

PARADE

God Story:

Palm Sunday | Matthew 21:1-11

Big Idea:

Jesus is a humble king.

Key Verse:

The Lord is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me.
My God is my rock. | Psalm 18:2a (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

Around Easter, expect more visitors as well as families that do not attend church regularly. Be sure to introduce yourself and take the time to learn everyone's names. You may find it helpful to pair anyone who's new with a friend.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about some of the things the kids are really good at and tie in bragging and being humble. Introduce the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Create palm branches and wave them as the kids shout, "Hosanna!"

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Discuss the video teaching, then look up and read Philippians 2:3-4. Create a craft that highlights Palm Sunday.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Collect the words of Psalm 18:2a and place them in the correct order to practise the new Key Verse for this month.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - What's something you're really good at?
 - Have you ever bragged about it?
 - How do you think bragging makes other people feel?
 - What's the opposite of being too proud and bragging? (being humble)
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce the Big Idea: **Jesus is a humble king.**
- Emphasize that even though Jesus is God, he was still humble here on earth. That's amazing!

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Palm activity pages
- Scissors
- Markers

Instructions:

- Gather everyone to sit at a table or on the floor.
- Explain that in today's God Story, Jesus rides a donkey into a city. People wave palm branches and joyfully praise him by shouting, "Hosanna!"
- Give each person an activity page and scissors.
- Direct them to cut out their palm branches.
- Pass around markers so the kids can write their names on their branches.
- When they're done, guide everyone to form two lines facing each other.
- Lead the kids to wave their branches and shout, "Hosanna!"



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Palm Sunday | Matthew 21:1-11)
 - Life Story

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Clothespins
- Craft cutouts activity pages
- Road activity pages
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers

Leader Tip:

- Make sure everyone's names are on their crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible.
- Show the kids how to look up Philippians 2:3-8.
- Read the verses together.
- Discuss what the kids think the passage means.
- Point out that it's fun to be good at things, but we should be humble and encouraging to others, too. Jesus is God and king! He was still humble, however, and a great example for us to follow.
- Give each person three clothespins and one copy of both activity pages.
- Place the rest of the craft supplies where everyone can reach them.
- Direct the kids to colour the picture of Jesus, the donkey and the road. They could also draw palm branches and coats onto the road.
- Let everyone know they should cut out the donkey body and the Jesus body when they're done colouring them.
- Guide them to use two clothespins to make legs on the donkey (see sample photo on the right).
- Show them how to cut along the dotted line on Jesus' body and attach it on the donkey's back so that it looks like he's riding it.
- As the kids work on their crafts, read aloud the text printed on the activity page with the road on it.
- Emphasize how amazing Jesus' humility was and how we can learn so much from his example.

- Encourage the kids to take home their craft and use it to share what they learned today.



5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Strips of paper with Key Verse words on them
- Timer

Before the Activity:

- Hang the Key Verse sign where everyone can see it.
- Place the strips of paper along one end of your group's space. If there are multiple small groups using the same area, make sure they each have a spot to sit and a clear path to their group's papers.

Leader Tip:

- To bum-scooch, instruct the kids to sit with their backs facing the direction they want to go, then push themselves along with their feet and legs.

Instructions:

- Remain in your small group. Sit at the opposite end of your space from the strips of paper.
- Start the timer.
- Direct the kids to take turns bum-scooching over to the papers and bringing them back to the group one at a time.
- When they've retrieved all the strips of paper, prompt everyone to work together to arrange the words of Psalm 18:2a in order: The Lord is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me. My God is my rock.
- Once the Key Verse is complete, lead everyone to say it out loud.
- See how long it took the kids to do, then challenge them to repeat it and try to beat their time.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place any crafts and take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- Give everyone take-home and Key Verse cards.
- Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.