



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:

—What are your family's Easter traditions? (*Easter baskets, egg hunts, an Easter meal,
Easter clothes, visiting family, etc.*)

—What is your favorite thing about Easter?

•• HOT POTATO!

What You Need: Ball-pit ball

What You Do:

• Guide kids to sit around the small group table.

• Give a child the ball and instruct her to hold it until you say "go".

• Turn around so you can't see your group and say "go." Kids should pass the ball



around the circle, with each kid passing the ball directly to the person to their right.

- At random times, turn to face the group and yell “stop!” The player with the ball (*or in the act of passing the ball*) must stand and spin around five times. (*NOTE: Kids may not move out of the way of the ball to avoid getting caught with it!*)

What You Say: “The goal of our game was to pass the ball as quickly as possible so you wouldn’t get caught with it. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WoW Family Worship, we’ll hear/we heard about something else that’s important to let go of.**”

[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.

•• **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.**”

•• **HUMILITY!** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bible, “Humility Game Board” and “Humility Cards,” beads (*two of same color for each player/team*), dice

What You Do:

- Look up and review this month’s memory verse with the group (*Philippians 2:3*).
- Tell kids you’re going to play a game that helps them put the memory verse into action.
- Play a reverse “Sorry!” game, where the goal is to send other players HOME instead of back to START.
- Tell kids that the object of the game they’re about to play is the opposite of most games: In this game, their goal is to help their opponents win first!
- Group kids into teams of 1, 2, or 3 so that your group has 4 teams total.
- Lead kids to put the cards face down in the center of the game board and then set their pawns in a START zone.
- Choose which child/team goes first by rolling a die. The player who rolls the lowest number goes first.
- Guide kids to move their pawns from START and around the board to HOME. If a player lands on a “draw a card” space, that player



draws a card, reads it aloud, and does what it says.

- NOTE: Players only draw a card if they roll the die and land on a “draw a card” space, not if another player moves them to that space.
- The game ends when every child/team has both pawns HOME.

What You Say: “We live in a world that’s all about putting ourselves first. WE want to win the game. WE want to choose the movie. WE want to do things OUR way. But God wants us to think and act differently. God wants us to put others first. Like Philippians 2:3 says: *“Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves”* (NirV).

[Make It Personal] *(Share a way you’ve been tempted to hold on to what you want. Tell kids how you choose to put others first instead.)*

“What are some ways you can put others first by letting go of what you want? *(Pause.)* Awesome ideas! So remember: **[Bottom Line]** **I can put others first by letting go of what I want.** It’s not always easy, but when you put others first, you’ll be doing what Jesus did, and that’s a great thing!”

●● **IN THE GARDEN** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Gethsemane Garden” activity pages (12), markers, tape

What You Do:

- Guide kids to think of something they can let go of when they want to put others first. It might be letting a sibling choose first; letting a friend play a game their way; using money they’ve saved to help someone in need instead of buying something for themselves; or quickly obeying a parent instead of continuing to play a video game, watch TV, or plead for what they want.
- Invite each kid to choose a “Gethsemane Garden” square. Some kids can have more than one, so that all 12 pages are colored.
- Set out the markers and lead kids to write one way they will put others first by letting go of what they want. Kids can then color the square as they choose.
- **[Make It Personal]** *(Color your own quilt square. Share with the kids how you will put others first by letting go of what you want.)*
- As kids work, review the Bible story using the conversation below as a guide.
- Arrange and tape the completed squares into a “Gethsemane Garden” quilt.
- If possible, hang the quilt on a focal wall.

What You Say: “When Jesus was in the garden praying, did he tell God that he wanted to suffer? No, he asked God to take the whole situation away. But Jesus finished his prayer by giving up what he wanted. He knew that no matter what it cost him, God’s plan was bigger and best. He said: *“Let what you want be done, not what I want”* (Matthew 26:39 NirV).

“Sometimes doing what God says will cost you, too. You’ll have to give up what you want in order to do what God wants. But when you’re tempted to hold on to your own way, remember what Jesus said. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** **I can put others first by letting go of what I want.** It’s not always easy, but when you let go of what you want in order to put others first, you’ll be doing what Jesus did, and that’s a great thing!”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Quilt from “In the Garden”

What You Do:

