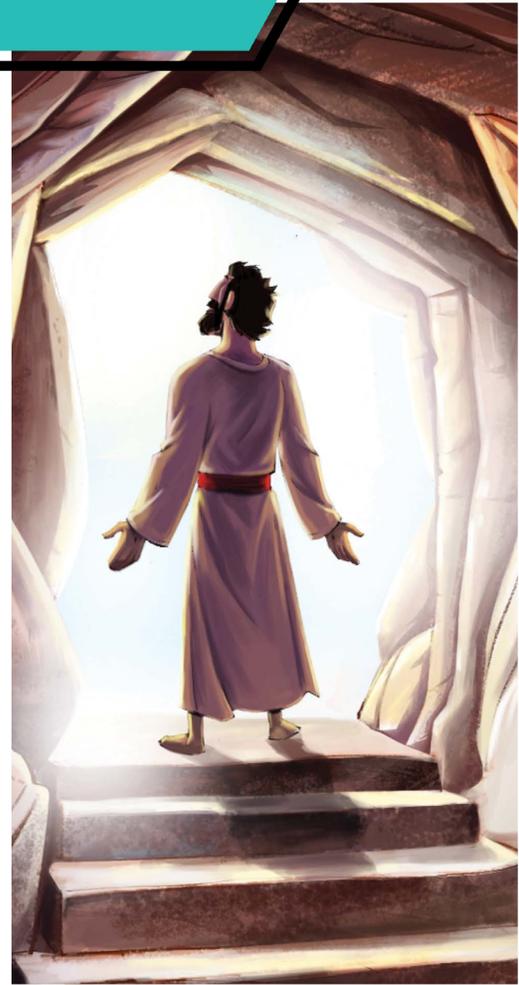
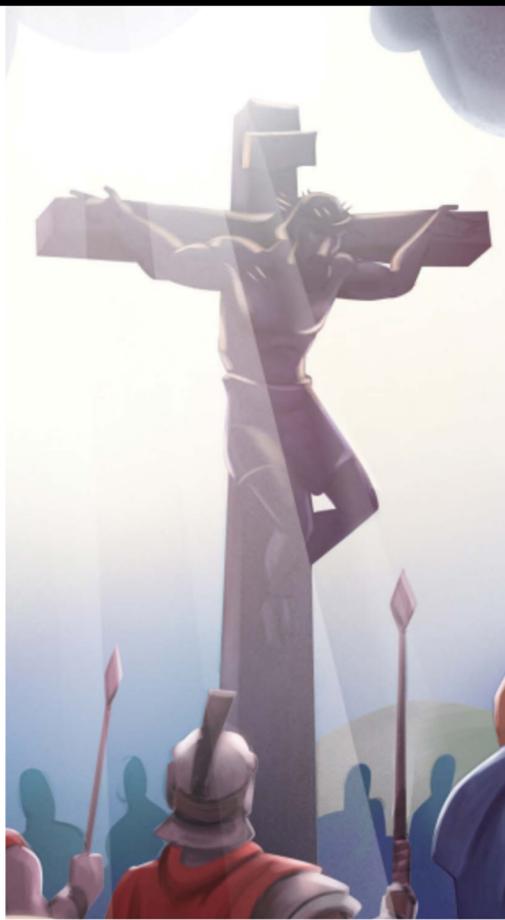
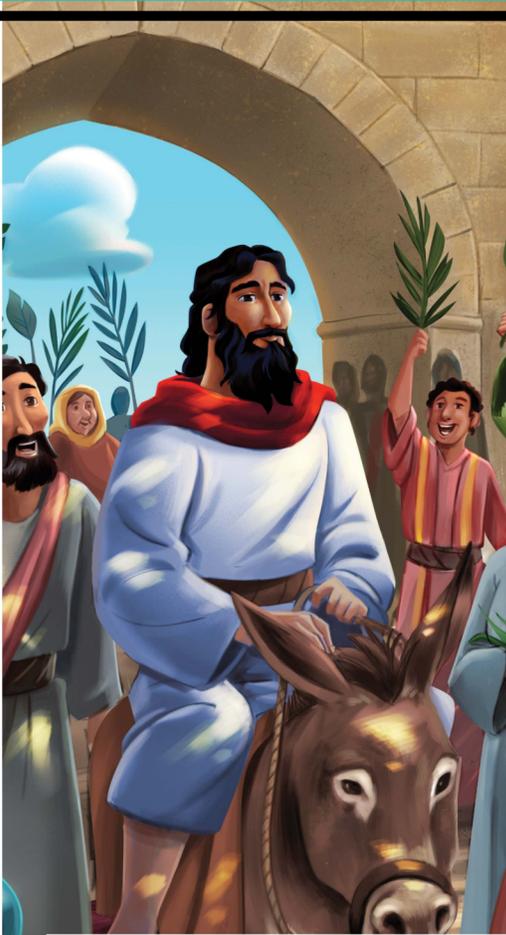


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

LEADER DEVO

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

Because of the holiday, and because we won't have Elementary programming for Good Friday or Easter Sunday, we're covering all three lessons today. In order to break it up and keep kids engaged, we've changed the format for the day. This will be a full service, so sticking to the schedule will be vital—encourage your kids to really lean in and try to understand how amazing these stories are!

SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 9:00 | | 10:35 | ARRIVAL (STRAIGHT TO SMALL GROUP ROOMS) |
| 9:05 | | 10:40 | SMALL GROUPS - PALM SUNDAY RECAP |
| 9:20 | | 10:55 | LARGE GROUP - WORSHIP |
| 9:25 | | 11:00 | LARGE GROUP - GOOD FRIDAY LESSON |
| 9:40 | | 11:15 | LARGE GROUP - WORSHIP |
| 9:45 | | 11:20 | LARGE GROUP - EASTER LESSON |
| 10:00 | | 11:35 | LARGE GROUP - WORSHIP |
| 10:05 | | 11:40 | SMALL GROUPS - DISCUSSION / REVIEW |
| 10:15 | | 11:50 | PARENT PICK-UP |

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, have them come straight into their small group room. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before. Then, jump into an overview and review of Palm Sunday, using the Scripture provided on page 5.

From there, follow the schedule on page 3 for the rest of service.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

TODAY'S 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



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

APR 26

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: DIY VERSE PUZZLE

Grab at least eight “puzzle pieces” (these can be Legos, blocks, index cards, etc.). On each of the puzzle pieces, write a part of the verse so that when all the pieces are put together in the correct order, you can see the entire verse.

Use this to practice memorizing the verse by putting it together, racing yourself, trying to fill in the gaps from memory, etc.

LESSON | PALM SUNDAY

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

- Matthew 21:1-11

LESSON | GOOD FRIDAY

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- John 19:16b-22, 26-30

LESSON | EASTER

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

- Luke 24:1-12

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Most of the morning will be spent in Large Group, but we still want to give kids a chance to respond and discuss together in small groups. The following questions are designed to help you facilitate discussion and challenge kids to think through what they heard today.

- 1) If you've heard the story of Easter before, was there something new that you learned or that stuck out to you? If you haven't heard the Easter story before, what did you learn?
- 2) Why is Easter such an important day for us?
- 3) What do you think it was like for Jesus to take on the sins of the world?
- 4) What, if anything, is something that confuses you about the Gospel?
- 5) Do you have any questions about the Gospel or how it applies to you?

Personal Reflection Question: What do you do now?

If you have placed your faith in and chosen to follow Jesus, how can you better live out the gospel? Is there something you need to repent for? Is there someone in your life who you need to share the Gospel with?

If you haven't placed your faith in Jesus, is there a specific reason you haven't? Is there something about the Gospel that doesn't make sense to you? What would need to happen in order for you to believe in Jesus?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!