



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:

- Ask kids if anyone can name the seven dwarfs. Give help if needed. (*Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Bashful, Sneezy, Dopey, and Sleepy*)

- Ask for volunteers to pretend to be each of the seven dwarfs. How could they pretend to be Happy, Sneezy, etc.?

- As you finish up, ask everyone to be Sleepy. How do you show that you are sleepy?

•• SO SLEEPY

What You Need: "Sleepy" coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "Sleepy" coloring pages and crayons. As kids color, ask the following questions:



- What time do you go to bed?
- What time do you wake up?
- When are you usually the sleepest during the day?
- Have you ever fallen asleep in the car?
- Where is the strangest place you have ever fallen asleep?

What You Say: “All this talk about being sleepy is making me tired! **[Transition]** Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we are going to hear/we heard about some people who just couldn’t stay awake, even though they had a very important job to do.”

[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.

●● **WHAT’S THAT?** *(application activity / review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “What’s That?” activity page, copy paper, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and crayons to each kid.
- Explain that they will be drawing a picture of something that happened in the Bible story.
- Go around to each kid and whisper one of the sentences on the activity page to them.
- Quietly make sure each kid understands what he needs to draw.
- Give kids some time draw a picture of their assigned part of the story.
- When everyone is finished drawing, let each kid show his picture to the group.
- Ask the other kids to raise their hands and try to guess what’s happening in the scene.

What You Say: “A lot of things happened in the story we heard today. Jesus knew he was going to suffer and get hurt and be made fun of and get yelled at. All the angels in heaven would have come to save Jesus from dying, but he chose not to call them. Jesus knew that he had to go through with the bad stuff so that we would know God’s love. In today’s story, he showed the disciples that even though they couldn’t even stay awake for him, he was willing to be arrested for them. Jesus gave us the ultimate example that **[Bottom Line]** **I can put others first by letting go of what I want.** When we do things for other people, we aren’t just being nice; we are being like Jesus.” **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time someone put your needs ahead of their own.)*

●● **BACK-TO-BACK WALK** *(application activity)*

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead the kids to form teams of two *(ideally, with somebody about the same size)*.
- Guide the first set of partners to stand back to back and link their elbows together.
- Challenge them to walk around the small group table without unlinking their elbows.
- Allow each team a turn to try this.

What You Say: “Wow, that was fun! Great job! Let me ask a question: What helped you move the most successfully as a team? *(Moving*



together; moving at the same speed; etc.) Yes! You may have wanted to move faster or differently than your partner, but in order to be successful you had to let go of what you wanted and think of your teammate, too. It's like our Bottom Line for today: **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.**

"What are some real-life ways you can put others first by letting go of what you want? (*I can let my sister choose what we eat for supper; I can let my friend choose the game we play; I can let others go first at school.*) So remember: **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.**"

•• **MUSICAL BIBLES** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Sit together with the group in a circle.
- Review the verse with the kids by saying it together. Use these phrases (*below*) to help kids break up the verse into segments and make it easier to memorize.
 - “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 (NirV)
- After saying the verse two or three times, instruct kids to pass the Bible around the circle while singing “Jesus Loves Me.”
- When the song ends, whoever is holding the Bible says one phrase of the verse. (*You may need to help some kids remember the verse.*)
- Continue with the game until all four segments have been recited.

What You Say: “It is sometimes really hard to do the things this verse asks us to do. Sometimes we just want what we want and we don't care about anything or anyone else. But that attitude does not help us to be more like Jesus. This week, try to remember that **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.** You might find out that putting others first makes you feel even better than getting what you wanted.”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Palm branches from large group worship/WOW

What You Say: “Today we heard about how Jesus put others' needs before his own, even when he didn't have to. Remember earlier today when we were pretending to be sleepy? Now, let's show God that we are wide awake and ready to talk and give God our praise. **(Pause while they make “wide awake” faces and invite them to wave their palms while you pray.)** Jesus, thank you for going to the cross for us and not taking the easy way out. Help us to remember this week that **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by letting go of what I want.** Show us ways we can put others first this week and give up what we want to serve others like you did. Amen.”

[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.