

City SG - April 13-14, 2019

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

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

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b, NIV

1. In My Mind's Eye

What You Need: Markers, ½ sheets of paper (1 per child), clipboards (1 per pair of kids)

What You Do:

- Ask kids to pair up.
- Tell kids that one will be the artist and one will be describing something to draw.
- Pass out paper, markers, and a clipboard to the artists.
- Instruct the "describing" person to imagine the coolest house, car, or robot they can possibly think of.
- Tell the artists to draw what their partner describes as best they can, without letting their partner see it.
- When the picture is finished, have them reveal it to their partner and see if it looks anything like what they were imagining.
- Switch roles and repeat.

What You Say:

"The people in our story today were waiting for a king for a very long time. They had a picture in their minds of what they thought the king would be like—what he would look like and what he would do. When Jesus came, He wasn't necessarily what they had imagined. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time when something didn't turn out the way you imagined it would.)** When the people actually met Jesus and He wasn't what they expected, that didn't make Him any less of a king. God had promised to send a king, and **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**"

2. Palm Path

What You Need: Palm Leaf Pages (10 per group), "Trail of Palm Leaves" Activity Page (1 per group), Dice (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Lay the "Palm Leaf" Activity Pages on the ground to form a path.
- Invite kids to line up at the start of the path.
- One at a time, they will roll a die.
- Whatever number they roll, read that instruction to them from the Activity Page.
- Have them do that action for that number of spaces to move down the path.
- When they reach a space, have kids share a promise they have made or that someone has made to them.
- Keep taking turns rolling the die and moving forward or back.
- Kids should stay on their space between rolls.
- When kids reach the end of the path, have them wait for everyone to finish before the game is over.

What You Say:

"You guys have made a lot of promises, and a lot of promises have been made to you. Sometimes it can be hard to keep our promises, and sometimes the people around us don't keep theirs either. It can be hurtful when someone doesn't keep their promise. But **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**"

3. Palm Verses

What You Need: Green cardstock (1 sheet per child), scissors, craft sticks (1 per child), tape, markers

What You Do:

- Instruct each child to trace their hand onto green paper and then cut it out.
- Let them write out the memory verse on their hand cutout.
- Guide kids to tape their hand onto a craft stick.
- Pair kids up and encourage them to practice the verse together.

What You Say:

“This verse reminds us that the Lord has already won the battle against the world. We don’t need to worry that God won’t do what He says He will, because **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.** Take these palms home this week and stick them in a potted plant so you can remember our verse whenever you see it.”

4. Waiting Game

What You Need: Time Slips and Event Cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Show kids the Time Slips. Point to each one as you read it aloud to the group, or invite a volunteer to read. Post or place the strips sequentially.
- Guide kids to take turns drawing an Event Card. Guide kids to look at the cards, decide how long they would need to wait for that thing, and then place the card by the appropriate time.
- Invite kids to name other things they’ve waited for. How long did they have to wait? Was it hard to wait? Why or why not?

What to Say:

“In our story today, the Jewish people waited a very long time for their promised Savior. This is why they were so happy that Jesus had come!”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Palm Verses on Sticks from Activity 3

What You Do:

- Split kids into two groups.
- Guide the groups to line up facing each other (as if they were lining the streets of a parade).
- Invite kids to wave their palm leaves as you pray together.

What You Say:

“Lord, thank You for always keeping Your promises to us. You came to Earth to show us how to live, just as You promised You would, and You left us with Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Your Word promises that You will come again one day, and we know that You will because You always keep Your promises.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

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

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!