

K-2 | 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 NIV*

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Palm Branches
- Music (from the worship loop on Jellyfin)

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.
- Give each kid a paper palm leaf.
- Have the kids spread out around the room, standing in their own space.
- Explain that when people saw Jesus on Palm Sunday, they celebrated Him as King.
- Tell the kids that when the music plays (or when you say "GO"), they should walk slowly around the room waving their palm branches.
- When the music stops (or when you say "STOP"), the kids must freeze and listen.
- Call out a phrase for the kids to repeat together, such as:
 - "Hosanna!"
 - "Jesus is King!"
- Start and stop the music several times, allowing kids to walk, freeze, and shout praise together.
- End the activity by having everyone hold their palms up high.

What You Say:

"Great job! You were listening carefully and celebrating together. Does anyone know what today is? Yes—it's Palm Sunday! Palm Sunday is the day we remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the people were so excited to see Him. They waved palm branches and shouted praises because they believed Jesus was their King.

"Waving palms and shouting 'Hosanna' was their way of celebrating Jesus. **[Transition] Let's go hear the Bible story about that special day and learn more about why Palm Sunday is so important.**"

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

2. Palm Sunday I Spy

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.

“Even though we don’t have real palms or a donkey here, we can still celebrate Jesus and remember the story by looking carefully at the pictures. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to be humble.**

“There are so many ways to put others first, like Jesus did. You can celebrate Jesus by helping someone, using kind words, or thinking of others before yourself. And the best part? Jesus promises to help you do these things every day because He loves you and wants you to follow Him.”

3. 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.**”

4. Pray

“It’s so good to celebrate Jesus together! He is amazing, and Jesus did the most amazing, humble thing by serving His friends and giving up His life for us so we could be friends with Him forever. Let’s pray.

“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.”