

23 | W5

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

Bible Story: Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be humble.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIRV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Jesus Thaumatrope (K-1st grade), Build the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Humble Feet (K-1st grade), Cheer for Jesus (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Your Best Foot Forward (K-1st grade), Hopscotch Memory (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

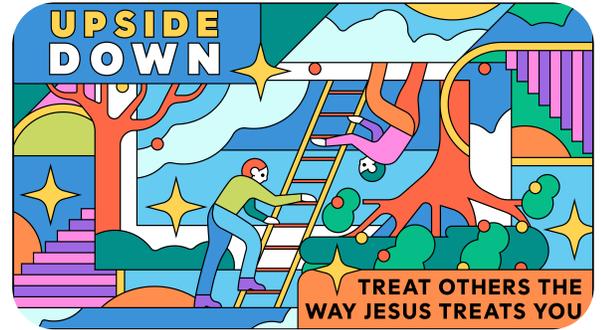
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
• *John 12:9-19, 13:1-17*

Conversation Starter

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

Bottom Line

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

Monthly Memory Verse

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. • *Philippians 2:3 NIRV*

5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	0
	Print "Palm Sunday Spot It" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set for every three kids	3
	Print "Palm Sunday Spot It Instructions" on cardstock and cut, one card for each set of playing cards	1
	3-inch circle punch or scissors	1

Before group time:

- Punch each card with a 3-inch circle punch.

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into groups of three.
- Give each group a "Palm Sunday Spot It Instruction Card" and place a deck of cards from the "Palm Sunday Spot It" Activity Page face down in the middle of each group.
- Explain that on any two cards, there is always one, and only one, matching picture on each round of cards.
- Demonstrate by playing a practice round for the entire group to see.
- The first kid to spot the match and call it out wins those cards.
- When a match is spotted, flip the next top two cards in the pile over, and everyone will try and spot the next match.
- Let the groups play for several minutes, finding the matches between their cards. The pictures will include pictures such as a donkey, palm leaf, coat, people shouting, and Jesus.
- The kid with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

What You Say:

"You have sharp eyes! It's fun to spot the matches. Does anyone know what today is? Yes! It's Palm Sunday. It's a day that we celebrate the week before Easter, a day that we celebrate Jesus! The pictures on our cards today are all clues about our Bible Story. **[Transition] It's a story about a day when a huge crowd was trying to spot Jesus! Let's go find out what happened.**"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Build the Story | Made to Create

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  LEGOs® or other building blocks, Several enough for four teams to build an illustration from the Bible Story



EveryChild Tips

- Use larger blocks, like DUPLO®, for kids who need more support with fine motor skills.
- Partner kids so that each team has a strong builder who can help bring the team's ideas to life.

What You Do:

- Read John 12:12-15 and John 13:3-5 out loud to the group.
- Share that another of the writers of another gospel tells us that the people laid their coats and branches from the trees on the road that Jesus traveled down! That was something you did for someone so important! The people were so excited that Jesus was coming!
- Divide your group into four groups.
- Give each team a specific part of the Palm Sunday story to build with their LEGOs®.
- Team 1: Build the donkey Jesus rode.
- Team 2: Build the road with coats and branches on it.
- Team 3: Build the crowd of people who were celebrating and waving palm branches.
- Team 4: Build Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- Give them several minutes to build their part of the story.
- When they are done, bring all the creations together and use them to retell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem like a king and Jesus serving others by washing feet.

What You Say:

"Look at this! You built the whole story! Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and the people celebrated Jesus like a king. They made a special path with coats and branches and waved palm branches in the air as they shouted 'Hosanna.' 'Hosanna' means, 'save us, we pray.'

"But Jesus showed them that He is an 'upside down' kind of King. A few days later, Jesus did the job of a servant and washed His friends' feet. Jesus, the true King of heaven and earth, chose to take on this humble job of washing feet. Jesus even washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, whom He knew was about to betray Him to the religious leaders! Jesus did that to teach us all an important lesson. Jesus showed us how to treat others and put others first. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Cheer for Jesus | Made to Move

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind the kids how the crowd on Palm Sunday shouted “Hosanna!” to celebrate Jesus. “Hosanna!” means “save us, we pray!”
- Tell the kids that you are going to create your own cheer for Jesus.
- Brainstorm some simple words for your cheer together. (e.g., “J-E-S-U-S, He’s the very best!” or “Hosanna in the highest! Jesus is our King!”)
- Create some simple motions to go with your cheer—like clapping, stomping, or raising your hands.
- Practice your cheer together a few times, getting louder and more excited each time.
- Divide into two groups and have a “cheer-off.”

What You Say:

“That was an awesome cheer! It’s great to celebrate Jesus. But Jesus taught us that cheering for Him with our mouths isn’t enough. He also wants us to ‘cheer’ for Him with our actions. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**

“Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we’re supposed to get ahead and be important. We need the help of the Holy Spirit inside us to set aside what we want in order to serve others like Jesus. But when we ask Jesus to give us the ability to be humble, He will do it! When we choose to be humble and put others first, we are showing the world how amazing Jesus is.”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Hopscotch Memory Verse | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Print "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity 1 Page on cardstock 1
-  Floor tape 1

Before group time:

- Create a hopscotch grid on the floor with tape that has 10 spaces.
- Tape one card with a phrase from the Memory Verse in each square so the verse is said in order as a kid hops through the grid.

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Point out the hopscotch grid that is on the floor.
- Let the kids take turns hopping through the hopscotch grid. As they hop on each square, they should say the part of the Memory Verse that is in that square.
- Encourage the rest of the group to say the verse along with the kid hopping.

What You Say:

"Great hopping! You are all becoming experts on this verse about humility. Humility can feel like an 'upside-down' idea, but it's exactly what Jesus modeled for us. When Jesus washed His friends' feet, He was showing us how to serve others and put others first. Jesus is the King of kings. Jesus is the King of heaven and earth, and yet He did the job of a servant. He washed His friends' dirty feet to show us to value others more than ourselves. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**"

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Print "Put It at His Feet" Activity Page on 11-inch x 17-inch paper 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Coloring supplies Several
-  Wall tape 1

Before group time:

- *Tape the picture of Jesus to a wall at a level the kids can reach.*

What To Do:

- Give each kid a sticky note and a marker.
- Ask them to think of one person they want to "put first" this week by serving them. It could be a parent, a sibling, or a friend.
- Instruct the kids to draw a picture of that person on their sticky note.
- Invite them one by one to come and stick their note on the wall at Jesus' feet.

What You Say:

"This is a beautiful picture. We are giving our plans to Jesus and asking Him to help us serve the people in our lives. When we serve others, we're doing just what Jesus did—we're putting others first. Don't forget, we have the Holy Spirit to help us. It might be difficult at times or feel 'upside down,' but we don't have to do it alone. Let's pray and ask Jesus to help us put others first and love like Him.

"Dear Jesus, thank You for being our King. Thank You for showing us that being a leader means serving others. Help us to be humble this week. Help us put the people we drew on our notes first. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | 23

Small Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 Minutes)

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Print "Palm Sunday Spot It" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set for every three kids
- Print "Palm Sunday Spot It Instructions" on cardstock and cut, one card for each set of playing cards
- 3-inch circle punch or scissors, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
 - *Punch each card with a 3-inch circle punch.*

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Story applies to real-life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Build the Story

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- LEGOs® or other building blocks, enough for four teams to build an illustration from the Bible Story

EveryChild Supplies

- DUPLOs® instead of LEGOs®

2. Cheer for Jesus

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

3. Hopscotch Memory Verse

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Print "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
 - *Create a hopscotch grid on the floor with tape that has 10 spaces.*
 - *Tape one card with a phrase from the Memory Verse in each square so the verse is said in order as a kid hops through the grid.*

4. Pray and Dismiss
[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]
Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Print "Put It at His Feet" Activity Page on 11-inch x 17-inch paper, one for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- Wall tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
 - *Tape the picture of Jesus to a wall at a level the kids can reach.*

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Offering container | 0 |
| 2. | Print "Palm Sunday Spot It" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set for every three kids | 3 |
| 3. | Print "Palm Sunday Spot It Instructions" on cardstock and cut, one card for each set of playing cards | 1 |
| 4. | 3-inch circle punch or scissors | 1 |

23 – Build the Story | Made to Create Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
| 2. | LEGOs® or other building blocks, enough for four teams to build an illustration from the Bible Story | Several |

23 – Hopscotch Memory Verse | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
| 2. | Print "Hopscotch Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock | 1 |
| 3. | Floor tape | 1 |

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Print "Put It at His Feet" Activity Page on 11-inch x 17-inch paper | 1 |
| 2. | Sticky notes | 1 |
| 3. | Coloring supplies | Several |
| 4. | Wall tape | 1 |