



APRIL THEME

GOOOOOAL!

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 26:36-56 (Luke 22:39-46)

Spark | Palm Sunday pg. 454-459

Jesus is Betrayed pg. 468-473

Follow the Game Plan |

Jesus' Triumphant Entry + Praying in the Garden

BOTTOM LINE

I can put others first by letting go of what I want

MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud.

Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."

Philippians 2:3, NIV

LIFE APP

Humility | Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated, and with God's help... I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **HUMILITY** and God's character, as shown through God's big story

This WEEK: In **Matthew 21:1-11** we see Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem and in **Matthew 26:36-56**, we take a look at the very garden where Jesus showed an unbelievable understanding of how important it was to put the will of the Father ahead of his own. Jesus knew why he came to earth. While he prayed for his Father to make another way, ultimately Jesus knew that he had to let go of what he wanted for the sake of saving the world from sin.

Bottom Line: I can put others first by letting go of what I want. At some point in our lives, we'll be faced with a decision to give up something we want for what someone else wants. For Jesus this was a matter of life and death. While that may not be the case for us, showing humility in these situations is still important. We pray that kids will realize that showing humility is often more important than getting their way.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that God would give your few a spirit of openness, making them willing to give up something they want in order to put someone else first. Ask God to help kids realize when others are doing this for them, as well. Pray that they would recognize the efforts of others to put them first.

●● **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk with the kids about asking for things.
- Ask if they have ever asked for something that they knew they really couldn't have.
- Talk about what unrealistic things they might ask for if they could ask for anything.

●● **TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to take turns role-playing in front of the group. One will be a parent and one will be a kid.
- The kid will try to talk the parent into letting them out of a chore or responsibility and the parent will try not to give in.



- Depending on the personality of your group, you could take this in a funny direction or a serious one.
—Let the “kid” try to talk his way out of chores by being funny or doing something silly
OR
—Instruct the kid playing the parent to seriously consider the point or argument made by the kid. If the kid makes a valid point, the parent must give in.

What You Say: “We all have things in life that we would rather not do. But following Jesus sometimes means you do what you don’t want to do. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/Wow Family Worship we will find out/we found out why that might be.**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **SLOGANS FOR SERVICE** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Selfish Slogans” cards, markers

What You Do:

- Distribute the cards and have someone read each one out loud, shouting it out or saying it like an annoying TV commercial.
- Then have someone read the words of Jesus from our Bible Story in Luke 22:42: “Father, if you are willing, take this cup of suffering away from me. But do what you want, not what I want” (NirV).
- Point out that all of these slogans encourage us to be selfish and get what we want, but Jesus modeled that we should be willing to give up what we want.
- Challenge the kids to work in groups or in pairs to rewrite each slogan in a way that encourages service, humility, or selflessness.
- Examples: Just give! Help others get what they want! Make someone else’s dream come true! Give someone a better job! Do the worst job yourself! You can let others win! Victory is unimportant compared to helping others! Fight for others to get more than you! Give away what you deserve! Give up anything someone else needs!
- After kids have rewritten the slogans, have them stand up and share what they changed and why.

What You Say: “The messages we hear every day in media and advertising are powerful and most of them are encouraging us to be selfish. It’s no wonder that we have a problem giving up what we want for others. When you hear slogans and marketing phrases, take a moment to consider whether they are encouraging you to be selfish or to help others. If they are selfish, think about rewriting the slogan to emphasize serving others. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a selfish slogan that you used to believe and how you now try to overcome that slogan’s influence by serving others.)** To overcome all the selfish messages we are surrounded with, we need to make sure to listen more to the words of Jesus than to the words of advertisers and marketers. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.**”

•• **FAIR OR UNFAIR** *(application activity)*

What You Need: “Fair or Unfair Situations” activity page

What You Do:

- Read the situations on the activity page and tell the kids to move to indicate whether they think the situation was fair or unfair.
- You can have them move in any way that you want. For example, they might run to one side of the room for fair and the other side of



the room for unfair. Or they might raise both hands for fair and lie flat on the ground for unfair. You can change these physical choices as many times as you wish, or keep them consistent throughout the activity.

- Eventually the kids will realize that all of the situations you read are unfair. When this happens, or when you have read all the situations, instruct the kids to sit down. Then wrap up with a conversation.

What You Say: “No one wants to be treated unfairly. Most of us try to avoid unfair situations and we complain loudly when we think things are unfair to us. But God doesn’t call us to make the world fair. God calls us to do BETTER than fairness. The example God gave us in Jesus is to choose unfairness for ourselves in order to benefit others. We need to stop seeking fairness for ourselves and start seeking fairness for others, even if it means causing ourselves to be treated unfairly. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.**”

•• **HOT POTATO MEMORY VERSE!** *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Ball-pit ball, Bible

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit around the small group table.
- Give one kid the ball-pit ball and instruct her to hold it until you say “go.”
- Choose another kid to be the verse finder/reader.
- When you say “go,” the verse finder/reader should look up this month’s memory verse (*found in Philippians 2:3*) in a Bible and then read it out loud to the group.
- In the meantime, the rest of the group should be passing the ball-pit ball clockwise around the circle from person to person.
- When the reader finishes reading the verse, whoever is holding the ball becomes the next verse finder/reader.
- You can change up how they pass the ball each time. For example, counter-clockwise, randomly across the table, kicking it from person to person, etc.

Discussion Questions

- Can you think of a time when someone gave up what they wanted to help you or give you something you wanted or needed?
- Why would someone give up what they wanted for someone else?
- What would happen at home or at school if every person gave up something they wanted in order to put someone else first?

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Model praying a Christ-like prayer of surrender for the kids. Pray for something that you really want to happen, but also pray that no matter what you want, that God would work through you to do what God wants.
- Help the kids to practice praying in the same way.

What You Say: “Jesus tells us to ask for what we want from God, but Jesus also models being content with God’s answer when it may differ from what we want. There may be many, many times that the only way we can accomplish God’s will in our lives is to give up what we want for ourselves. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.**”

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.