

3-6 | March 29

**Bible Story:** Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet • *John 12:9-16, 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*

## 1. Opening Activity

### What You Need:

- Prepared "Palm Sunday I Spy"
- Crayons or markers

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Palm Sunday I Spy" page and a crayon or marker.
- Explain that the page has hidden items from the Palm Sunday story.
- Invite the kids to look carefully and circle or color each item they can find.
- Walk around and help them spot anything they might miss.
- Encourage them to find all the items on the page.

### What You Say:

"Wow! Look at all the things you found! This page helps us remember the story of Palm Sunday. Do you remember what happened that day? Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people were so excited to see Him! They waved palm branches, laid their coats on the road, and shouted 'Hosanna!' to praise Him.

"The pictures on your page help us remember that story. Even though we didn't have real palms or a donkey, we can celebrate Jesus and remember what happened on that special day.

[Transition] Let's go hear the Bible story about Palm Sunday!"

[Lead children to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

## 2. Jesus Thaumatrope

### What You Need:

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

### 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.**"

## 3. Bible Story Extension

### What You Need:

- Spot markers
- Music player
- Worship loop (on Jellyfin)

### What You Do:

- Set the spot markers in a circle on the floor. Make sure there is one less than the amount of kids playing the game.

- Play a version of musical chairs. When the music stops, instruct all of the kids to find a spot marker to stand on.
- Unlike the original game of musical chairs, instead of a child being “out” from not being able to find a spot marker, that child can share a spot marker with someone else.
- Tell the kids that if they see someone who doesn’t have a spot marker to stand on, to invite him/her to join them on their spot marker.
- Go around the circle and invite the kids sharing a spot marker to answer one of your questions on how they can share a humble act of service to someone this week. They can work together to think of something!
- Ask them to share when or how they could do that humble act this week. See list below.
- Remove one spot and play again. Now, kids will have to share spots and work together, practicing humility in the game itself.

### **Humble Acts of Service for Kids (Like Jesus)**

1. **Help without being asked** (clean up toys, set the table, fold laundry).
2. **Let someone else go first** (in line, choosing a game, answering a question).
3. **Say something kind** to someone who looks sad or left out.
4. **Pray for someone quietly** (a friend, teacher, sibling, or neighbor).
5. **Write a thank-you note or card** to a parent, teacher, pastor, or helper.
6. **Share a toy, snack, or seat** without complaining.
7. **Help a younger sibling or friend** with homework, tying shoes, or learning a game.
8. **Pick up trash** at church, school, or in the neighborhood.
9. **Listen patiently** when someone is talking instead of interrupting.
10. **Give up something small** (screen time, dessert, favorite seat) to bless someone else.
11. **Encourage someone** by telling them what you like about them.
12. **Hold the door open** or help carry something heavy.
13. **Say “I’m sorry” first** even if it’s hard.
14. **Include someone** who is new or usually left out.
15. **Do a chore cheerfully** without complaining.
16. **Help clean at church** (straighten chairs, wipe tables, put away supplies).
17. **Pray before reacting** when feeling angry or frustrated.
18. **Show respect** by obeying parents and teachers with a good attitude.

#### **What You Say:**

“It’s one thing to talk about being humble, but it’s another thing to actually do it. These are all practical ways we can put others first. Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we’re supposed to get ahead and be important. You’d think a king would ride into town in a chariot or on a powerful war horse, right? But Jesus had already fulfilled so many prophecies. And now He chose to fulfill another by riding into Jerusalem on a humble young donkey. Then, instead of ordering His followers to serve Him, Jesus took off His outer clothes, knelt down, and began to wash their feet. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble,** and He wants us to follow His example.”

### **EveryChild Pro-Tips**

- *Emphasize that there are no “outs” in this game to reduce anxiety for kids who dislike competition.*

#### **4. Pray**

“Now, showing humility like Jesus is tough, because the world tells us we’re supposed to get ahead and be important. But we know Jesus is most important! We need the help of the Holy Spirit inside us to set aside what we want in order to serve others like Jesus. When we ask Jesus to give us the ability to be humble, He will do it! One of the best ways to be humble and put others first is to pray for them. It’s a humble act of service that makes a big difference. Let’s pray!

“Jesus, thank You for being the ultimate example of humility. Thank You for serving Your friends and giving Your life for us. It’s amazing. Help us to follow Your example. Give us the strength to put others first this week. Help us to show the world what Your ‘upside down’ love looks like. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”