



**March 29, 2026**

**Because of Jesus I Have Hope and Peace  
Elementary Leader Guide**

the place for kids to take their first steps with Jesus.

**WIN**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the Savior God promised, and the people celebrated with hope and joy. Kids will learn that God leads us to hope too and invites us into a forever relationship with Him through Jesus.

**BIBLE-** Jesus Entered Jerusalem- *Matthew 21:1-10, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19*

**TOOLS**

**Scan QR**



**At a Glance**



**The Code**



**Gospel Page**



**Leader Devos**

**SOCIAL TIME**

**The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.**

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. *\*\* Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.*

**Games and Music (10 minutes)**

*What You Need:* Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Palm Branch Scramble printable (1 per kid), Music and Music Player, Guess the Move Game on Roku

**What You Do:**

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let’s sit and listen to our story today.”

## Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

### Bible Story Recap- Say This

**Say,** What a surprise that God's Son rode into Jerusalem, not in a chariot or on a big fancy horse. Jesus rode in on a donkey! A what? (A donkey!) When He rode in, people called out, "Hosanna!" What did people call out? (Hosanna!) They said, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna means, "Save us!" People were filled with hope because they knew they needed to be rescued, and they knew Jesus was the One who could rescue them!

The people were filled with so much hope when Jesus rode into town. They trusted and were looking forward to God keeping a promise He gave long ago. God promised He would send a Savior, and Jesus was that Savior. But Jesus did not save the people from the things they thought they needed saving from. Jesus came to save people from their sins. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God, and sin deserves to be punished. But Jesus came to take the punishment for sin that we deserve by dying on a cross and coming back to life on the third day. Jesus showed that He is more powerful than sin and death and that following Him is the way we can have a forever relationship with God. We are meant to know God, and Jesus made the way for us to do just that!

When we wonder if there is anything we can always look forward to and know for sure will happen, we can remember that God leads us to hope. Our hope comes from knowing that God, who created the world and everything in it, loves us enough to make the way for us to know Him. That is the biggest Game Changer of all! Say, "God leads me to hope!" (God leads me to hope!)

Now, let's watch a video to learn more about how Jesus changes the game!

### The Gospel Video (10 minutes)

**Gospel Connection:** (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

It is such a Game Changer that Jesus gave up His life for us so that we could know God and love Him forever. That is worth celebrating, and it definitely leads us to hope! We can always have hope and look forward to the truth that God is with us, He loves us, and one day we will get to enjoy life with Him forever. The people in our Bible story celebrated that God kept His promise and sent a Savior. We can celebrate and have hope that Jesus makes the way for us to have a relationship with God! If you want to know more about this hope that we find in Jesus, ask me or one of our Campus Leaders today. We would love to talk with you more about this!

*God, we love You, and we thank You that we get to know You. Help us see how awesome You are and how much You love us. Forgive us for when we do what we think is best rather than following what You say is best. Help us see that there is hope even when we sin because You love us and forgive us. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve and change the game for us forever. Amen.*

**Palms and Crosses (20 minutes)**

**What You Need:** 1 palm frond per kid, Palm folding instruction page (1 per kid), folded crosses (for those who want to take a complete one home)

**What You Do:**

Set out the supplies. Make an example of the craft ahead of time.

Today we are going to make a cross to remind us of Jesus and all He came to do for each of us. I'm going to give each of you a palm frond and an instruction page. We are going to walk through each step together and I will help you if you need it.

*Leader Tip: There are folded crosses provided for kids who are concerned that their cross is not folded enough.*

**Say:** "Today we heard about the hope that the arrival of Jesus gave to the people in Jerusalem. Jesus offers us that same hope today if we choose to believe in Jesus and all that we are learning about Him. When you look at your cross, you can remember that Jesus came for you! That's something to be excited about! Not only can we have a relationship with Him, but we get to spread that hope to others around us.

**Keep It Going:** Walk around the room, waving your palm branches in the air and calling, "Hosanna!" and **"God leads me to hope!"**

**Loud And Clear:** These palm branches look so good! Today we read about how people in Jerusalem used palm branches to celebrate Jesus as He entered the city riding on a donkey. Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. He is the One who rescues us from what we deserve—a life separated from God—and gives us hope for a relationship with God. When we wave our palm branches, we can have hope that God loves us and saves us, like the people in our Bible story!

Hope is found in Jesus! He gives us everything He has- His strength, His love, His power, and His life! His life, death, and resurrection were all for us. If you have any questions about why Jesus' life, death and resurrection is so important, please talk with me or a campus leader today.

Let's chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What are some different things kids your age hope for and look forward to? What is it like when those things *actually* happen? What about if they do not happen? (*Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.*)
- The Bible tells us Jesus made a way for us to know God. Let's open our Bibles to **Matthew 21:8-9** and read about it together. (*Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.*) **When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, people celebrated because who they had hoped for finally arrived! How can this Bible story encourage us and remind us of true hope?** (*The hope we have in Jesus is something we can always count on and will never disappoint us.*)
- Jesus is the Savior the people in the Bible hoped for over many years, and He is still the Savior we need today. What differences do you think having Jesus as our Savior make in our lives? (*We have hope, peace, comfort, love, and security. We have a relationship with God now and forever.*) Do you have any questions about what it means to trust and follow Jesus? If anyone would like to ask questions or make the decision to trust and follow Jesus, you can talk with me. (*Allow kids to answer.*)
- In our world, we are sometimes disappointed when we look forward to something, and it does not happen. What is something you can look forward to and have hope in, no matter what is happening in your life? (*We can have hope that God loves us, and Jesus saves us.*)
- The Bible tells us we are meant to know God, and Jesus made the way for us to do that! Jesus changed the game by being the Savior and King we all need. What is something encouraging you will remember from today?

Is there anything you have questions about? (*Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.*) Let's pray and talk to God. (*Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.*)

*God, thank You for loving us and giving us a true hope of a forever relationship with You. Thank You for Jesus being the Savior we need to rescue us. Help us love You and know You more every day. Amen.*

God leads us to hope. When we wonder who we can count on and what we can look forward to, we can have hope in Jesus! God sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Trusting and following Jesus changes the game!

**GOING HOME**

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.