



Jesus is King – Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

MAKE: Letters to Compassion Child

(To be done during check-in, prior to Explore Activity)

As kids check-in, invite them to write letters to your Compassion Child to go with the Missions focus for this month – Compassion International.

Supplies: blank paper, markers/crayons

Directions: Encourage kids to color/decorate and write a special note for your Compassion child. Kids can write a Bible verse or a fun joke or share about themselves. Give Woodmen Kids staff member finished letters.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

Have you ever seen a king before? What do kings usually wear? **Let kids respond.** That's right! They wear crowns! Sometimes they wear fancy robes and carry a special rod. We see kings on tv shows and movies and in books. What do kings usually do? **Let kids respond.** That's right, they lead and rule over people.

Well, today we're going to learn about a very special king, but He didn't look like the kings we just talked about. He didn't wear a fancy gold crown or a purple robe. Do you know who this king might be?

Jesus is the King! We're going to learn about Jesus, the very special king who is our hope! Jesus wore normal clothes like everyone else. He didn't have a special chariot that drove him around. Jesus actually rode a donkey! Today, we're going to learn more about how Jesus, the king, entered on a very special day we call Palm Sunday, but first we're going to play a game to help us prepare!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Palm Branch & Cloak Relay Race

Supplies: 4 green palm branches, 4 cloak outlines

Say: *Today we get to play a very special game. Did you know that when Jesus went to Jerusalem, people placed branches and cloaks down to make a path for him? We are going to play a game where we make a path too!*

Directions: Have children get into 2 teams. Give each team two palm branches and two cloaks. Two people from each team will be the "placers". These children will lay down the leaves and cloaks for their team member to step on. They have to get their team members from one side of the room to the other (one at a time) by placing down the palm branches and cloaks for them to step on like stepping stones. Once the team member has stepped on it they can pick it up and place it in front of them to keep the trail going. Then they run back and help the next team member.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Key Verse” slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

“But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8, NIRV)

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our King – Palm Sunday

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

**** After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God. ****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: world map, campus specific Compassion child information, video in PowerPoint

Prepare ahead: write down a few facts about your campus' compassion child to share

I've got a word for you. Compassion – what does that mean? ***Wait for answers.***

The dictionary says compassion is ***“a feeling of sharing another's suffering that leads to the desire to help.”*** Jesus had compassion on the people he lived and worked with. He cried over Jerusalem because they didn't understand God.

We want to be like Jesus. Who can we have compassion for? ***Let kids answer.***

We have compassion for our Compassion kids, don't we? Who is our Compassion child? Look at this map. Our Compassion kid lives HERE. ***Show on map.*** We live here. ***Show on map.***

Remember what "compassion" means? The desire to help someone who is suffering or in distress. Our Compassion kid lives in a place that doesn't have all the same luxuries as we have here in Colorado. Like they may not have a house, food to eat, a car to get around in.

Use your information about your compassion child to share living conditions, assume from where they live – water, housing, etc. to share with the group.

But, we get to have compassion for him/her every week as we bring offering and we pray and write letters to him/her! It is such a special way to share a bit of Jesus' love that He has for us with others.

We have an amazing opportunity to have compassion on even more kids for the next few weeks. For the next 4 weeks, we are going to have a special offering. This offering is going to help us raise money to give a Bible to other kids in need. Raise your hand if you have your own Bible or your family does. Most of you do! Well, there are kids all over the world who have never had their own Bible or heard the good news of how much Jesus loves them. Let's watch this video to learn more about what it really means to give a Bible.

Play Compassion video.

Wow, what a special gift to be given a Bible! We can have compassion for others by giving them a Bible because we all need to know God's love. It only takes \$10 to give a Bible to a kid in a different country, living in poverty. Do you have \$10? Or even \$2 or \$5 that you could bring in next week?

How can we work together to donate 50 Bibles to other kids around the world? How can you raise money? We're focusing on fasting from things to spend more time with God right now.

- ***Are there things you can give up, like we've been talking about with our fasting challenge, to raise money to help give a Bible? Maybe that new toy you really wanted? Maybe that new game?***
- ***Could you spend time that you would normally be watching tv or playing games, doing chores instead to earn money?***

Let's take a moment and listen to God. We're all going to close our eyes and sit quietly. Ask God what you can do. Ask Him to show you how to love our Compassion kids well and the kids who will receive these Bibles.

Pray to close out.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.****

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion – Give a Bible” slide.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Compassion Give a Bible

****Missions Focus will be introduced in Worship Response this week! Use this section for following weeks****

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: We spend time every week talking about our Compassion child that we sponsor! He/she is so important to us because they are a child of God, just like you and me, and we get to be a part of helping them feel loved by God! We have a special missions focus we want to challenge each of you to engage with. We’re going to work together to raise money to give 50 Bibles to kids in need! Let’s check out this video about Compassion to learn about what it means to give a Bible to our friends across the world.

Play Compassion video in PowerPoint.

Say: Each Bible through Compassion International is just \$10. That means to get to 50 Bibles, we need to raise \$500 dollars over the next 4 weeks at all of our campuses. Do you think we can do it? How can you earn/raise money to donate? ***Are there things you can give up, like we’ve been talking about with our fasting challenge, to raise money to help give a Bible? Maybe that new toy you really wanted?***

Let’s pray for our Compassion child and for every child that could receive a Bible because of your donations!

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, always remember that Jesus has compassion. He loves you and cares about you so that you can love others and care about them.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Mark 11:1-11).**
2. **What does Jesus ask for the disciples to get him? (a donkey!) Where are they going? (Into Jerusalem).**
3. **What did they place as a path before Jesus, as he rode into Jerusalem? (Coats and leaves/branches).**
4. **Why do you think they laid down a path for Jesus and praised Him as he rode into the city? (Because He is the true King).**
5. **What do you think it would have been like to be with Jesus during this time? How would you have felt being there with Him?**
6. **How can you earn/raise money this week to help “Give a Bible” to another child?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Mark 11:1-7**

What does Jesus ask for the disciples to get Him? (a donkey!) Where are they going? (Into Jerusalem).

What did the disciples place on the donkey before Jesus sat on it? (Their coats).

2. **Read Mark 11: 8-11**

What did they place as a path before Jesus, as he rode into Jerusalem? (Coats and leaves/branches). What did the crowd say/yell about Jesus as He rode into the city? (Hosanna!)

3. **What does Hosanna mean? (Praise and Joy).**

4. **Why do you think they laid down a path for Jesus and praised Him as He rode into the city? (Because he is the true King).**

5. **What do you think it would have been like to be with Jesus during this time? How would you have felt being there with Him?**

6. **How can you earn/raise money this week to help “Give a Bible” to another child?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Handprint Palm Branches

Supplies: green paper, markers/pencils, large popsicle sticks, glue sticks, scissors

Directions: Pass out two green pieces of paper per child. Have them trace their handprints on the paper (one next to the other, should be able to make 3-4 handprints per paper). Have them cut out their handprints **help them cut out their handprints if needed**. Pass out one stick per child and have them glue their handprints on the middle/top portion of the stick, making a branch.



Say: *Jesus is our King! And we get to celebrate that, not just at Easter time, but everyday. Let's make these palm branches to help us remember that we can always praise Jesus because He is our king!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.