



MARCH 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER

MATTHEW 21; LUKE 24; JOHN 19

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death. When we trust in Him, we have true joy. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings the week of Passover. Many of God's people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem as well. Near Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into a village.

Jesus told them, "You will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Jesus would fulfill Zechariah's prophecy: "Look, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." (Zech. 9:9)

Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city. He rode a donkey, and people laid branches and their robes on the ground in front of Him. The people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem believed He was the promised Messiah, but they expected Him to overthrow Roman oppression and set up an earthly throne. Jesus sent a different message.

The next day, Jesus entered the temple and turned over the tables of the money changers and those selling doves. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7, declaring that His kingship would not just be over the Jews but over all people. While Jesus was in the temple, He healed the blind and the lame. Jesus' actions declared, "I am not just your King; I am also your God" (Isa. 35:4-6).

Finally, the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshiping Jesus as their King. "Do You hear what these children are saying?" they asked.

Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2: "Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?" Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help kids connect the dots between God's promises of a Messiah and Jesus' coming. Help them understand why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Today, we'll be learning about Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, since Elementary won't have programming next week. We won't be in our classrooms long today; we'll start with a scavenger hunt based on the Bible story, then end with worship and teaching in Large Group!

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before beginning the scavenger hunt, you can chat with kids or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on April 26!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

PALM SUNDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY

It was the time of year when the Israelites celebrated Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to remember what God had done when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

Jesus and His friends also traveled to Jerusalem. He sent two of them ahead to a village. Jesus said, "Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey and her colt tied up. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you should say that the Lord needs them."

The friends did what Jesus said. They put their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too. The crowds walked ahead of Jesus, and those who followed Him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One—the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The word hosanna means "Save now".

Later that week, Jesus was arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers put a purple robe around Jesus, then made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They pretended to bow down to Him, then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was put up on a cross. They put a sign above His head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly, there was an earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The men guarding the tomb fainted in fear.

The angel spoke to the women and said, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would." The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' friends the good news.

Just then, Jesus greeted them, and the women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death. When we trust in Him, we have true joy. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

GOSPEL SCAVENGER HUNT

As soon as most of your group has arrived, start the provided Easter scavenger hunt in your room. Start with the video labeled “Easter” on your room’s TV.

Be sure to stay together as a class while completing the hunt! Follow the clues for your specific group around the downstairs rooms/hallway. Leaders will have a map to refer to. Walk through the story of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday through the items you find and reading the Scriptures at each spot. Leave each item where you found it when it’s time to move on to the next one.

Your final clue should lead you into the Large Group room, along with the other groups. We’ll then take the rest of our time to worship and hear a presentation of the Gospel.

Before kids leave for the day, they’ll have the chance to take home one of each of the items from the scavenger hunt when they’re picked up by their parents.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!