

# City SG—March 27-29, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** I Will Wait (Palm Sunday) • *Matthew 21:1-11*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NIV)

## 1. Ice-Breaker

**What You Need:** Dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, hand sanitizer (1 set per group)

**What You Do:**

- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Explain that you will ask a question, and one at a time the kids will come up and draw their answers on the dry erase board, without speaking or making a sound.
- Instruct the rest of the group to guess what the picture is.
- Ask "What are you waiting for right now?"

## 2. The Palm Story

**What You Need:** "The Palm Story" Leaves (1 Set per Group), Bibles

**What You Do:**

- **Circle your kids up and place one prepared set of leaves in the middle of their circle.**
- Mix up the palm leaves and hand them out, at least one to each kid.
- Work together to put the leaves in correct story order on the floor.
- Use the Bible for help when needed.
- Play a few rounds, time your group, and see if they can beat their best/previous time.
- When the kids are done, read the palm leaves to tell the entire story.
- Ask:
  - What were the people waiting for in the story?
  - Why were the people celebrating?
  - Were the people in the story able to celebrate even though they were still waiting?

**What You Say:**

"That's right! For hundreds of years, God's people had been waiting for a Savior. Every year at Passover, they celebrated how God had freed them from slavery in Egypt. And they looked forward to how God would one day rescue them again. They welcomed Jesus into the city with a big celebration. Palm Sunday reminds us that **[Bottom Line] you can celebrate even when you're waiting.**"

### 3. The Pass Around

**What You Need:** “Palm Leaf” Activity Page (1 per kid), markers, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Direct the kids to get in a circle.
- Give each kid a Palm Leaf Activity Page, Scissors, and Place some markers in the circle for kids to use.
- Give time to cut out the leaf, and color it. Once ready...
- Pick one kid to read the memory verse out loud from the “Palm Leaf” Activity Page.
- **Next**, have another kid say the first word of the memory verse, holding up their Palm Leaf in the air, then...
- The next kid to their right then says second word of the memory verse and so on..
- **Kids continue like this until they say the entire verse.**
- Instruct the kids to do their best not to look at the memory verse on the palm leaf but to recite as much as they can by heart.
- There is a lot of patience involved in this game.
  - Encourage them to celebrate, cheer, etc. as the verse goes around, i.e., celebrate while they wait.

**What You Say:**

“Waiting isn’t always easy, but it’s a lot better when you’re having a good time and celebrating something that you can be thankful for. But when patience seems too difficult, God will give us strength to wait. All we have to do is talk to Him about what we struggle with. Our hope is in Him, just like it says in our memory verse. And God is worth waiting for—and He’s worth celebrating! **[Bottom Line] You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.**”

### 4. Celebrate and Wait

**What You Need:** Multi-Colored Rolls of Streamers, dry erase board, and dry erase marker

**VIDEO ON COMPUTER: Working on Me**

**Spotify Playlist: Parkview Kids Dance Party**

**NOTE: This Activity is intended to be done as one big Group All Together to close your Service. Complete this Activity when all other Small Groups are ready to join you.**

**What You Do:**

- **Play “Parkview Kids Dance Party” Playlist from your Computer for this Activity.**
- Give everyone a long length of streamer. (Kids will also use this streamer in Act. 5)
- Direct the kids to work together to come up with a quick list of “celebratory” movements and leader writes them on the dry erase board, such as:
  - jumping up and down
  - dancing
  - skipping
  - “lawn mower” dance move
- Ask the kids to line up on the far side of the wall for a game of “Leader, May I?”
- One at a time, allow the kids to ask you for permission to move across the room, using one of the celebratory movements.
- For example, they can ask, “Leader, may I take four jumps up and down?”

- You will respond, “No, you need to wait,” or “Yes, you may.”
- The kids are only allowed to move if you give them permission.
- Encourage the kids to celebrate in place (by waving their streamers, clapping, smiling, cheering) while they wait for their turn to move.
- The first kid to make it to you, wins!
- Try to make the winner the kid who celebrates with the most enthusiasm.
- Celebrate with a dance off to the Video “Working on Me”.
  - NOTE: If other groups around you are doing the activity at the same time as you, it would be more fun to dance to the video together!

### **What You Say:**

“Even when we have to wait, there’s still so much to thank God for and so much to celebrate. When we take time to celebrate, it helps us wait better and more patiently, too! If you’re waiting on brownies to bake, the wait goes by so much faster if you celebrate how good they will be when they’re done! When you’re waiting for all the fun Easter celebrations to come next week, you can celebrate and thank God for sending us Jesus. You can even use these celebration hats to help you do that! ***[Make it Personal] (Tell the group about a time you celebrated while you were waiting.) [Bottom Line] You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.***”

## **5. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** Celebration streamers from Activity #4, markers

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid their celebration streamer and a marker then tell everyone to spread out.
- Direct the kids to spend a moment praying silently, asking God to show them what they can celebrate while they wait.
- When they finish, instruct the kids to write some things on their streamers that they can celebrate even while they wait.
- When everyone is finished, gather back together and pray.

### **What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You for this month where we got to hear from You and learn so much about why You want us to have patience. Help us live patiently so we can be more like You! We thank You for Jesus—He is worth celebrating! It’s in Jesus’ name that we pray, amen.

“I loved celebrating with you all today! Palm Sunday is such a great reminder of what it looks like to trust God and celebrate His work in our lives—even while we wait for other important things! Waiting isn’t always easy, but remember that ***[Bottom Line] you can celebrate even when you’re waiting.*** Have an awesome week!”