

Palm Sunday

March 26, 2023-
April 2, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-11

THEME: A Greater Type of King

SONG: CW21 502/ CW93 449
- Children of the Heavenly Father

VISUAL: A map of Great Britain; pictures of a king and a servant (or one picture of both); a cross; pictures of the Earth, the Milky Way Galaxy, and a rendition of heaven

OBJECT LESSON

Display a map of Great Britain. Explain that Great Britain is one of the countries on Earth that still has a king. Show the picture(s) of a servant and a king.

What do you think it would be like to be a king or queen?

What would it be like to be a servant who works for a king or someone else?

Would you rather be a servant or a king?
In God's Word today, we are going to hear about someone who was a king but decided to become a servant instead!

BIBLE TRUTH

Read verses 5-6.

The Bible says that Jesus has always been God. Does that make him more like a servant or a king? (a king)

Read verse 7.

When Jesus became a human being, what did he also become—a servant or a king? (a servant)

Read verse 8.

Jesus was like a servant because he obeyed God the Father. What was Jesus willing to do to obey his Father? (Show the cross to cue.) God the Father was so happy with Jesus for becoming a servant and saving us, that he did something special for Jesus.

Read verses 9-11.

What did God make Jesus once again—a servant or a king? (a king)

Does Jesus rule over just Great Britain? Show a picture of Earth. Does he rule over the entire Earth? What else does Jesus rule over? (Show pictures of the galaxy and heaven to cue.) Jesus is the greatest king of all. He rules over everyone and everything!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Would you want to give up being a king in order to become a servant and be nailed to a cross?

Why did Jesus do that?

What is Jesus now—our servant or our king?

Jesus loves us so much that he became a servant to save us—and now he's our king, taking care of us and ruling over everything for his people. How does knowing that Jesus is our king make you feel? Let's thank Jesus for being our wonderful, saving king!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for leaving your kingdom in heaven to come to earth as a servant to save us. We are so glad that you love us and are now ruling over us! We praise you for being our king! Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

Resurrection

April 3, 2023 -
April 9, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-10

THEME: He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life

SONG: CW21 438/ CW93 157 - Jesus Christ is Risen Today
If the children do not know the words, teach them to sing the Alleluias. Let them know that Alleluia means "praise the Lord."

VISUAL: Picture of a casket in the ground at a cemetery; picture or model of Jesus' tomb with stone in front of it

OBJECT LESSON

(Show the picture of a casket in the ground.)
If a grandma or grandpa dies, what do we usually do with their body?

Can a dead person who is in a casket, buried six feet deep in the ground, get out of the casket and walk around?

BIBLE TRUTH

Read the Bible story. Show a picture or model of Jesus' tomb with the stone in front of it. Explain that the stone was very, very heavy. Some estimates are that it could have weighed 1-2 tons! If you were put into a tomb with a stone that weighs a ton or more completely blocking the only opening to the tomb, would you be able to get out?

If you were dead when you were put there, would that make it easier or harder to get out?

Jesus was definitely dead when he was put into the tomb and the stone was placed at the entrance. It should have been impossible for Jesus to leave his tomb. But when the angels rolled the stone away, what could the women see?

Jesus had become alive again, and he had left the tomb. Had he needed to wait for the angels to roll the stone away and let him out?

How did the women know for sure that Jesus was alive?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Just like people who are buried in a cemetery, Jesus was dead. When we people die, can we make ourselves alive again?

We can't make ourselves alive again, but Jesus made himself come back to life. If Jesus could make himself live again, what can he do for us after we die?

Just as Jesus made himself come back to life, Jesus will do the same thing for us. He will raise us from the dead. Where will we go to be with our living Savior, Jesus?

Someday we'll get to live in heaven with Jesus, and no one will ever die again there! How does that make you feel?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we're so happy that you are rose from the dead! Thank you for promising to make us alive again and take us to heaven. We are excited that we will get to live with you there someday! Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 10, 2023–
April 16, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19–29

THEME: He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace

SONG: CW21 456/457 / CW93 165
– O Sons and Daughters of the King, st. 1, 4–8

VISUAL: Cast list for a play; smart phone

OBJECT LESSON

Imagine that you have tried out for a part in a school play. You are sure that you aren't very good at acting, so you don't think you'll get into the play, but you'd be thankful if you can even get a very small part. Then someone tells you that you got the leading role! Would it be easy for you to believe that? What proof might you need? (Show a cast list.)

Or what about this—imagine that you wrote a letter to someone very famous. Your brother or sister tells you, "Guess what? The person you wrote to is coming to our town just to meet you!" Would you believe that? What proof might you need? (Show the smart phone; perhaps a call from the person with the person's name on the caller i.d. and their voice on the other end would do it.)

Sometimes it's hard to believe news that seems too good to be true. And that was true for people back in Bible times as well, as we'll hear in today's Bible story.

BIBLE TRUTH

Read John 20:19a.

How did the disciples feel as they hid in a locked room after Jesus died?

Read verses 19b-20.

Jesus proved who he was by showing the disciples his nail marks. After they had proof that Jesus was alive, how did the disciples feel?

Read verses 21-25.

What did Thomas say he would need to see in order to believe that Jesus was alive?

Read verses 26-29.

Thomas had wanted proof. Did Jesus prove to Thomas that he was alive? How did Thomas feel then?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

The news that Jesus was alive seemed too good to be true. The disciples wouldn't believe it until they had proof. We also have proof that Jesus is alive—we find it in God's Word, the Bible. How does knowing that Jesus is alive make us feel?

Do you remember how the disciples were afraid? Jesus kept saying to them, "Peace be with you." What does it mean to have peace? (We aren't scared anymore. We trust that Jesus is taking care of us. We have the peace of forgiveness of sins.)

This world can be a scary place sometimes. We can get anxious and worried. We also sin and start feeling guilty. But that's not what Jesus wants for us. Why can we, like the disciples, have peace now? (Jesus is alive. He loves us. He forgives us. He has all power. He is taking care of us)

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for proving to your disciples and to us that you are alive! Help us not to be scared about what might happen to us. Give us the peace of forgiveness. Lead us to trust that you are taking care of us. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 17, 2023–
April 23, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:14a,32,33,36–38

THEME: He Lives to Restore My Hope

SONG: CW21 441/ CW93 152
– I Know That My Redeemer Lives st. 1,5–8

VISUAL: tablet or laptop with the “blue screen of death” or a picture of that screen

OBJECT LESSON

(Show the device with the “blue screen of death.”) Imagine that your tablet (laptop) is stuck on this screen. You go to your parents for help, and they tell you that they can’t fix it, and they can’t afford to buy you a new one. How would you feel? Would you start to lose hope that you’ll be able to have a working tablet (laptop) anytime soon?

Imagine that you tell your uncle about your broken device, and he says he might be able to fix it. Would you have hope again?

In today’s Bible story we are going to hear about something that Jesus’ disciple Peter told the people. Listen to find out if they had hope.

BIBLE TRUTH

Read Acts 2 verses 14a, 32, 33, 36.
Peter told the crowd of people that the person they had put to death on a cross—Jesus, God’s Son—was alive again and that God had made him Lord of all. The people had made sure Jesus died a terrible death on a cross. Now he was their ruler. Do you think they expected him to be kind to them after what they had done to him? Did they have any hope that they would be forgiven for what they had done?

But Peter gave the people good news. Listen to what happened next.

Read verses 37-38.
The people were very scared. They asked, “What should we do?” What did Peter tell them to do?

Peter told the people to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. God was going to forgive them! Whom was God even going to send to them? Do you think the people had hope after they heard that?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

You haven’t nailed Jesus to a cross. But you’ve done bad things—you’ve sinned. What are some sinful things that kids your age sometimes do?

When we think about all the sins we have done, we might start to lose hope. We might think that we can’t be forgiven, but instead Jesus will be angry at us and punish us. But does Jesus still love us? Does he forgive us?

What did Jesus do to take away our sins? Does that give you hope? It gives me hope too! We are forgiven! Jesus will take us to heaven someday. We never need to lose our hope again.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on a cross for our sins. Thank you for rising from the dead so that we have a living Savior. Help us never to lose hope, but instead to trust that you forgive us and will take us to heaven. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

4th Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2023-
April 30, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 10:1-10

THEME: He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

SONG: CW21 552/ CW93 375- The King of Love My Shepherd Is st. 1,3,4,6

VISUAL: Picture of a sheep; several children/volunteers; a small piece of chocolate for each volunteer; picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd

OBJECT LESSON

Ask if the children know what a shepherd does. Show a picture of a sheep and explain that a shepherd takes care of sheep. The shepherd leads them to places with food and water.

Ask for several children to volunteer. Have them pretend that they are the sheep and you are leading them to food. Have them follow you as you walk around. Be sure to call them by name! When you get to your destination, give each "sheep" a small piece of chocolate, and have them return to their seats.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. As you hear Jesus' words today, listen carefully to find out what he says a shepherd does.

Read John 10:1-6. What are some things a shepherd does? (He opens the gate to the sheep pen, calls the sheep by name, and has them follow him.)

Jesus says that he is something else besides our Good Shepherd. Listen to find out what else he is. Read John 10:7-10. What else does Jesus call himself? (the gate for the sheep) Jesus opens the way for his sheep to go somewhere. Where does Jesus lead us? (to heaven)

Jesus gives us something much better than food. Jesus shows us that he is the only way to heaven. All of us who have faith in Jesus as our Savior will follow him to heaven someday!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

(Display a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.) Let's think about how you can follow our Good Shepherd. I'm going to say some things that you might do. If what I say sounds like following Jesus, I want you to point to the picture of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. If what I say doesn't sound like following Jesus, shake your heads no.

Give a mixture of examples of things the children could do that would be examples of following Jesus (such as reading God's Word, singing praise to him, and being kind to others) as well as examples of sinful actions (such as hurting friends, disobeying parents, and taking someone else's possession without asking). Allow the children to point to the picture or shake their heads to show whether each action would be an example of following Jesus.

Let's do our best to follow Jesus as he leads us to heaven!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for us, your sheep, so that we can go to heaven someday. Strengthen our faith in you, the only way to heaven. Help us follow you in everything we do. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS