



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

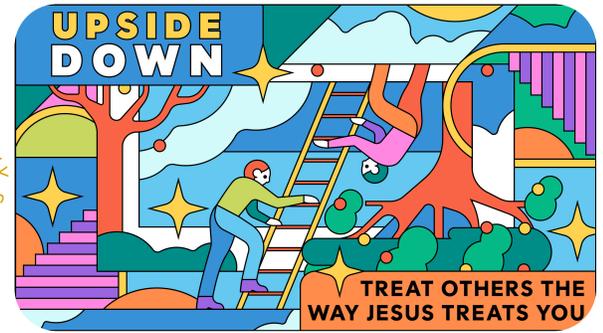
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

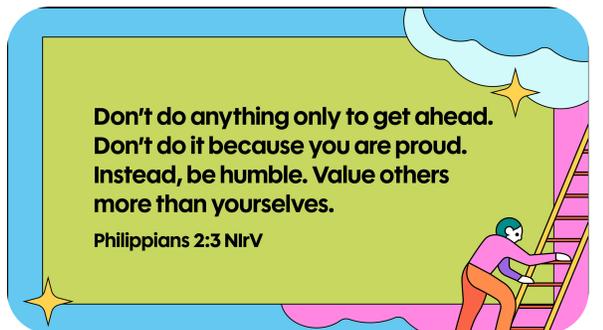
Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

John 12:9-16, 13:1-17

Bottom Line



Monthly Memory Verse



Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that “the whole world” means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity



ACTIVITY ONE

Build the Story



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible
- LEGOs® or other building blocks

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®.
 - o Team 1: Build the donkey Jesus rode.
 - o Team 2: Build the road with coats and branches on it.
 - o Team 3: Build the crowd of people who were celebrating and waving palm branches.
 - o 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.”

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

G23 | W5

ACTIVITY TWO

Cheer for Jesus



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.

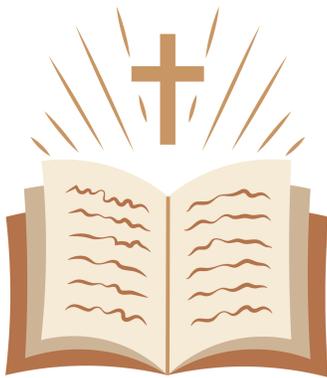
“Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we’re supposed to get ahead and be important. We need the help of the Holy Spirit inside us to set aside what we want in order to serve others like Jesus. But when we ask Jesus to give us the ability to be humble, He will do it! When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

Inclusive Pro Tips



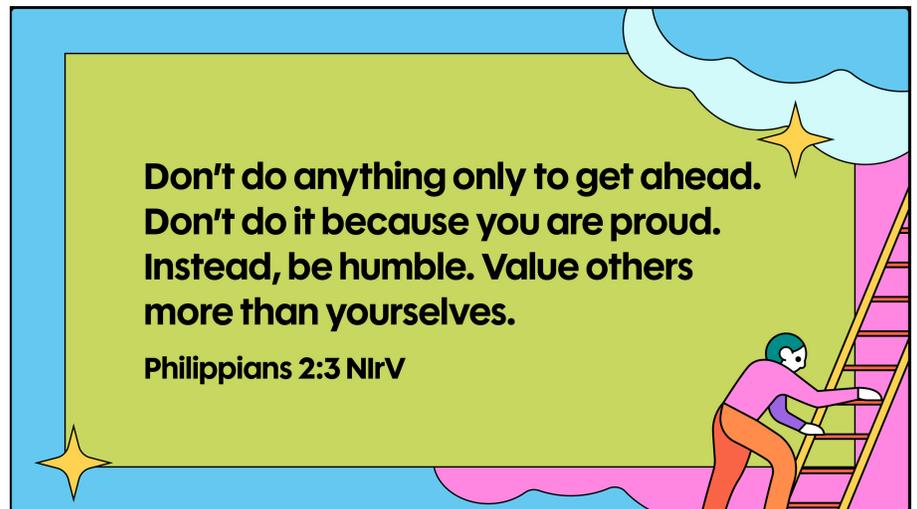
Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

MONTLY BIBLE VERSE CHALLENGE!



What You Do

- Have all the kids recite the memory verse out loud together several times.
- Explain that this practice helps everyone learn and feel more confident.
- Ask the kids to raise their hands if they want to try saying the verse on their own.
- Invite one child at a time to come up to the Memory Verse Challenge Spot.
- When a child recites the verse, let them choose a prize from the prize box!
- Please tell the kids if they're not ready this time, that's okay---you can always try again next month!



Pray and Dismiss



What You Say

"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."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.