

YOU'RE INVITED

WEEK 4: MARCH 21 & 22

BIG IDEA

We can worship God out loud.

BIBLE

The Rocks Cry Out: Luke 19:37-40
(Psalm 105:2; Psalm 30:8-12)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

COUNTDOWN

Once it is time for class to start, begin the intro video. Instruct kids to clean up and then sit in their designated group spot. As kids sit down, Small Groups Leaders should sit with the kids in their group.

RULES

1. Listen to your small group leader.
 - Respect your leader and obey what they tell you.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
 - Be a good friend.
3. Have fun!

ACTIVITY: Party With No Sound

- Now who's ready to party? Think about the last party you went to. What did you like about it? We're going to act out our favorite party activities!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to choose their favorite party activity (Examples: dancing, eating, singing, playing a game, talking to friends, doing a craft). Tell them to start, but then stop and tell them to be completely silent. Give them a few seconds to do it silently. Tell them you're going to do it again, but they can talk like normal until you hold up your hand and say, "Quiet." Then they have to continue doing their activity silently. You might want to make it a contest and eliminate the groups that are the last to become silent each time you hold up your hand.*
- It wouldn't be very fun to be at a party with no sound or talking, would it? In our Bible story today, we will learn about some people who tried to silence a group of people who were celebrating.

QUESTION: What's your favorite worship song? ▲

- **What's your favorite worship song?**
- **Why is it your favorite?**

THE BIG IDEA: We can worship God out loud. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - *Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
 - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)*
 - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
 - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week's Big Idea: **We can worship God out loud.**

SO WHAT?

BIBLE STORY: Luke 19:37-40 ▲

- Over the past few weeks we have been having a party here at church. We've learned about worship and prayer, worshiping by how we live, and the importance of worshiping in hard times. Today, we're going to talk about what could happen if we *don't* worship. I'll give you a hint: it has to do with rocks.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- In this Bible story, Jesus was coming into Jerusalem for the Passover. As He was coming down the road, a big group of people gathered and started shouting praises to Him for the miracles they had seen Jesus do.
- But there were some people who were standing there who weren't happy: the Pharisees. Pharisees were religious teachers who were annoyed by the disciples praising Jesus, so they told Jesus to make them be quiet.
- **How did Jesus respond?** Jesus told them that if the people kept quiet, the rocks would cry out. Could you imagine? If the people didn't praise God, Jesus said the stones would praise Him.
- **Do you want the rocks to praise God in your place?** I don't know about you, but I don't want to be so quiet that a rock has to start worshiping in my place.
- We don't have to be quiet. We can sing and shout and praise God for what He has done for us. **We can worship God out loud.**

OBJECT LESSON: Make Glasses Sing ▲

- **Do you think a glass of water can sing?** On its own, it can't, but if we do a little trick, we can make this glass of water sing a beautiful song.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this a few times before the service, so you know how hard to press to get the glasses to make a sound. Fill the glasses halfway with water and make sure your finger and the rim of the glass are clean. Dip your finger in water to get it wet, then press down and run your finger around the rim of the glass without stopping. You can change the way it sounds by adjusting how hard you press down. You can use different glasses with different amounts of water in them and press down at varying levels to get different notes and songs from the glasses of water.*
- We know this glass of water didn't really "sing a song." So when the Bible talks about rocks or the whole earth singing praises to God (Psalm 66:4), we know trees and rocks and mountains don't really sing songs either.
- When the Bible tells us the earth sings God's praises, it means that everything God created reminds us of Him because He made it, and He makes good things.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 105:2 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- We can pray and talk to God quietly, but sometimes God wants us to sing and say our praises to Him out loud.
- The Bible talks a lot about praising God through song. It says to "sing praises to God" 115 times! The whole book of Psalms is a collection of songs that were written to praise God, and several people in the Bible recorded songs they sang to God in response to something He did for them that was good.
- **Why do you think singing is an important way to praise God?**
- **Do you enjoy singing to God?**
- **Do you think singing is a good way to worship, even if you don't feel like you're a good singer?**

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION: Palm Branches and Hosanna ▲

- Since we're talking about worshipping God, let's act out the scene with a few modern changes of Jesus riding into Jerusalem while people shouted praises to Him!
- **What did people wave around when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey?** (Palm branches.)

- Did you know that during Jesus' time period palm branches meant victory, peace, or triumph? **So what were people signifying about Jesus?**
- **Also, does anyone know what the word "Hosanna" means?** It is a word that means deliverance, praise, or joy.
- The crowd was praising Jesus because He is the Christ and people thought that He was going to deliver them from the oppressive Romans and to establish His kingdom, but Jesus actually came to deliver us from sin and to bring us peace with God. What a wonderful thing that Jesus did!

MUSIC: Worship ▲

We just learned about the symbolism (meaning) of the palm branches and the word "Hosanna". We are now going to apply this in action and song.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two paper palm branches. Sing the song "Hosanna" by Hillsong.
- Remember, when you worship, you can let loose and have fun as you sing and dance for God!
- Let's praise Him together, because He is good!

ACTIVITY: Praise Party Musical Chairs ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If you're playing the hula hoop version of this activity, set out enough hula hoops for all the kids in your group to fit inside them. Form the hula hoops into a circle on the ground. If you're playing musical chairs, set out enough chairs in a circle for everyone in your group, minus one. Play the worship music and encourage the kids to sing and dance to it until the music stops. When the music stops, they will all jump into the nearest hula hoop (or sit on a chair). Whoever doesn't fit or doesn't get a chair will be out. Keep playing, taking away a hula hoop or a chair each round, until you have only one hula hoop or chair left.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Set up a few hula hoops on the side for the child with special needs to jump in and out of while singing and dancing.
- As we're playing this game, make sure you sing as loud as you can. We are having a party—a praise party!

MEMORY VERSES: John 4:24; Psalm 66:4 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have each child say a different word of the verse as you go around a circle. If someone messes up then you must start at the beginning of the verse. Continue around the circle as many times until you have said both verses.

DISCUSSION ▲

- **In the Bible story, what were the disciples doing as Jesus was coming down the road?** (*Praising Him and shouting out loud.*)
- **Why did the Pharisees get upset?** (*Because the people were praising Jesus.*)
- **What did Jesus say would happen if the disciples kept quiet?** (*The rocks would cry out.*)
- **Are you more like the Pharisees or the disciples, and why?**
- **How can you worship God when you're not at church?**
- **What is your favorite worship song to sing to God?**
- **What is one reason you can praise God today?**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 30:8-12 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What was the writer of this Psalm feeling? Why was he praising God?**
- **Do you feel like your heart is singing God's praises?**
- **Is there anything keeping you from praising God?**

ACTIVITY: Painting Encouragement Rocks ▲

- We've been talking this month about partying for Jesus! We've talked about praising God through prayer, worshiping by how we live, worshiping during hard times, and today we talked about worshiping God out loud. Our Bible story today had to do with rocks. In the Bible, people sometimes used rocks to build altars of praise to God. In Joshua 4, we read about when the Israelites crossed the Jordan river and made a pile of rocks to thank God for bringing them into the Promised Land and remember all He had done for them.
- We're going to paint some rocks with reminders that we can praise God because He has been good to us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cover your small group table to allow for messes. Use acrylic paint and paint brushes, small cups of water, and paint pens. Give each child a rock and let them paint their rock with an encouraging message or picture on it to inspire someone else to praise God. You can also cover the rocks in an acrylic sealant if you want to make them weather-proof. You may want to search for ideas online and print out pictures to give kids ideas for their rocks.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Prepare a rock ahead of time with an encouraging message written on it, so your child with special needs can still participate and paint that rock in their own creative way.*
- You can take your rocks home and find some where public to leave your rock so someone who needs it can find it.
- **How do you hope your rock encourages someone?**

MEMORY VERSES: John 4:24; Psalm 66:4 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice the memory verse together as a group.*

PRAYER ▲

INSTRUCTIONS: *Take some time to pray together as a small group.*

Points: Kids get points for things listed below. Add weekly points and insert that number next to their name for the given week. ▲

- Dot Stickers 10 Points
- Bring your Bible to class 50 Points
- Memorize monthly verses 50 points/verse
- Attend Redeemer's Kids Class 100 Points
- Bring a friend who doesn't attend Redeemer's 100 Points
- **Weekly Postcard Points:** *(Put check mark next to each you've given them points for)*
 - Memorized Weekly Big Idea 50 Points
 - Read Bible Daily 100 Points