

Alley SG - April 13-14, 2019

Bible Story: This I Promise You (Palm Sunday) • *John 12:9-16*

Key Question: What promises does God have for you?

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33b, NIV

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: ¼ Sheet of white cardstock (1 per student), white crayons (1 per student), washable markers

What You Do:

- **Give** each person a white crayon, a colored marker, and white paper.
- **Ask** students to use the white crayon to draw a symbol representing a promise God has made to us.
- **Remind** them to press down hard with the white crayon and possibly use the thick end of the crayon instead of the pointy end.
 - **Suggest** that they also use the marker to draw a box or a circle around their symbol to show the next student where to shade.
- **Instruct** everyone to exchange cards.
- **Direct** them to use their marker to shade over the white paper to reveal the promise.
- **Take turns** sharing about what’s drawn on their papers.

What You Say:

“God has made a lot of promises. We read about them in the Bible. Every promise God makes He will keep. He always does what He says He will do. When we need hope, we can count on God’s promises.”

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, White cardstock (1 per student), markers

What You Do:

- **Review** the Large Group lesson by asking students to share two things they remember from the story.
- **Explain** that Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem was a fulfillment of a promise God made in the Old Testament.
- **Invite** someone to look up Zechariah 9:9 then read it aloud.
- **Ask** if anyone remembers what the people shouted when they saw Jesus coming.
- **Let** one of the students read John 12:13 in the New Testament then have someone else read Psalm 118:26a in the Old Testament.
- **Explain** that “Hosanna” is a Hebrew expression meaning “Save!” The crowd was shouting out their praises of the one who came to save. They quoted part of Psalm 118—the same Psalm we have in our Bible today. Jesus was coming to save them—but not the way they thought. The people thought Jesus was coming to save them from the rulers of Rome and to be King of the Jewish people. More importantly, He was coming to

save them from the punishment they deserved for sin. He was coming to die on the cross in our place.

- **Set out** cardstock and markers.
- **Ask** students if they've ever been at a parade, race, concert, or other event where people hold up signs they've made.
- **Invite** the students to imagine being in the crowd of people on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The scene may have looked like a one-person parade with people lining the sides of the road as Jesus rode by.
- **Ask** everyone to create a poster they would have held up if they were part of the crowd when Jesus made His big entry into Jerusalem.
- As students work on their posters, **ask**
 - When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd shouted, "Hosanna," which means, "Save." What does Jesus promise to save us from if we believe in Him?
 - How do we show we believe God's promises?
 - Why are you glad God keeps His promises?
- **Allow** time for students to share their signs then encourage them to find a place at home where they can display them as part of an Easter decoration. Challenge them to share with someone what the poster means.

3. Discussion Questions

- Why is it important that God keeps His promises?
- How can trusting God's promises make a difference in your life?
- How does trusting God's promises help us when we're going through a problem and need hope?
- What are some promises you could share with a friend who is going through a tough time?

4. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, rock (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Remind** students that the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is found in all four Gospels. (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19).
- **Encourage** students look up and read each account this week and compare how the writers tell the story.
- **Look up and read** Luke 19:35-40 then discuss verse 40.
 - Why did the religious leaders want Jesus to tell His followers to be quiet?
 - Jesus said that if the people were silent, the rocks would have to speak. What does that tell you about the importance of the events that were happening? What does that tell you about Jesus?
- **Hold up** the rock.
- **Ask** students to think of something the rocks might have said if they had spoken.
- **Encourage** them to use their imaginations to come up with different types of voices the rocks might have had. For example, raspy, robotic, squeaky, old, or cheerleader.
- **Pass the rock as you invite** students to use a fun voice to share what they think a rock might have said.

- **Remind** students that even though the religious leaders refused to see it, Jesus was showing His followers yet again that God was fulfilling His promises—and would continue to do so.
- Before students leave, **challenge** them to use the word “Hosanna” three times today.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible, *(optional)* posters from “Bible Story Extension”

What You Do:

Optional: If your students made signs in the “Bible Story Extension” activity, invite them to set them out where everyone can see then use them as prompts for short praise prayers.

- **Close** by leading students in a responsive prayer as you read Psalm 145:13.
- **Explain** that when you pause, everyone will say “Hosanna” in response to the words of the Psalm.

What You Say:

“Your kingdom is a kingdom that will last forever. (Pause for response.) You rule will continue for all time to come. (Pause for response.) The Lord will keep all his promises. (Pause for response.) He is faithful in everything he does. (Pause for response.) In Jesus, name, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!