

April Week 2

April 13th/14th

CRAFT

Palm Leaf

SUPPLIES: “Palm” Cut out, Green stamp pads, craft sticks, packing tape, wet wipes

TIP: You can pre-attach the craft stick to the Palm cut out to save time.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child a Palm cut out and place stamp pads around the tables.**
 - *“Today in our true bible story we learned that the people waved palm branches in the air when Jesus came to town. We are going to make our own palm branches today!”*

- ⇒ **Demonstrate how to use your finger to stamp the color onto the leaf and cover it with color.**

- ⇒ **While their hands are busy, use this opportunity to review the lesson and/or the memory verse or read the bible story.**

- ⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus**
 - *“Great job! Your leaves look awesome. In our bible story, the people in Jerusalem praised Jesus by waving palm leaves and shouting, ‘Hosanna, Hosanna!’*
 - *We can praise Jesus too! It does not matter how old we are or where we are, we can always praise Jesus because he is our friend!*
 - *Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!*

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ACTIVITY #1

Pin the Tail on the Donkey

SUPPLIES: Donkey poster, tails, blue wall tape, blindfold

SET UP: Tape the donkey poster to the wall, prep each tail with a roll of tape on the back

TIP: If you are not using stations, this could be a good activity to have kids come over and do as they are finishing the craft.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children up for the activity.**

- *“When you look at this donkey picture what do you think is missing? Yes! His tail! Look what I have here – tails! Let’s see if we can get the tail in the right spot!”*

⇒ **Let the children take turns being blindfolded and trying to pin the tail on the donkey. If they are not comfortable with the blindfold they can close their eyes.**

- *“Let’s cheer for our friends while they try! That’s right – good friends encourage each other!”*

⇒ **When all children have had a chance to go, complete the activity and bring it back to Jesus.**

- *“Boys and girls, we heard in our true bible story today that Jesus rode into town on a donkey and the people were so excited to see him! Jesus came to that he could be our friend forever.”*
- *Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!*

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ACTIVITY #2

Praise Party Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES: Instruments, CD Player, Hosanna Rock CD

SET UP: Double check that CD is ready to go and CD player is working.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Invite children to come to the middle of the room and select an instrument.**

- *“Let’s make some music! Everybody come on over to the center of the room and choose an instrument to make music together.”*
- *“On the count of 3, everybody play your instrument. 1 2 3!”*

⇒ **Let children play their instruments for a minute.**

- *“Freeze! Great job! Now I am going to play the music and we are going to have a praise party.”*

⇒ **Allow children plenty of time to dance and sing.**

⇒ **OPTIONAL – 4s and Clubhouse may elect to make it freeze dance.**

- *“Freeze! Now I have an important question for you – Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!”*

⇒ **Repeat as many times as children are interested then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“We can use instruments to Praise Jesus! We can also use our voices for singing and our bodies for dancing – these are all ways to praise Jesus!”*
- *“Today in our Bible story people Praised Jesus a different way! They waved palm branches and shouted Hosanna!”*
- *“Jesus was a good friend to them and he is my friend and your friend, too!”*

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ACTIVITY #3

Story Reenactment

SUPPLIES: Palm leaves

SET UP: No prior set up needed

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Guide children to stand in two lines several feet apart facing each other in order to create a pathway. Make sure each child has a palm branch.**

- *“We heard a wonderful bible story today and we are going to act out that story here in our classroom. Does everybody have their palm leaves? Give them a wave in the air for me!”*

⇒ **Select one child to go first.**

- *“_____ is going to pretend to be Jesus. We have a perfect path here for Jesus to ride in on his donkey. As Jesus comes down the path let’s wave our palm branches in the air and say together – “HOSANNA! HOSANNA! YAY JESUS! Let’s try that together!”*

⇒ **Repeat until every child has had a chance to be Jesus. Then take the opportunity to review the memory verse and Bring it Back to Jesus!**

- *“Great job, friends! It is wonderful to praise Jesus! We can praise Jesus every day! He is our friend!”*
- *“Let’s practice our memory verse together! A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17.”*

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REFLECTION & REVIEW

Let's remember: Every moment of time we have with these little ones is precious! Whether these activities are done in a station, during playdoh, while coloring, or otherwise, let's send the kids out the door really confidently and remembering these big ideas!

READ

⇒ The Bible

- *The Beginner's Bible: The True King, p. 427-432*

⇒ *I Know Jesus Loves Me* by P.K. Hallinan

- Read the story and then say: Wow! I loved reading about ways to be a good friend! Do you know who wants to be our friend forever? Jesus!

REVIEW

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17**

⇒ Basic Truth

- **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

⇒ Connect it!

- **Today we are going to make a list of reasons we want to praise our good friend Jesus. Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**

- Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board. Consider using these ideas in your prayer!

PRAY

Dear God, we want to praise Jesus for being such a good, good friend. There are so many things to love about Jesus. We praise him because [read list the children made or add your own]. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.