun

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Cut a two- or three-inch slit in the center of one end of the noodle. Fold the pool noodle over and slide a length of rope in the slit and tie tight to secure. Cut felt into strips and hot glue them on as the mane. Cut ears from the construction paper and glue them to the head. Cut two large white circles and two smaller black circles for eyes and glue to the head. You can be as elaborate or simple as desired. Make two or more. Set two chairs out in the middle of the room.

You can see the inspiration for the donkeys on the March 2016 Pinterest board found on the First Look Curriculum's Pinterest page. <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/>

During the Activity: Kids will form two lines and ride the donkey around the chair and back. They will pass the donkeys off to the next person. Continue until each child has had a chance to ride the donkey.

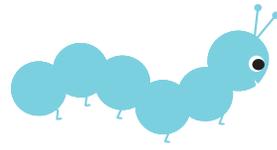
After the Activity: Sit down and introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends! Look at these donkeys! We are going to have a race riding them!"

During the Activity: "Let's form two lines. (*Help as needed.*) You are going to ride down and around the chair and come back. When you get back, pass the donkey to the next person in your line. Ready? (*Pause.*) Go! (*Pause.*) Great job!" (*Repeat if desired.*)

After the Activity: "That was super fun racing the donkeys! Sit down where you are. (*Pause.*) There are donkeys in our Bible story today too!"



MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



INVESTIGATION/ROLE PLAY

An activity that channels either a preschooler's innate curiosity or desire to play dress up into a discussion of concepts crucial to the lesson.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

FIND THE DONKEY

"Find the Donkey" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while kids search the sensory bin for the missing donkey.

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic container, toy donkey, green crepe paper, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Cut green crepe paper in strips, and place them in the container. Place the donkey in the container and mix it all up.

During the Activity: Have kids try to find the animal that's hiding in the bin. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Look at all the green tissue in the container. It looks like leaves! There is an animal hidden in there. Let's take turns to find it."

During the Activity: "Dig around. Did you find it? (Pause.) Great job! What animal did you find? (Pause.) It's a donkey! Let's hide it and find it again." (Repeat as many times as desired.)

After the Activity: "Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a time when Jesus rode a donkey!"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

An activity that encourages preschoolers to learn the monthly memory verse.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

“Come, and follow me,” Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16

PALM LEAF

“Palm Leaf” is an activity that helps kids recite this month’s Memory Verse while using fine motor skills to fill in a leaf with a marker.

WHAT YOU NEED: “Palm” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, green dot markers, wet wipes, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy “Palm” on cardstock, one per child.

During the Activity: Recite this month’s Memory Verse as kids fill in their leaves with dot markers. Repeat as many times as desired. Clean hands if needed. Write children’s names on their papers and set the papers aside to dry.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: “Come sit with me at the table. (Pause.) Look! What does this look like? (Hold up a paper.) A leaf! It’s a palm leaf like in our Bible story today. We are going to make it green with these dot markers as we say our Memory Verse.”

During the Activity: “Grab a marker and get ready to fill in your leaf as you say our Verse with me. (Say the verse one word at a time while kids repeat.) “Come, and follow me,” Jesus said,’ Matthew 4:19. (Repeat.) Super job! Let’s write your name on your fabulous palm leaf.”

After the Activity: “Today our Bible story told us about when Jesus came to town and everybody was super excited! They waved palm branches in the air and shouted, “Hosanna!” They knew that Jesus had come to be our friend forever and wanted to follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



BIBLE STORY REVIEW

An activity that reviews the entire Bible story in a fun and interactive way allowing preschoolers that repetition they crave.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

PALM SUNDAY

"Palm Sunday" is an activity that retells the Bible story while the children help act it out.

WHAT YOU NEED: Little People®, toy donkey, felt in multiple colors, green pipe cleaners, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Gather all the Little People®. Wrap green pipe cleaners around their arms and bend it to look like a palm branch. Cut squares out of the felt.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story as kids move the people around Jesus on the donkey and throw the felt squares on the floor in front of the donkey.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible story starts today in the town of Jerusalem. All the people were so excited because someone super special was coming to town!"

During the Activity: "Jesus (*hold up the Little People® who will be acting as Jesus*), the best teacher ever, was coming to Jerusalem! The people were so happy they kept yelling, 'Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!' (*Hop the other people up and down.*) They wanted to meet the best teacher ever! Jesus came into town riding on a donkey. (*Put Jesus on donkey and ride him in.*) And the people got so excited they took off their coats and laid them on the road in front of him. (*Put felt squares on the floor in front of Jesus and have the donkey walk over them.*) Then they waved palm branches, shouting, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' (*Wave your people back and forth.*) It was such a fun party and everyone there wanted to follow Jesus!"

After the Activity: "God sent Jesus to do something special. Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

LEAVES IN THE AIR

"Leaves in the Air" is an activity that encourages kids to use their gross motor skills and balance.

WHAT YOU NEED: Green construction paper, scissors, and a parachute

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Cut green construction paper into oval leaf shapes (or just rectangles). Lay out the parachute in an open area in the room.

During the Activity: Have the kids find a spot around the parachute and grab an edge. Talk about what the people used to celebrate Jesus coming to town and then add the construction paper "leaves" to the center. Have fun shaking the parachute up and down while shouting, "Hosanna!" Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Sit down on the floor and say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends, come over here. Let's play with this parachute."

During the Activity: "Grab an edge. Who remembers what the people celebrated Jesus coming to town with? (Pause.) Palm leaves! That's right! (Toss the construction paper leaves onto the parachute.) One, two, three! Shake and shout, 'Hosanna! Hosanna!' Great job! Keep shaking! Hosanna! Hosanna!" (Repeat as many times as desired.)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Sit down right where you are. (Pause.) I'm so glad God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be my friend and your friend forever! Shout, 'Hosanna,' with me one more time. Hosanna! Awesome!

Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus."



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



CRAFT

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

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, and follow me,' Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to do something special.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

HOSANNA!



"Hosanna" is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story while children use their fine motor skills to make a palm branch.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hosanna" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, light blue cardstock, large craft sticks, green tissue paper, scissors, glue sticks, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Hosanna" on cardstock, one per child. Cut one-by-three-inch rectangles out of the tissue paper.

During the Activity: Talk about the Bible story as kids add the craft stick and green leaves to their paper. Write children's names on papers and set them aside to dry.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

You can see a sample of this craft on the March 2016 Pinterest board found on the First Look Curriculum's Pinterest page. <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/>

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "What a great Bible story we heard today! Jesus was coming to town and everyone was super excited!"

During the Activity: "The people were so excited to see Jesus that they started waving palm branches in the air and shouting, 'Hosanna!' Let's make our own palm branch. First the branch needs a stem. Glue the craft stick on your paper. (Pause.) Super! Now we'll use these pieces of green tissue for the leafy part. Glue those all around. (Pause.) Fantastic!" (Write names on papers and set aside to dry.)

After the Activity: "Jesus came to be our friend forever, so we should follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"