

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

FOUR

MARCH 2018

SMALL GROUP

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
Amazing Things

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
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



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

We celebrate Jesus because
He is special.

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



MOVE

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

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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1. FOOTPRINTS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Footprints" Activity Page, white cardstock, scissors, and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Footprints" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines. Tape the footprints in a path around the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children around the room on the pathway. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have been talking about how anyone can follow Jesus. I see footprints on the floor. (*Point.*) Let's pretend these are Jesus' footprints, and let's follow Jesus."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone make a line, and let's follow Jesus!" (*Do activity.*) Awesome! Let's do it again!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice job following one another. It is awesome to follow Jesus. I feel like celebrating. Our Bible story today is about a celebration. I cannot wait for you to hear the story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting, "We can follow Jesus!" as you follow one another to the story area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

We celebrate Jesus because
He is special.

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



PLAY

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

MEMORY VERSE

“Come and follow me,
Jesus said.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

2. POP BEAD ORDERING

WHAT YOU NEED: “Pop Bead Patterns” Activity Pages, white cardstock, a large plastic bin, and pop beads

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Pop Bead Patterns” on cardstock and cut the patterns apart. Pour the pop beads into the plastic bin in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Pass out a pattern strip to the children. Encourage the children to follow the pattern to put the pop beads in a row. When they finish a pattern, they can trade pattern cards with another friend. Repeat as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all these fun pop beads!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “You can snap them together like this. (*Demonstrate.*) I have some pattern strips that I will pass out. I want you to snap the beads together in a line just like on your pattern strip.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “You did a great job putting all your beads in a row just like the patterns on your cards. Way to go, friends. All month long, we’ve been learning about how we can follow Jesus. We’ll hear more about that in our Bible story today. I can’t wait.”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a different order of movements. For instance, you could say, “Clap, clap, snap,” and let the children perform those movements after you.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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BASIC TRUTH

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IMAGINE

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

3. CELEBRATION

WHAT YOU NEED: Medium-sized box, party horns, party hats, streamers, music player, and the “Pick It Up” song

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all of the party supplies inside of the box.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the box in the activity area. Encourage the children to play with the items in the box. Be sure every child has a turn to play with the items in the box.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Today we are going to celebrate!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “There are fun items in this box! (*Point to box.*) We can use them to celebrate!” (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “That was super fun celebrating! We are going to hear about a wonderful celebration in our Bible story today! I cannot wait to hear our amazing Bible story!”

TRANSITION: Play the “Pick It Up” song while the children help you clean the activity area. Say, “Oh, I hear the ‘Pick It Up’ song! Let’s clean up the area so we can go to the story area.”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



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

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He is special.

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

1. PALM BRANCH VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: “Palm Branch Dot to Dot” Activity Page, white cardstock, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Palm Branch Dot to Dot” on white cardstock for each child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to use a crayon to draw in the lines to complete the dot-to-dot picture. Point out the words in the center of the palm branch and “read” the verse together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Do you see the dots on your pages? Let’s use our crayons to connect the dots to see if we can figure out what is on the page.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “What does this look like? Yes! It’s a palm branch, like the ones that the crowd waved when Jesus came to town. Do you see the words in the center of the palm branch? It’s our memory verse, which says, “Come and follow me,” Jesus said, Matthew 4:19. Awesome! Tell me again:

Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



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

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PALM SUNDAY
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MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

2. PALM LEAVES

(NOTE: This activity will produce a craft that can be used in the movement activity for this week.)

WHAT YOU NEED: “Leaf Label” Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, craft sticks (1 per child), green crepe paper, and liquid glue

(OPTION: The crepe paper will represent a palm leaf in the activity. If you choose, you may use the “Palm Leaf” Activity Page instead of the crepe paper. You will need to copy the Activity Page onto green cardstock and cut on the dotted lines.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Leaf Label” Activity Page onto the labels. Tear the crepe paper in one-foot sections.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a craft stick and a section of the crepe paper. Help the child glue one end of the crepe paper to one end of the craft stick. Help the children place the label onto the craft stick.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Retell the Bible story and encourage the children to wave their palm leaves.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We heard a Bible story today about a celebration!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “We are going to make a palm leaf just like we heard about in our story! (Do activity.) Perfect! Everyone was so excited that Jesus was coming! Jesus came down the road on a donkey. Everyone laid down their coats and palm leaves for the donkey to walk on. They were also waving the palm leaves and saying ‘Hosanna!’ They were so excited that Jesus was here! Let’s wave our palm leaves just like they did in our Bible story.” (Finish activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Great job waving your palm leaves. Everyone was so excited for Jesus to come because He is special. They wanted to follow Jesus. We can all follow Jesus too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**”

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

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He is special.

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

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

3. _____ CAN FOLLOW JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper (1-foot wide piece per child), wide black markers, “Bible Story Labels” Activity Page, Avery #5160 labels or equivalent, and circle stickers

Visit First Look’s March 2018 Pinterest Board to see the inspiration for this activity: <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/march-2018-gone-fishin/>

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: On each piece butcher paper write: “[Child’s name] can follow Jesus.” Write in each child’s name on their own piece of butcher paper in large capital letters. Copy the “March Week 4: Bible Story Labels” onto the label paper. Provide one label per child. Place the circle stickers in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Pass out the prepared butcher paper pages to each child. Ask them to point to their name on the page and help them “read” the page. Then encourage the children to use the dot stickers to cover their names. Remind them to cover their names ONLY. When finished, give each child a label place at the bottom of the page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Do you see your name on the page? It reads, ‘[Child’s name] can follow Jesus!’ We can all follow Jesus because He wants to be our friend forever. I want you to use these dot stickers to cover your name and ONLY your name.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all these names! We can all follow Jesus because is the best. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** You can take these home as a reminder to follow Jesus this week.”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

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

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4. PARADE

WHAT YOU NEED: The palm leaves made during the "Palm Leaves" Bible Story Review this week

(OPTION: If you choose not to do the activity "Palm Leaves" you may simply use the "Palm Leaf" Activity Page. You will need to copy the Activity Page onto green cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Give each child one leaf from the Activity Page and encourage them to wave them during the parade.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in a single file line behind you. Give the children their palm leaves.

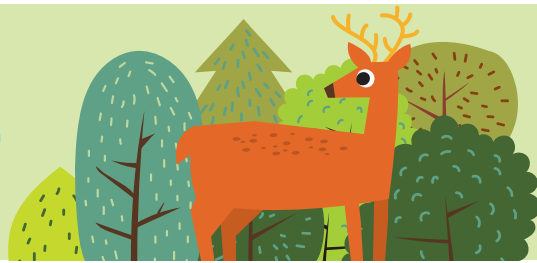
DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children in parade form around the room. If possible, lead the children in the hallways around the church. Encourage the children to wave their palm leaves as they walk.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's celebrate Jesus with a parade, because He is special!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: *(Line the children up.)* "Now we are ready! Be sure to wave your palm leaves just like the people did in our story today. Let's celebrate Jesus!" *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun! We celebrate Jesus because He is special. The people in our story wanted to follow Jesus. We should follow Jesus too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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

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MATTHEW 21:1-11, 15-16

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Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

5. I CAN FOLLOW JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: “Jesus on the Path” Activity Page, white cardstock, green tissue paper cut into 1-inch squares, glue sticks, and brown dot markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Jesus on the Path” Activity Page onto white cardstock. Provide one per child. Place the green tissue paper squares, glue sticks, and brown dot markers in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the path on the page and the pattern they see (*leaf, coat, leaf, coat, etc.*) Encourage the children to use the glue sticks to adhere the green tissue paper to the leaf sections and to use the brown dot markers to cover the coat sections on the page. Encourage the children to write their names on their pages.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Take a look at the picture in front of you. Do you see Jesus on the road? (*Point.*) And look, there are leaves and coats on the ground just like there were on the day Jesus came to town. (*Point.*) Let’s use our brown dot markers to cover the coats and use the green tissue paper to cover the leaves.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Your pages look amazing. Great job, everyone! We celebrate Jesus because He is special. I’m so glad to know that **I can follow Jesus** and that He wants to be my friend forever. Tell me: **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** Yes, you can! I want you to take these beautiful pictures home as a reminder that you can follow Jesus too.”

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY**



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

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He is special.

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

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: “Memory Verse Card” paper clipped in your Bible at Matthew 4:19, journal, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or a hand stamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time, and we’re going to cheer for Jesus while we walk to our spot. Let’s say, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ Come and follow me!”

(Make a sweeping motion with your hand for the children to follow you. Say the cheer as you lead them to your Small Group spot.)

“I love celebrating Jesus because He is SO special! And that’s why I can’t wait to talk about today’s Bible story. It’s all about celebrating Jesus. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

“Our Bible story today was about something called Palm Sunday. Can you say, ‘Palm Sunday’? *(Pause.)* Do you know that today is Palm Sunday? *(Pause.)* It sure is! That’s why we’re celebrating Jesus. Palm Sunday is one of the days we celebrate Jesus, because He is SO special.

“Today we learned about the very first Palm Sunday. Remember how Jesus came riding into town on a donkey? When the people saw Him they started cheering. They laid palm branches and coats on the road to make a special path for Jesus to ride on. They followed Jesus, waving palm leaves in the air and shouting ‘Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!’ It was a wonderful day!

“We can follow Jesus and celebrate Him too. **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “I can follow Jesus!”

SGL: “Yes! You can follow Jesus and celebrate Him today and the next day and the next day! We can celebrate Jesus every day because He is so special and He wants to be our friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN AND SGL: [Basic Truth] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

SGL: "Okay friends, who is ready to say our Bible verse for a sticker/hand stamp? (Pause.) We'll say it together one time and then anyone who wants to give it a try can say it. I have my stickers/hand stamp ready! Stand up and let's say it together."

(Open Bible to verse and lay it down.)

CHILDREN AND SGL: "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.*)

SGL: "You are so ready! I want everyone to sit down. When it's your turn to say the verse you can stand up. Who wants to try and say the verse first?"

(Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)

"I am so proud of you! Now you can tell everyone that Jesus said to come and follow Him! Good job! Let's write in our prayer journal now.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Since today is all about celebrating Jesus because He is so special, let's make a list of things that make Jesus special. It can be because He's a good friend, He forgives us, He loves us no matter what, He helps us, He listens to us, or He is always with us. There are so many things that make Jesus special! When I say your name, tell me one thing that makes Jesus special to you.

(Write each child's name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Wow! I love this list! We can use it when we pray to celebrate Jesus and tell Him how special He is! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus. Jesus is SO special! He is (*read the list the children made*). Jesus is the best! I pray that we will all follow Jesus so we can learn to do what is right and be with You forever. We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."