



Jesus Is King - Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

God Statement: Jesus is Our Hope

KEY VERSE:

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8b, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally
SEEN: known and understood
SOOTHED: calmed and supported
 They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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 King!

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

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. 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?

Say: 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 for now let's get ready for this special lesson!

MAKE: Decorate a Palm Branch

Supplies: palm branch cardstock paper, green crayons/makers, green tissue paper/construction paper squares, glue sticks

Directions: Invite kids to decorate a palm branch using the green crayons/markers and green square papers. Help kids use glue sticks to attach the paper. Once kids finish decorating, have LITs cut out the palm branches.

Say: *We're going to make a craft today to prepare for our lesson! What does this look like? It's a leaf! Or a palm branch! What color do you think it is? Green, that's right! Let's decorate our palm branches together!*

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about what kings usually do – rule, direct people, etc.
- Talk about what we know about Jesus – He loves us, He is God, He is our hope, etc.
- Talk about how Jesus isn't like the kings we are used to.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

- *Jesus Loves Me*
- *My God is So Big*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God’s word!

This week, read about a story about how Jesus is King/Palm Sunday in *Jesus Calling: Bible Story Book*

BIG IDEA:

Jesus isn’t like the kings we read about in books, but Jesus is OUR King! Jesus came to give us hope!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

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

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a palm branch.

Say: Hi Hamilton! What do you have there? ***Hamilton waves the palm branch around.*** Hey we made those, too. Right kids? We're going to use our branches in a little while, but first, let's read about why we have palm branches today. Let's read about Palm Sunday in the Bible! Ready?

Read the Palm Sunday story from Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook on page 204-205.

Say: Wow, Jesus really is our King! What did Jesus ride into town on? A donkey! And what did everyone else do? They waved their palm branches, that's right! Let's show Hamilton our palm branches! ***Pass out everyone's palm branch.*** Let's have a parade with our palm branches to celebrate Jesus being our King! Come on, Hamilton, lead us.

Hamilton walks around the room, waving his palm branch. If it's safe and possible, go down the hallway at your campus. Say "Yay, Jesus!" or "Hosanna!" Turn on Easter music on Plex.

Say: Now let's put our palm branches away. You too, Hamilton. Thanks for helping us learn about how Jesus is our king! We can't wait to see what happens next week with our King. Until then let's say goodbye to bye to Hamilton. Bye Hamilton. See you next time! ***Wave goodbye to Hamilton.***

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that Jesus is our Hope. "Jesus is our Hope" (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: What does a King do? (He helps people. He leads people.) Jesus will help us. He will lead us. God sent Jesus to earth to be our king. We love Him. And He loves us.

Say: Let's tell Him that we love Him. We love you, Jesus!

BLESSING (1 minute)

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, remember that Jesus always loves you. He is our king.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Palm Sunday Parade or Freeze Dance

Supplies: palm branches from Explore Activity

Directions: Give each child their palm branches they made, and invite them to participate in the parade again. Turn on Easter music on Plex. OR play freeze dance with the music as kids wave their branches around.

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book

- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"

