



HAPPY DAY | WEEK 2 | APRIL 13, 2025

Preschool Lesson Palm Sunday

Bible Story: *Palm Sunday* • We can celebrate Jesus • *Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-15*

Memory Verse: "I am alive forever and ever!" Revelation 1:18, NIV

Key Question: Who is alive?

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive!

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

What would you call a happy day? Maybe a day with no traffic, or a day when your boss gives you an unexpected bonus. How about the day you got married, or the day a child was born? All of these are happy days, but this month, we're talking with preschoolers about days that are happy because Jesus is alive. Easter is the happiest of happy days, and every day can be a happy day because Jesus is alive. What an awesome privilege we have to share the good news with preschoolers that Jesus is alive!

Story Focus: We can celebrate Jesus. People in Jerusalem hear that Jesus is coming. The people are so excited because they have heard about the amazing things Jesus has done. So, a lot of people line up on the road to celebrate Jesus. People spread their coats and palm branches on the road to make a special path for Jesus. Others waved palm branches in the air to celebrate Jesus. When they see Jesus coming down the road on a donkey, they shout 'Hosanna!' It is such a happy day! They were so happy that Jesus is alive!

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your Small Group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

"Can everybody follow those rules today? (*Kids respond.*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn

about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

"It's time for our memory verse. Let's watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!"

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

'I am alive *(jump with arms up)*
forever and ever!' *(Twirl with arms up.)*
Revelation 1:18.' *(Open hands like a book.)*

"Ok, now let's sing and worship God!"

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: HAPPY DAY, HE IS ALIVE)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Story Box with Beginner's Bible, Stuffed Ollie and Large Easter Egg with Prop Inside for the Current Week (W1 Small Perfume Bottle, W2 Palm Leaf, W3 Rock, W4 Pretend Breakfast Food))

LGL brings the story box with the Bible to the center of the room.

"I have my story box ready. I'm SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let's see what I have in here..."

Pull out the Bible

"What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it's the Bible! The Bible is God's word and God's word is always true. The Bible has many stories that make one BIG story, and we (you and me) are part of that story. Let's see what else is in our story box today.

Pull out Stuffed Ollie and Large Easter Egg with Prop Inside for Current Week

"What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! It's an Easter Egg! Should we open it and see what's inside? *(Pause for responses.)* Of course we should! *(Open Egg and Pull out the prop for the current week.)* Do you know what this is? *(Pause for responses.)* It's a leaf. It's called a Palm leaf. Today we are going to hear a story about people who waved palm branches to celebrate someone special.

"Let's click on our listening ears (tug on each ear, one at a time, as you make a click, click sound), let's put on our looking eyes (bring your hands, one at a time, to your eyes like binoculars as you

say shook, shook) and let's put our hands that have been moving and praising Jesus quietly in our laps.

"Now we are ready. Let's watch today's true Bible story."

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Wow! That was an amazing story! Did you see the people waving their palm branches in the story? *(Pause for responses.)* Who were they celebrating? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, they were celebrating Jesus! Do you remember what they said as they were waving the palm branches? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, they said, "Hosanna!". We are learning this month that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is alive! That's something to celebrate!

"When I ask, 'Who is alive?' I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus is alive.' Are you ready? *(Pause for responses.)* 'Who is alive' *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus is alive!' YES! *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is alive."

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

"Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.' Jesus wants to be your friend forever. When you receive Jesus as your friend, you are in God's family forever."

PRAY

"Let's get our hands ready to pray. *Open them close them, open them close them, give a little clap. Open them, close them, open them, close them, fold them in your lap.*

"Dear God, Jesus is so worth celebrating! Help us remember that we can celebrate Jesus every day because *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is alive, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Palm Sunday* • We can celebrate Jesus • *Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-15*

Memory Verse: “I am alive forever and ever!” Revelation 1:18, NIV

Key Question: Who is alive?

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive!

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

HOSANNA (2’s-5’s)

(“Leaves” Activity Page – 1 Leaf Per Child, “Hosanna Label” Printed on Address Labels – 1 Label per Child, Crayons)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print and cut out the leaves. Print the Label sheet.

During the Activity: Give each child a leaf and encourage them to color it and put the “Hosanna” sticker on it. Practice waving it and saying, “Hosanna, Hosanna, yay Jesus!”

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come and sit in a circle with me. Today we are going to make our very own Palm Leaf!”

During the Activity. (Give each child a leaf) “Let’s pretend that this (point to the leaf) is a palm leaf. Wave it high in the air. (Demonstrate.) Can you move it up and down? (Demonstrate.) How about side to side? Great Job! Let’s color our leaves and put this sticker on it.

After the Activity: “We can celebrate Jesus in so many ways! We can celebrate Jesus because [Bottom line] Jesus is alive!”

Use the leaves to transition into the next activity.

YAY JESUS! (2’s-5’s)

(“Donkey” Activity Pages – 1 set per group, Paint Stick – 1 per group, ½ Pool Noodle – 1 per group, Assemble Items to Create (1) Hobby Horse per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print Donkey Activity Page set per group, then cut and glue back-to-back with paint stick attached in between. Once dry, insert paint stick (with Donkey image attached) into pool noodle half to create a donkey hobby horse.

During the Activity: Have the kids stand in two parallel lines facing each other. Choose one kid at a time to ride the “donkey” while the other children wave their leaves from the previous activity and shout, “Hosanna, Hosanna, Yay Jesus!” The child on the donkey will walk between the two

lines of kids. *(Repeat until each child has had a turn.)*

After the Activity: Talk about how the people were so excited to see Jesus because He can do amazing things and wants to be everyone's friend forever!

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I'm so happy you're here today! We're going to pretend to ride a donkey like Jesus did in our Bible story today while everyone cheered for him." *(Each time a child rides the donkey, lead the other children to say "Hosanna, Hosanna, Yay Jesus!")*

During the Activity: "Everyone will get a turn to ride the donkey. When I say your name, get on the donkey like Jesus did. Everyone else will wave their leaves, like the people waved palm branches, and we'll say 'Hosanna, Hosanna, Yay Jesus!'"

After the Activity: "In our story today, the people cheered for Jesus because He can do amazing things and He wants to be everyone's friend. The best part is Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever! He really does. Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Yay Jesus! We can celebrate Jesus in so many ways! We can celebrate Jesus because **[Bottom line]** Jesus is alive!"

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster - 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

'I am alive *(Jump with arms up)*
forever and ever!' *(Twirl with arms up.)*
Revelation 1:18.' *(Open hands like a book.)*

PRAY

"Let's pray together. *(Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")*

"Dear God, we celebrate Jesus today! Jesus is the best! Thank You for sending Jesus to show us how much You love us and to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY - READ THE STORY

(The Beginner's Bible)

What You Do:

- Open up the Beginner's Bible to today's story (The True King, page #427) and read it to your small group.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats and encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.