



Palm Sunday – Jesus Saves

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19

God Statement: Jesus Saves

KEY VERSE: "He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven."
(Colossians 1:13-14, 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.

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 Saves!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus Saves!

SAY: What does the word save mean? **Let kids respond.** Save means to keep safe or rescue. Have you ever kept something safe before? **Let a few kids respond.** Sometimes we want to keep things safe and rescue things that are important to us.

Do you know who rescued us? **Let kids respond – Jesus** That’s right! Jesus! Jesus saved us from something very important. Do you know why God sent His son, Jesus, to rescue us? **Let kids respond** From our sins, that’s right! God sent His son to save us from our sins and to rescue us. God cares for us so much!

MAKE: Palm Branches

****These palm branches will go with each child to large group time.****

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

Supplies: Green palm branch, brown wavy popsicle stick, Hosanna sticker, markers, tape/glue

Directions: Pass out one green palm leaf per child and one brown wavy popsicle stick. Help them tape/glue the stick to the back of the leaf. Then add the sticker to the middle of the leaf. Children can turn over the leaf and decorate it using markers and crayons.

SAY: Today we get to take our special craft with us to Large Group time! We are going to make palm branches! I wonder what this has to do with our story today. Can you think of a time when you learned about palm branches in the Bible? ([Jesus riding on the donkey on palm Sunday!](#)) Let’s talk about it while we make our craft!



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- I Believe
- I Thank God

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER**Host****MAIL TIME!**

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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

***"He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven."
(Colossians 1:13-14, NIRV)***

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: A Palm Branch

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their

neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

SAY: What do you guys see? It's a palm branch! Has anyone ever seen a palm branch before? Why do you think we have a palm branch in our What's It closet? **Let kids respond.** That's right! Because today is Palm Sunday. It's exactly a week before Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter. We celebrate Palm Sunday because Jesus has come to Jerusalem. But there is so much more to learn about Palm Sunday. So, let's dive into God's word!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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: Palm Sunday – Jesus Saves

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.

DO: Jesus Is King Cards

Supplies: Palm branches from Explore, pool noodle donkey, Jesus Is King card

SAY: In our story today, we saw a big parade, and Jesus deserved it. The waiting was over! The promised King was finally coming into Jerusalem, and the people crowded the streets to cheer for the King's arrival.

This was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years and it finally happened! Everything was coming together just like the Bible said. The real king was not going to be fancy, but He would ride into the city on a donkey. Not even his donkey, but a donkey that he had to borrow.

Jesus wasn't a normal king trying to show he was important and forcing people to serve him and obey him. Jesus was the direct opposite. He came to love and serve people.

SAY: Today we are going to think about how God fulfilled His promise. Take a palm branch to use in our own parade to celebrate Jesus.

DIRECTIONS: Kids will use the palm branch that you made during the Explore Activity to act out what it may have been like when Jesus rode through the town on a donkey. Line up and shout "Hosanna!" as someone pretends to be Jesus riding on the pool noodle donkey. There was a lot of excitement in the town, so let's see you play that part!

SAY: It was hard for some of the people to realize that Jesus was God and that He was going to save all of them. Even the 12 disciples of Jesus were confused. We will see next week what happened next.

Let's take a moment and thank God for sending Jesus to earth to save us.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

******After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Feeding Families**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: For the past three weeks we have been collecting donations for Feeding Families to help those who do not have access to the food needed to meet their basic needs. We have not only met our goal, but we have also exceeded our campus goal, collecting _____ lbs and also our total goal of 4,000lbs with a grand total of _____ to help individuals and families in need!

SAY: Although we will begin highlighting a different mission focus next week, we encourage you to continue to grab extra food items when you are grocery shopping with your family so that we can continue to help as many people as possible who are in need of food!

Choose someone to pray for Feeding Families, that God will continue to provide the resources needed for them to help those in need.

******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.

SAY: *May you know that Jesus is the promised King. May you know that Jesus loves you. (Pass out Jesus Is King cards)*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus Saves.)
2. **Read/Recap today's story: John 12:12-15**
 - **What did the people shout while Jesus was Coming?** (Hosanna!)
 - **What does Hosanna mean (v.13)?** ("Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!")
 - **What did Jesus come to Jerusalem riding on?** (A donkey.)
3. **The people in Jerusalem were waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna" because they were so excited that Jesus was coming. When you hear that Jesus is coming back one day how does that make you feel? What do you think it means that He is coming back?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is at work in your life.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

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.

PLAY: Palm branch and cloak relay race

Supplies: 4 green palm branches, 4 cloak outlines

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.

SAY: Today we get to play a very special game. Today we learned 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!

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.