

City LG—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 (NIRV)

Pre-Service Activity: Cupcake Scramble

Begin this Activity 5 minutes before your start time

Supplies Needed: Table , 4 Numbered Cups and 1 Foam Cupcake.

"We need God's help to be patient, because there are a lot of times in life when we have to wait. We definitely need patience when we're baking something in the kitchen . . . like a fresh batch of yummy cupcakes!

Place the foam cupcake on the table, next to the 4 Cups. Place the Cupcake under one of the Cups, scramble them up, and stop (each round).

"I don't know about you, but I LOVE cupcakes. They're the perfect treat for any kind of celebration. One of these Cups has the Cupcake underneath it—but you'll have to WAIT to find out which one it is!

"Each of you can choose which cup you think has the Cupcake underneath it. Then we'll lift the Cups to find the answer. If you get it right, you get a point! We'll play a lot of rounds and see how many points you can get in the end.

"Let's get started!

AUDIO: Music from Computer

For each round, let kids guess which cup has the Cupcake underneath it (Have everyone hold up their fingers to guess—one finger for cup #1, etc.)

Play as many rounds as necessary.

"That was awesome! Okay, now everyone jump to your feet, because it's time for one of my favorite things to do, EVER! I'd say it's even sweeter than the most delicious cupcake. Let's sing and worship God!"

WORSHIP: Not the Same and Fireblazin'

Worship Leader prays...

"Hi, everybody! I'm so glad that I get to tell you this story. (*Hold up Bible.*) It's actually about the holiday we're celebrating today, Palm Sunday.

“Let me back up and explain what led up to that special day. For hundreds of years, God’s people had been waiting for a Savior. They knew from the Scriptures and the prophets that God would send someone to rescue them. They waited . . . and they trusted that God would do what He said He would do.

“Every year at Passover, God’s people celebrated how, long, long before, God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt. They looked forward to the time when God would one day send a Savior, just like He promised. That’s what today is all about! God sending a Savior, just like He promised! Let’s take a look at this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 8:30)

“The religious leaders had studied and waited their whole lives for a Savior . . . and still, they didn’t recognize Jesus when He came. But the rest of the people DID see how special Jesus was. They continued to cheer and follow Jesus into the city. They believed He really was the Savior God had promised—the One they had been waiting for.

“We can celebrate like they did—not just on Palm Sunday, and not just on Easter. EVERY day! We can celebrate all that God has done in the past, all that He’s doing in our lives right now, and all that He WILL do in the future.

“Let’s remember this . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.

“We can’t always understand God’s big plan, but we know that we can trust Him as we live each day. Let’s pray and ask Him to help us celebrate—even when we’re waiting.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story. The people had been waiting so long for a Savior, and they must have been SO excited to see Jesus! Help us remember that we can celebrate even when we’re waiting. Help us trust in You and believe that You always have a good plan for us—even when we can’t always see it. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“The people who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem that day were SO excited to see Him, because they believed He was the Savior they had been waiting for. (*Wave the palm branch in the air.*) They waved branches and laid their coats down to honor Jesus—and to show how special He was.

“Of course, the religious leaders were pretty grumpy. They refused to celebrate. But everyone else knew that God was doing something amazing, right there in front of them. They had waited and waited for what God had promised . . . but they chose to celebrate when they saw God’s promises coming true!

“We can do that, too. Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.

“Here’s the thing. God is ALWAYS working in our lives. Always! Even when we feel like life isn’t quite the way it should be . . . or when we’re waiting for something to happen . . . still, **we can trust God no matter what.** We can believe that He is doing big things in us and around us.

“So instead of focusing on what you’re missing or what you wish could happen, choose to celebrate what God is doing right now!”

NOTE: If time allows, play another few rounds of the Pre-Service Activity then...

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

Direct Kids attention to the Posters in your Room

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and goes to school at Mission of Hope International!”

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while we dismiss to Small Groups! (*show offering container*).”

Dismiss kids to Small Groups.