

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

FOUR

MARCH 2018

LARGE GROUP
RUG

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

We celebrate Jesus because He is special.

PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

MEMORY VERSE

“Come and follow me,
Jesus said.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

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.
Footprints
Pop Bead Ordering
Celebration

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Friend Forever

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.
Palm Branch Verse
Palm Leaves
_____ Can Follow Jesus!
Parade
I Can Follow Jesus
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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 Matthew 4:19. You will also need a CD player and this month’s worship song, “Friend Forever,” which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves for this song are available on the “Everybody Sing” Dance Moves DVD.

LEADER: “Hello, hello, friends. It’s so great to see you today. I’m so excited, and I can’t wait to sing with you. But first, tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: **“I can follow Jesus.”**

LEADER: “Yes! **I can follow Jesus.** And you can follow Jesus! He wants to be your friend forever. Let’s sing this month’s song all about that.

Lead children in singing “Friend Forever,” this month’s worship song.

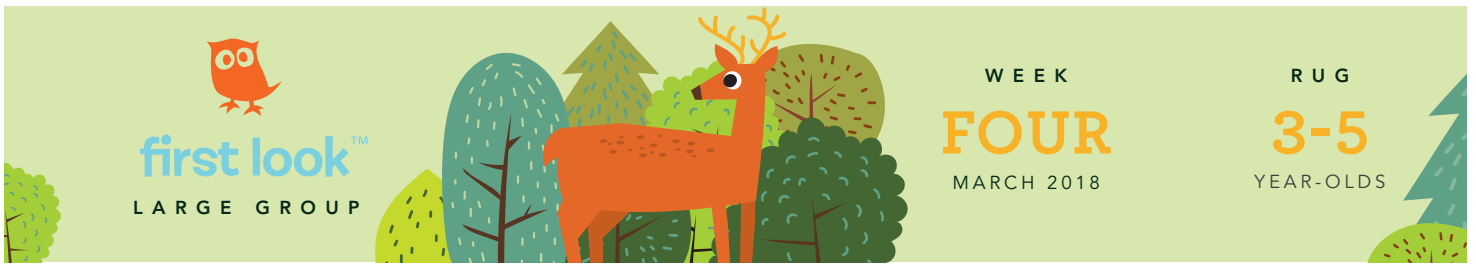
“Wonderful singing, my friends. Tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: **“I can follow Jesus.”**

LEADER: “Yes, indeed, **I can follow Jesus.** Who can help me remember what we do next? We sang our first song. What do we do now? (Pause.) Yes! We say our memory verse. Are you ready to say it with me? “Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me” (march), Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19. (Open your hands like a book.) Let’s do it again.”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me” (march), Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19.” (Open your hands like a book.)

LEADER: “Yes! You’ve got it totally memorized now! Way to go! I am so proud of you.



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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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.”

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, green crepe paper

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut 18-inch strips of green crepe paper. Provide one for each child.

LEADER: “Hi, friends! How fun does [Host’s name]’s celebration sound? His uncle Fred is going to be so surprised! And he’s right! I do have a true story from the Bible about a celebration for someone very, very, VERY special.

(Open Bible and hold it.)

“Now, I want you to give me your best listening ears, because I’m going to need your help to tell this Bible story. Did everyone get a piece of green paper when they came in? Hold it up high so I can see it. *(Pause.)* Perfect! You can put it in your lap for now. When I tell you it’s time, I want you to wave your green paper in the air. Got it?

“Okay then, if you’re ready to hear a true story from the Bible about someone very, very, VERY special, I want you to say, ‘START THE PARTY,’ at the count of three. Ready? One, two, three!”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “START THE PARTY!”

LEADER: “All right! Here we go!

(Lay Bible aside or hold it open if you can.)

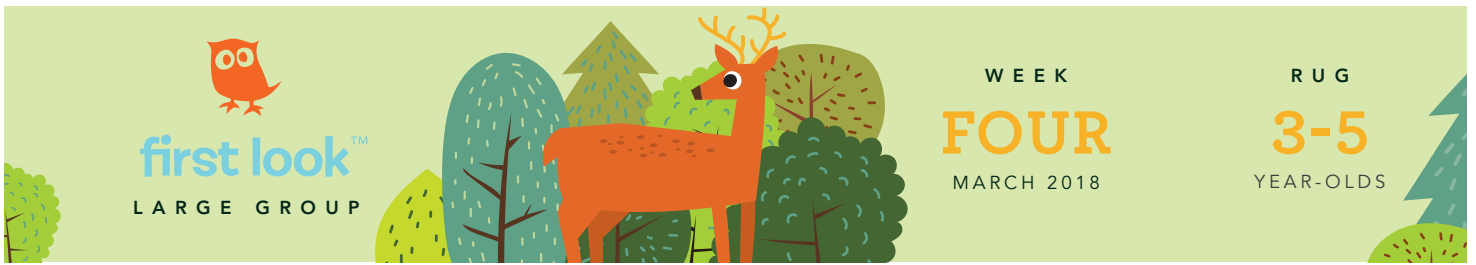
“Today is called Palm Sunday. It’s the day we remember a time when a whole town threw a party for Jesus. Our story is about the very first Palm Sunday.

“It all happened in a town called Jerusalem. The people there had heard Jesus was coming and they were SO excited. They had been hearing stories about all of the AMAZING things Jesus could do and they could not wait to see Him.

“Can you imagine how excited you would be if Jesus came to your town? Show me your excited faces.

(Make an excited face.)

“Yes! That’s what you would look like. These people were excited too.



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10 MINUTES

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"They waited and watched and then there He was. It was Jesus, God's Son, in their town! Jesus was riding on a donkey right down the road. The people were so excited they started taking off their coats and laying them on the road in front of Jesus.

"Other people cut down branches off of trees and laid them on the road.

"Then people started waving tree branches . . .

(Wave a piece of green crepe paper.)

". . . in the air and shouting, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!'

"Now this is where you come in. When I say, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' I want you to say it with me and pretend your green paper is a tree branch and wave it in the air like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let's try it!

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "Great job! Now, like I was saying, the people saw Jesus coming and they were so excited they began waving branches in the air and saying . . ."

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "And they kept cheering! They kept saying . . ."

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"

LEADER: "And that was the very first Palm Sunday.

"We still celebrate Jesus because Jesus is still the GREATEST! Everyone can celebrate Jesus because Jesus loves everyone. And when we follow Jesus, He teaches us how to love God and love people. **Who can you follow?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**I can follow Jesus!**"

LEADER: "Again, **who can you follow?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**I can follow Jesus!**"

LEADER: "Now let's celebrate Jesus one more time, because He's the GREATEST! Get your green leaves ready."

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!"



PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

LEADER: "Yay! Jesus is the GREATEST! That's the truth, friends. You better believe it! Let's close our eyes and pray now."

PRAYER

LEADER: "Dear God, Jesus truly is the greatest. Thank You for sending Him to be our friend forever. Thank You that when we follow Jesus we can learn how to love You and love people. I pray that we will all follow Jesus and celebrate Him today. He is so worthy. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."