



MARCH THEME



BIBLE STORY

Matthew 21:1-11

I Will Wait | Palm Sunday

Spark Story Bible

Palm Sunday | p. 454-459

BOTTOM LINE

You can celebrate even when you're waiting

MEMORY VERSE

"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."

Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

LIFE APP

Patience | Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

●● THEME OVERVIEW

Key Question: What are you waiting for right now? We all face times in our life when our waiting feels endless. Maybe we're waiting for someone to feel better, to understand a concept in math, or for summer vacation. Identifying where we need to have patience can help us know how we can wait well. We pray that we will understand how we can stay positive and maybe even have some fun when we need to be patient.

Next week is Palm Sunday. By this time, God's people had been waiting hundreds of years for God's promises of a Savior to come true. In **Matthew 21:1-11**, we see that people were really starting to believe that Jesus was that Savior. God's promises were finally coming true. So when he entered Jerusalem on a donkey, just like the prophecy foretold, they celebrated and worshiped Jesus. Of course, this all turned out very different from what they expected and they'd have to wait a bit longer to understand, but they could find joy because God was faithful.

Bottom Line: You can celebrate even when you're waiting. How we wait can show others how we trust God. Celebrating might feel like a strange way to wait. However, when we remember how much God loves us, that Jesus came to save us, that God will always be faithful, we can't help but celebrate and have joy believing that God will do the same in the future. We pray that we learn how to celebrate God while we wait.

●● WOW @home

What You Do: Watch this week's WOW @home in the comfort of your family's @home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on popmn.org/youtube or facebook.com/popchildrens. Then use this Family Guide, GodTime & ParentCue cards, and FAITH5 daily devos as personal devotionals and to keep the conversation going...

●● PALM SUNDAY [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create | An activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: Copy paper, markers/crayons, scissors, jumbo craft sticks/straws, masking tape, Bible or Spark Story Bible

What You Do:

- Give each family member a piece of copy paper.
- Set out markers/craft sticks/scissors/masking tape where everybody can share them.
- Spend some time drawing and coloring a palm branch. Then cut them out, and tape a craft stick/straw near the bottom of the back to use as a handle.
- When everyone is done, read the story in Matthew 21:1-11 or in the

CONTINUED ON BACK

Spark Story Bible (pg. 454-459).

- Ask the following questions.

—If they think the answer to the question is “A,” they should wave their palm branch in the air.

—If they think it is “B,” they should hold it at their side.

Review Questions: (correct answer bolded)

- How long had God’s people been waiting for a Savior?

—**Hundreds of years**

—Five years

- What kind of animal did Jesus ask his disciples to bring him?

—A llama

—**A donkey and its colt**

- When the owner of the donkeys asked why they were untying his donkeys, what did the disciples say?

—**The Lord needs them**

—Wait for the Lord

- What did the disciples place over the backs of the donkeys?

—Blankets

—**Their coats**

- What did people lay down on the road for Jesus’ donkey to walk on?

—**Coats**

—A red carpet

- What did the people take off the trees and wave in the air when Jesus walked by?

—**Palm branches**

—Twigs

- What word did the people shout when they saw Jesus?

—**Hosanna!**

—Hooray!

- Was everyone excited to see Jesus?

—Yes! Absolutely everyone.

—**No, there were some religious leaders who were not so happy.**

- What did Jesus tell the religious leaders would happen if the other people remained quiet?

—**If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.**

—If they keep quiet, the trees will blow in the breeze.

What You Say: “You guys waved your palm branches just like the people did when they saw Jesus enter the city on a donkey! Could you imagine having to wait for something for HUNDREDS of years? That means a lot of people who started waiting for a Savior died without knowing that Jesus came. I don’t know about you, but I’m not sure I would have the best attitude if that were me. But this crowd knew **[Bottom Line] you can celebrate even when you’re waiting. [Make it Personal]** (Share about a time you chose joy and celebrated even when you were waiting.) Let’s stand up and wave our palm branches just like in our story today as we shout ‘Hosanna!’ and cheer for Jesus. (Allow time for waving and cheering.) No matter what you have to wait on this week, remember that you can celebrate something while you wait!”

- **CELEBRATE AND WAIT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Streamers or strips of paper

What You Do:

- Give each person six to eight streamers or strips of paper
- Work together as a family to come up with a quick list of “celebratory” movements, such as:
 - jumping up and down
 - random dancing
 - skipping
 - “lawn mower” or other specific dance move
- Ask your family to line up on the far side of your playing space for a game of “Leader, May I?”
- One at a time, allow family members to ask you for permission to move across the room, using one of the celebratory movements.
 - For example, they can ask, “Leader, may I take four jumps up and down?”
- You will respond, “No, you need to wait,” or “Yes, you may.”
- Individual players are only allowed to move if you give them permission.
- Encourage the other players to celebrate in place (*by waving their streamers, clapping, smiling, cheering*) while they wait for their turn to move.
- The first player to make it to you, wins!
- Try to make the winner the person who celebrates while waiting with the most enthusiasm.

What You Say: “Even when we have to wait, there’s still so much to thank God for and so much to celebrate. When we take time to celebrate, it helps us wait better and more patiently, too! If you’re waiting on brownies to bake, the wait goes by so much faster if you celebrate how good they will be when they’re done! When you’re waiting for all the fun Easter celebrations coming up, you can celebrate and thank God for sending us Jesus. You can even use your streamers to help you do that! **[Make it Personal]** (*Tell your family about a time you celebrated while you were waiting.*) **[Bottom Line]** **You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.”**

•• **PASS AND WAIT** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Bible, spoons and a plastic egg

What You Do:

- Quickly review Psalm 27:14 and ask if anyone wants to say it from memory.
- Sit in a circle.
- Give each person a spoon.
- Tell them that you will give one person a plastic egg, and they will say the first word of the Memory Verse. Then, they pass the egg to the person on their right, using only their spoon.
- That person will say the second word of the verse as they pass the egg to their right.
 - “Wait” (*pass egg*), “on” (*pass egg*), “the” (*pass egg*) and so on, until the entire verse has been recited.
- Whoever ends up with the last word of the Memory Verse is out of the game and can sit on the sidelines and celebrate their other teammates!
- Continue passing the egg and repeating the verse until there is only one person left.

What You Say: “Waiting isn’t so bad when you’re having a good time! Have you ever found yourself waiting for something, but the time flew by because you were having so much fun? (*Allow time for your family to think and share responses. If they have a hard time, prompt them with examples: Remember the long road trip we took, but we played a ton of fun games on the way so time went so fast!*) No matter where you find yourself waiting this week, remind yourself that **[Bottom Line]**

you can celebrate even when you're waiting."

●● **PRAY** [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: Palm branches from "Palm Sunday" activity

What You Do:

- Tell your family that even though there are fun things planned for Easter, we still have to wait for those things to arrive.
- Ask for a few examples of how we can celebrate while we wait for the big Easter celebrations.
- Close with the prayer below.
- After the prayer, encourage everybody to wave their palm branches while they shout, "Hosanna!"

What You Say: "Dear God, thank you for reminding us that waiting doesn't always have to be boring! If we look hard enough, there is joy and celebration to be found, even in the challenging times. When we are tempted to be irritated or impatient, remind us that **[Bottom Line] you can celebrate even when you're waiting.** Let our responses to waiting show the people around us that you are worth celebrating and praising! In Jesus' name. Amen!"

●● **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Looking for a devo for your kids? Looking for a personal devotional? Want to keep the conversation going? Check out the following resources at popmn.org/cm. Use them this week to continue the conversation around our **[Bottom Line]: When you have to wait, remember what's true.**

GodTime Card | A 4-day devotional for elementary-aged kids based this week's theme, kicked off on WOW @home

ParentCue | A tool for parents based on the weekly theme. Also available as an app, it sends alerts and encouragement specific to the age of your children (parentcue.org)

FAITH5 | A 6-day family devotional designed around Faith Inkubators' FAITH5

●● **WHAT'S NEXT**

We're taking next week off, but set a reminder to join us for WOW @home on Wednesday 04/07 at 6:00 pm live at [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/popchildrens) or [popmn.org/youtube](https://www.popmn.org/youtube) for a time of worship centered around the **[Bottom Line]: God made peace with us.**