



# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

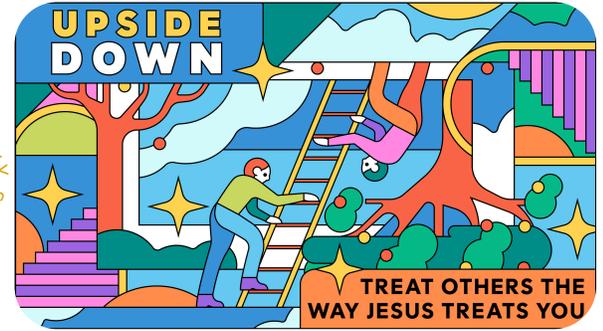
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### 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

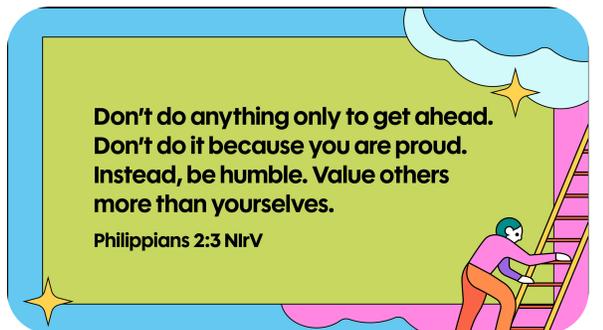
### Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

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

## Bottom Line



## Monthly Memory Verse



K1 | W5

# 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

GROUPS 1/4

# Jesus Thaumatrope

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- Bible
- "Jesus Thaumatrope" Activity Page
- Glue sticks or tape
- Straws
- Coloring supplies



### Inclusive Pro Tips

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

## What You Do:

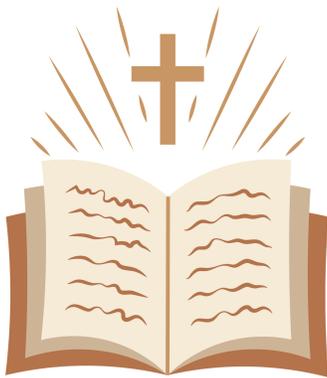
- Read John 12:12-15 and John 13:3-5 out loud to the group.
- Give each kid a "Jesus Thaumatrope" Activity Page.
- Let the kids color the picture of Jesus and the picture of the palm leaves.
- Instruct them to glue the two pictures back-to-back with a straw sandwiched in the middle.
- Show them how to spin the straw back and forth quickly between their hands. The two pictures will blend together, making it look like Jesus is in the middle of the celebration!

## What You Say:

"Wow, look at that! When you spin it fast, it looks like one picture! The people were so excited, they waved palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna' for Jesus as He rode into town. 'Hosanna' means 'save us, we pray!' They were treating Him like a king! But Jesus showed them an 'upside down' way to be a king. He showed them that being a leader is about serving others.

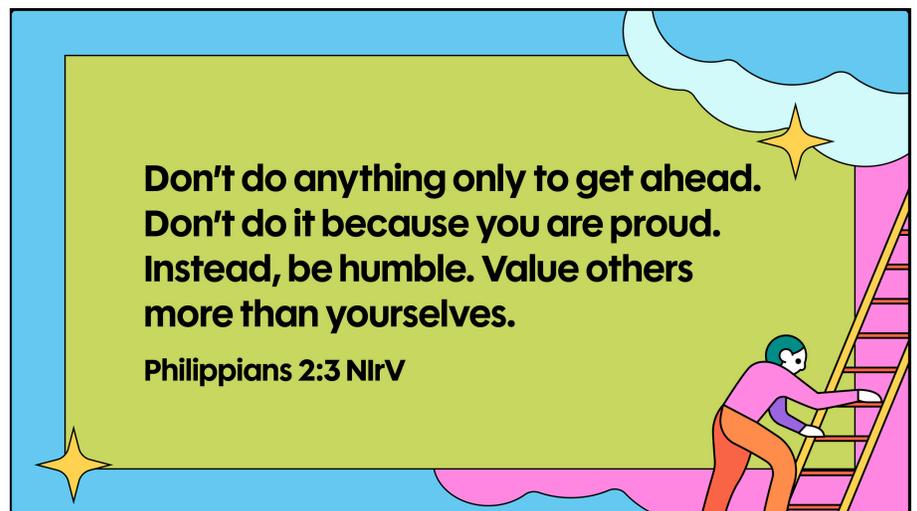
"Jesus served His friends, the disciples, by washing their feet. Washing feet was a very dirty job. It was a job that would not have been done by a king. Jesus is the King of the entire universe! But instead of demanding that His friends serve Him, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey and then took on the job of a servant by washing His friends' feet. Jesus put us ahead of Himself in every way. Jesus did it to serve others and show us how to put others first and love others. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble."**

# 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, You are amazing! We celebrate You today. Thank You for showing us what it means to be humble and put others first. Help us to be like You this week and serve others. 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



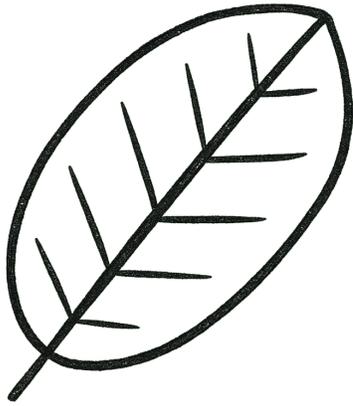
Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



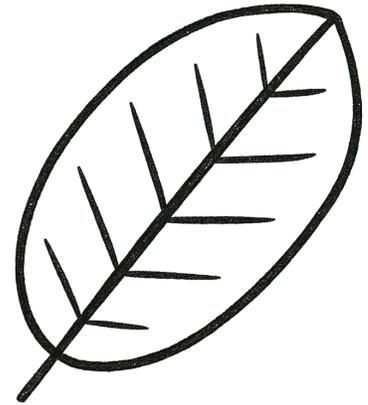
# Activity Pages

K-1

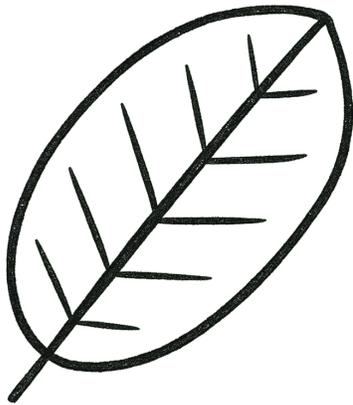
Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.



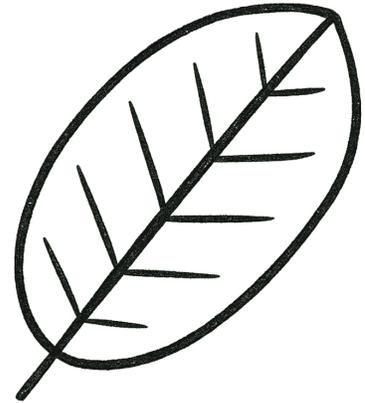
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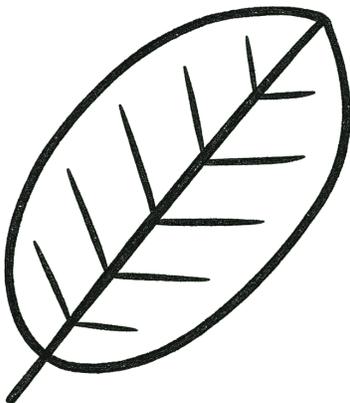
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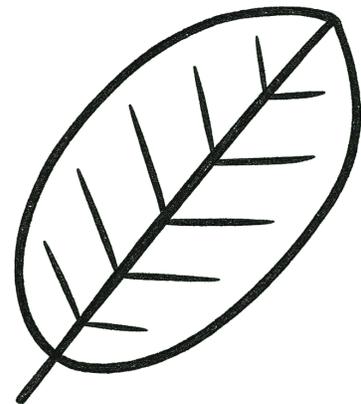
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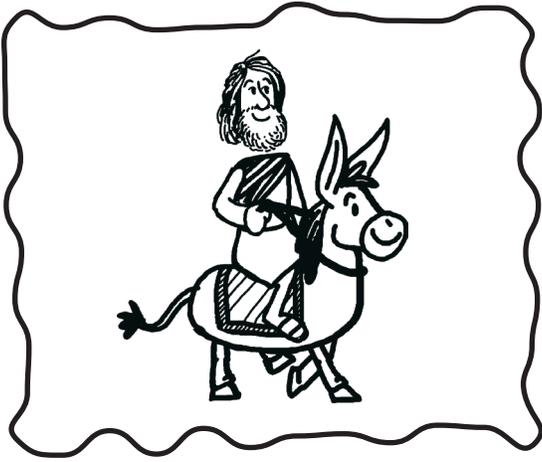
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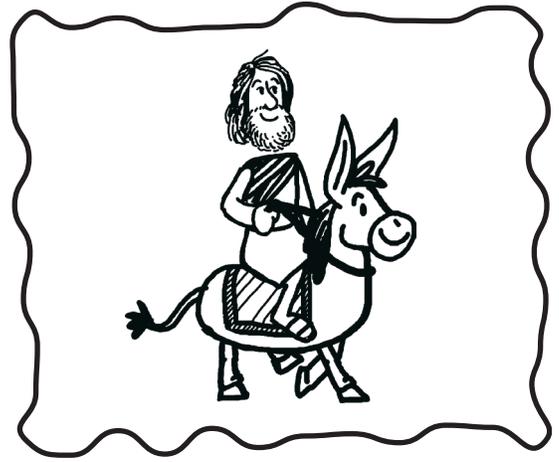
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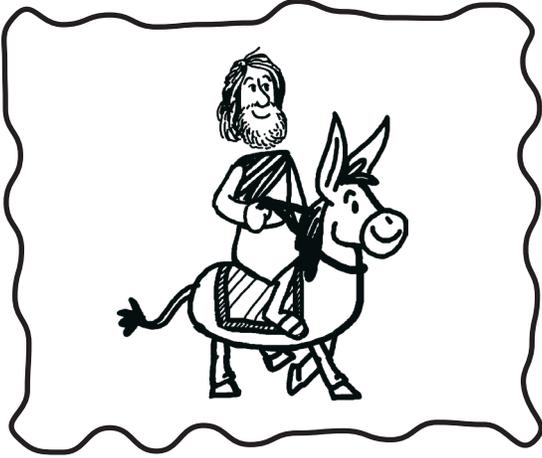
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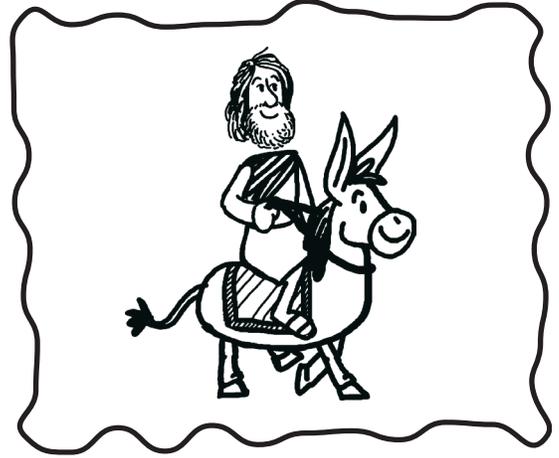
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