

3-5's | W5

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 5

Today's Bible Story: Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-15

I can celebrate Jesus.

Key Question: Who is amazing?

Bottom Line: Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse: "We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Cover the Road

People Play

Yay, Jesus!

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Hosanna Megaphone

Roll to Create the Story

Celebrate Jesus Art Show

Hosanna Path

Celebrate Palm Sunday

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-15

I can celebrate Jesus.

Key Question

Who is amazing?

Bottom Line

Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse

We have seen amazing things today!" • Luke 5:26 NLT





5 min

Social

5 min

Cover the Road | Made to Move

What You Need

	Green construction paper	2
	Fabric	Several
	Scissors	1
	Painter's tape	1



EveryChild Tips

Set this activity on a table so all kids can participate.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a long tape road on the floor. Cut leaf shapes out of green paper, two for each child. Cut fabric into large pieces, one for every two children. Place leaves in a pile and fabric in a pile near the tape road.

During the Activity: Encourage children to pick up a leaf or coat, and place it on the road. Continue until the road is covered.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over and join me at this tape line. (Pause.) We're going to pretend it's a road! And look over here (point), there's a pile of ... leaves! (Pick up a leaf.) And a pile of fabric (pick up a piece of fabric)—let's pretend these are coats. When I say 'Go,' I want you to go and pick one leaf or one coat and place it on the road."









During the Activity: "Everybody get ready and GO! (Pause.) Come lay your coat/leaf on top of the tape line. (Pause.) Hooray! (Continue if there are more pieces to add.) Wow! Look at that! You made a super special path on our road today!"

After the Activity: "Great job, friends! In our Bible Story today, we are going to hear how people used leaves and coats to make a special path for Jesus! I am so excited! Let's go!"

5 min

People Play | Made to Play

What You Need

	"People Play" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Butcher paper	1
	Chisel-tip permanent marker	1
	Washable markers	Several
	Masking tape	1
	Glue stick	1
	Scissors	1



EveryChild Tips

- Offer children a scoop, spoon, or small net to catch the fish instead of using their hands if fine motor skills are challenging
- Provide a dry option by filling a bin with blue rice, pom-poms, or paper fish for children who may not want to touch water.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "People Play" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Fold and set aside. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure. Draw outlines of different size and shaped people all around the table with the permanent marker. Place the markers in the middle of the table.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate and design all the different people shapes on the table. Remove the supplies and then walk Jesus on the donkey down the middle of the paper. Let children take turns walking Jesus down the center. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello, hello! It's great to see you today! Come over to the table with me."




During the Activity: "Look at all the people on the table! (Pause.) Will you help me color and decorate each one? (Pause for answers.) Great! (Pause.) You've done such a great job making sure every person is colored in! Wow, there are so many people! (Clear the markers.) Look! There's someone special coming! (Walk Jesus down the center of the table.) It's Jesus riding on a donkey! Would you like a turn to walk Jesus down through the people too? (Let each child take a turn.) That was fun!"

After the Activity: "Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible when Jesus rode into town on a donkey! It was a celebration! Let's go hear all about it!"

5 min

Yay Jesus! | Made to Explore

What You Need

-  Baby pool 1
-  Colorful pom-poms or tissue paper confetti 1
-  Camera or smartphone 1



EveryChild Tips

- If a child is unable to get inside the pool, stand or sit outside of the pool, and toss the confetti into the pool.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the baby pool in an open area in the room and add pom poms or confetti.

During the Activity: Have one or more children at a time grab some confetti and throw it in the air while shouting, "Yay, Jesus!" Take a picture or video to share with parents. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Oh my, friends! Look at this pool! It has [pom poms or confetti] in it! It looks like a party!"

During the Activity: "Step into the pool and grab a handful of confetti. (Pause.) When I count to three, throw it in the air and say, 'Yay, Jesus!' Ready? One, two, three! Yay, Jesus! (Take their picture.) That was awesome! Next friend, step into the pool and grab a handful of confetti. (Repeat with each child.) Terrific! Everyone, sit with me around the pool."

After the Activity: "That was fun, celebrating. We are going to celebrate all day long because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** I can't wait to hear more about Jesus in our Bible story."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by throwing some of the pom-poms or confetti (or pretending to) as you walk and say, "Yay, Jesus!"






5 min

Groups

5 min

Hosanna Megaphone | Made to Create

What You Need

-  "Hosanna Megaphone Label" Activity Page 1
-  Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent Several
-  Leaf, Heart, and Smiley face stickers Several
-  Permanent marker 1
-  Craft knife 1



EveryChild Tips

Tape the coin to the back of the page.

Note: Use the craft knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room.

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Hosanna Megaphone Label" on label paper, one label per child. Cut the bottom off each cup. Write each child's name on their cup. Say the verse and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to add their labels and stickers to their cups. Show children how to hold the cup by the handles and say the verse together several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse together as we do the motions. Ready? Here we go. 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today! (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book). Great job, everyone! Now sit at the table with me and let's make a megaphone to celebrate.'"











During the Activity: "Put this label on your cup. It has our Memory Verse on it. (Pause.) Now add some of these fun stickers. (Pause.) Great! Everyone, hold your cup like this. (Demonstrate.) Put it up to your mouth and let's say our verse together. 'We have seen amazing things today!' Luke 5:26. Wow! One more time! 'We have seen amazing things today!' Luke 5:26. That was fantastic!"

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that we can celebrate Jesus because Jesus is God's Son and **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** In today's Bible Story, people celebrated Jesus by making a path of coats and palm branches for Jesus to travel over. People waved palm branches and shouted, Hosanna, Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! Tell me, **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** One more time! **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Roll to Create the Story | Made to Create

What You Need

	"Roll to Create the Story" Activity Page	1
	"Roll to Create Cube" Activity Page	1
	"Roll to Create Stickers" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Avery® Label #5160 or equivalent	1
	Cube-shaped tissue box	1
	Clear tape	1
	Scissors	1
	Permanent marker	1
	Optional: Crayons	Several



EveryChild Tips

- If sticker peeling is challenging, place stickers partially peeled or use stampers instead.
- Reinforce story vocabulary with gestures (wave hands for branches, etc).

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Roll to Create the Story" on cardstock and cut one per child. Copy "Roll to Create Cube" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group. Copy "Roll to Create Stickers" on label paper, enough for five or more of each sticker per child. Cut each sticker sheet into individual stickers, noting that there are multiple palm branches on each sticker. Cut along the dotted lines for those. Spread along the center of the table. Tape one picture from "Roll to Create Cube" to each side of the tissue box. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Leader will roll the die, and whenever the die lands on that picture, children will add the corresponding sticker to their page. Continue rolling until their paper is filled with people, branches, and coats. Review the story. *Optional: If time allows, children can color the rest of their picture.*

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come over and sit with me, friends. We are going to play a game to make our story art today!"

During the Activity: "I have this story die that has three different pictures on it. (Twist and turn the cube as you call out each picture.) There are people, coats, and palm branches. Each picture on the die matches a sticker. Whatever the die lands on is the sticker you'll find and add to your paper. Are you ready to play? Let's go! (Roll the die.) It landed on a [coat/branch/person]! Find one sticker with that picture, then stick it to your paper. (Pause.) Super-duper! Next roll! It landed on a [coat/branch/person]! Find one sticker with that picture, then stick it to your paper. (Continue until each child's picture is filled. If needed, manually turn the cube to incorporate any pictures the children haven't added a lot of.) Hooray! Look at your amazing picture! You surrounded Jesus with people celebrating with coats and branches on the ground, and lots of people waving palm branches in the air.













"Everyone, point to the picture of Jesus on your paper. (Pause.) Jesus is God's Son, and everywhere He went, lots of people wanted to see Him. They had heard of all the amazing things Jesus had done, and they wanted Jesus to help them. One day, Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were walking to the city of Jerusalem. They walked everywhere they went. But this time, Jesus asked two of His friends to go into the village that was before them and find a donkey and its baby donkey. The disciples did exactly what Jesus said and brought them to Jesus. Jesus got on the little donkey and rode into the city of Jerusalem. Lots of people made a special path for Jesus. They spread coats and palm branches on the ground, and some waved palm branches in the air. They were treating Jesus like a king! They all shouted: 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' They were celebrating Jesus because they knew-
[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing. When other people in the city asked who Jesus was, they said: 'This is Jesus! God sent Him to us!' (Matthew 21:11 NLT, paraphrase) That was a super fun way to re-create our story today."

After the Activity: "Friends, the Bible teaches us that God gave us Jesus to show us how much God loves us. And we can celebrate Jesus just like the people in the Bible because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Celebrate Jesus Art Show | Made to Think

What You Need

-  Copy paper 1
-  Washable markers or crayons 1
-  Green construction paper scraps 1
-  Stickers 1
-  Glue sticks 1
-  Painter's tape 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: Foam stickers (heart, stars, palm leaves) 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: Pre-drawn palm branches or donkeys to color instead of blank paper 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: Large crayons 1
-  Completed page 1
-  1
-  1



EveryChild Tips

- Offer stickers or large crayons for easier grasp.
- Use textured items like foam stickers.
- Show a completed picture as an example.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today, we're going to make special art to celebrate Jesus! The people in our Bible Story celebrated Jesus by waving palm branches and shouting, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' We can celebrate Jesus with our art."

During the Activity: "Let's draw a picture to remember the very first Palm Sunday. We heard in our story that the people were so excited that they made a path of palm branches and coats for Jesus. They even used palm branches to wave as Jesus rode by on a donkey. You can draw the whole picture or your very favorite part of the story. (Pause.) Your pictures are wonderful! Just like the people celebrated Jesus with palm branches, we are celebrating Him with our art. (Write each child's name on their paper.) Let's have an art show! (Position/tape artwork on the table or on a wall at child's height.) Walk with me to look at all the art. As we walk, we can say 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' (Repeat as time and interest allow.)"

After the Activity: "Wow, friends, you did an amazing job celebrating Jesus with your art. The people in Jerusalem celebrated Jesus because they knew He was special and could do amazing things. We know **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, today we're going to do something really fun with coins and water. Let's use these droppers and see how many drops of water we can fit on this coin before it spills over! How many drops do you think will fit on the coin? (Pause for responses.) Those are some good guesses! Let's find out how many drops will fit on these coins."







During the Activity: "Drop! Drop! Drop! Wow, look how the water is staying on top of the coin! Let's keep counting together and see how many we can get! [Child's name], how many drops fit on your coin? (Pause for response.) Is that the number that you guessed? (Pause for response.) Great job, everyone!"

After the Activity: "That was so fun! Were you surprised at how many drops of water fit on your coin? In our Bible Story, Peter found something surprising too! He found a coin inside the mouth of a fish! Jesus can do things no one else can do because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Hosanna Path | Made to Move

What You Need

	Hosanna Path" Activity Page	Several
	Cardstock	Several
	Painter's tape	Several
	Painter's tape	Several
	Washable markers (green and gray/brown)	Several
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Stickers (coat and/or leaf icons)	1



EveryChild Tips

- Use stickers (coat or leaf icons) to place on the butcher paper instead of walking across.
- Pair children—one child finds a picture while the other places it.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Hosanna Path" on cardstock, ten per Small Group. Lay a long strip of butcher paper on the floor and tape it to secure. Draw ten large alternating green and gray/brown rectangles across the paper to make a path. Tape coat and leaf pictures around the room at child's height.

During the Activity: Invite children to go find a coat or leaf picture, bring it back, and place it on the matching color box (green for palm branches, gray/brown for coats). Continue until the pictures have been found and placed on the path.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today, we're going to make a path just like the people did when Jesus came into Jerusalem. They laid down coats and palm branches to celebrate Jesus!"





During the Activity: "When I say 'Go,' I want you to go find one coat or leaf picture and bring it back to the path. Ready, set, GO! (Pause.) Great job! If you have a picture of a leaf, put it on one of the green rectangles. (Point.) If you have a picture of a coat, place it on a gray/brown rectangle. (Pause.) Hooray! We finished our Hosanna Path!"

After the Activity: "Wow, friends! We filled our path with coats and palm branches. That's just like what the people in Jerusalem did when Jesus came riding in on a donkey. Do you remember what else those people did? (Pause for responses.) That's right! They waved palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' because they knew Jesus could do things that nobody else could because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

Celebrate Palm Sunday | Made to Create

What You Need

	Celebrate Palm Sunday" Activity Page	1
	"Celebrate Jesus" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Crayons	Several
	Glue sticks	Several
	Scissors	Several
	Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Celebrate Palm Sunday" on cardstock and cut along the dashed cut lines, one per child. Copy "Celebrate Jesus" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their pictures. Show children where to glue their picture of Jesus riding the donkey. Fold each child's paper to make it pop up.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, it's Palm Sunday! What a great day to celebrate Jesus! Let's make a picture of our story."










During the Activity: "You have two pictures: a big picture of the people beside the special path of coats and palm branches, and a smaller picture of Jesus riding a donkey. Color both pictures. *(Pause.)* These look great, but I have something to make your picture really neat. Rub some glue on this part. *(Point to the area marked with an 'x'.)* Put the picture of Jesus here. *(Help children line up their pictures.)* Now for the neat part. *(Fold their paper so Jesus on the donkey pops up.)* Wow! So neat!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story today, we heard how Jesus was coming to the town of Jerusalem, and everyone was so excited! They covered the road with coats and palm branches so Jesus would have a special path to travel on. Other people held palm branches and waved them in the air. They were treating Jesus like a king, and they were ready to celebrate! Jesus was riding a donkey on the path, and when the people saw Him, they waved their branches and said, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' The whole city saw and heard the celebration. Some asked who this was, and the people said, 'This is Jesus! God sent Him to us!' (Matthew 21:11 NLT, paraphrase) The Bible teaches us that God gave us Jesus to show us how much God loves us. And we can celebrate Jesus just like the people in the Bible because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?" [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!"**

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	"Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder	1
	Journal	1
	Fun-shaped pen	1
	"Journal Jesus" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Rewards stickers or stamp	1
	Baby wipes	1
	Glue stick	1
	Scissors	1

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Luke 5:26. Copy "Journal Jesus" on cardstock and cut one cutout per Small Group. Glue to the next empty page in the journal.

Encourage the children to pretend to wave a palm branch and say "Hosanna, Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!" as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, ask children to celebrate Jesus by adding a green fingerprint to the page around Jesus. Write child's name and why they can celebrate Jesus under their fingerprint. Clean child's hands as needed.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today, we are going to pretend to wave our palm branches at Jesus and say, 'Hosanna, Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' while we walk to our small group spot. Follow me and wave your palm branches! Hosanna, Hosanna! Yay, Jesus! (Repeat as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story, we heard how the people celebrated Jesus like a king! They laid down coats and palm branches to make a special path. Jesus rode into town on a donkey, and people waved palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna, Hosanna! Yay, Jesus!' God gave us Jesus to show us how much God loves us. And we can celebrate Jesus just like the people in the Bible because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** That's why when I ask you, **'Who is amazing?'** you can say, **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus is amazing!'** Ready? **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

"The Bible verse we're learning says: 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today!' (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book). Let's say that together! Just stand up and say what I say and do what I do! 'We have seen (point to self) amazing things today!' (Hands like binoculars, open and shut.) Luke 5:26 (open hands like a book). That was wonderful! (Two thumbs up.) I think you're ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have a sticker/stamp for everyone who tries to say the Bible verse! (Hold up stamp/stickers.) Way to go, [child's name]! (Give two thumbs up.) You get a stamp/sticker! (Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.) I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to

three, I want everyone to stand up and point to your stamp/sticker. One, two, three! *(Pause to look.)* Yay! *(Clap.)*

"Way to go! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal to the picture of Jesus.)* Look! It's Jesus! *(Call one child at a time.)* Dip your finger in the green ink pad and press it on the paper near Jesus. *(Pause.)* Tell me how you can celebrate Jesus? *(Help child clean hand.)* I'll write your name and your answer underneath your fingerprint. *(Continue with each child. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

After the Activity: "These are wonderful ways to celebrate Jesus! Thank you for helping me make this list. *(Hold up the journal for the children to see.)* We can celebrate Jesus in lots of different ways, like *(read the list you made with the children)*. Just like the people in the Bible celebrated Jesus! Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our AMAZING friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."