

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Device with internet access, large screen, speakers</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Device with internet access, large screen, large piece of mural paper, colored printer paper, printer, kid scissors, glue sticks</p>
Upper Elementary	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Device with internet access, speakers, large screen</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Devices with internet access, enough for one per group of 3-4 kids; device with a slide show application, large screen, lined paper, pens and pencils</p>
All Kids	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Device with internet access</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Large screen, device with internet access, paper, coloring supplies</p>



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [www.wearesparkhouse.org](http://www.wearesparkhouse.org) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.



**Workshop Focus:** Jesus rises and lifts us up.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

**Set Up:** Search for a recording of Keith Green’s “Easter Song.” Have it ready to play during the lesson.

#### Activity Instructions

**Hello, kids! Today we’ll learn about the journey Jesus took from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. How many of you think of bunnies when you hear the word Easter? Do you really think bunnies had anything to do with the original Bible story? Let’s look at what was part of the story: a celebration with palms, a big supper, and a lot of suffering for Jesus. But guess what? In the end, nothing could hold back Jesus and his love for us—not even death!**

Pass out Spark Story Bibles. The Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday journey is covered in these stories: Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Jesus Is Betrayed, Christ the King, The Day Jesus Died, and The Empty Tomb on pages 454-487. Because of the length of these combined passages, select the ones you want to read to the class in the allotted time, or read abridged portions from each. Then play the “Easter Song” by Keith Green.

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles

**Supplies**  
Device with internet access  
Speakers

**What did you like about the song? How did it make you feel? What was your favorite part of the song? What does the song say about Jesus?** Accept all answers. **Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead on Easter morning is an important part of our faith and shows how much he loves us.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Love Lifts Us

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**Set Up:** Search online for the outline of a balloon. Print the image on different colors of paper. Print a picture of your church building. Paste the church photo in the center of the mural paper. Search online for a clip from the movie *Up* where the balloons are released and the house goes into the sky. Queue up this scene on your device and connect it to your screen.

#### Activity Instructions

- There's been a lot going on at church lately. We have a lot of special days leading up to Jesus's death and resurrection. But today, we're going to focus on the resurrection, when Jesus comes back to life and ascends, or goes, to Heaven. When Jesus rose from the dead and went to Heaven, he fulfilled the promise that God is more powerful than death, and that we will have eternal life. Why do you think Jesus went to Heaven?** Allow all answers.
- We don't know how Jesus got to Heaven—they didn't have planes back then—but now there are a lot of ways you can travel—rockets, planes, balloons! We're going to watch a video clip of a man who decides to take a trip into the sky.** Gather kids around the screen and play the scene from *Up*.
- Just like those balloons lifted the man, Jesus lifts us up by loving us. We see the love of Jesus through special people and things in our lives—maybe a hug from your grandma, or when your dog or cat cuddles with you. What are ways that Jesus lifts you up and makes you feel happy and loved?** Listen to kids' responses.
- We're going to create a mural about how Jesus lifts us up.** Place mural paper on a table. **Everyone point to the picture of the church on this paper. Notice how church is all alone on the page? Let's find a way to lift it up. We're going take paper balloons and write or draw ways that Jesus lifts people up.**
- Ask Shepherds to distribute balloons and coloring supplies. **Cut out the balloons and glue them onto the mural. Once the mural is full of balloons, draw a string to connect the balloons to the church.** Keep the glue sticks with you, and have shepherds help with scissors if the kids are struggling. Find a place to display the mural in a public space within the church. **Jesus died and rose to show us love and to lift us up. We can share that love with everyone we meet.**

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Device with internet access  
Large screen  
Large piece of mural paper  
Colored printer paper  
Printer  
Kid scissors  
Glue sticks

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**As we leave today, remember that Jesus lifted us up when he went to heaven. He's listening to you, looks out for you, and cares for you.**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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Ask kids to gather in a circle. **As I pray, please repeat each line after me.**

**Dear God,**

**From the palms in the street,** (echo)

**And the shouts of Hosanna!** (echo)

**To the very last supper,** (echo)

**And his lonely betrayal,** (echo)

**Jesus kept walking.** (echo)

**He never looked back.** (echo)

**To the cross he kept going.** (echo)

**He never lost track.** (echo)

**We thank you for giving** (echo)

**The gift of your son,** (echo)

**Who brings us together** (echo)

**And loves everyone!** (echo)

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** Jesus takes the hard road to the cross to save us.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

**Set Up:** Before class, search for video clips of Palm Sunday celebrations in Jerusalem. Have one or two of these ready to show during the lesson.

#### Activity Instructions

Pass out Spark Bibles. Ask the kids if they know where the book of Luke is. Then invite them to turn to the Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday passages (Luke 19:28-40; 22:14—23:56; 24:1-12) on pages 1159-1160 and 1163-1168, which tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection. Because of the large number of verses, abridge the reading to accommodate any time constraints, or skip the video portion. Invite kids to place an "I Read It" sticker in their Bible. **Let's take a look at how people celebrate Palm Sunday in the place Jesus lived.**

**How did the people celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?** (waved palm branches, shouted "Hosanna to the King.") **How did the people feel about Jesus being their king? How did the church leaders feel?** Accept kids' answers. **Now let's watch a video that shows what Easter celebrations are like in Jerusalem. What do you think it would've been like to see Jesus make his triumphant entry into Jerusalem?** Allow kids to share their responses.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Device with internet access  
Large screen  
Speakers

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Signs and Symbols

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**Set Up:** Make a list of symbols associated with Palm Sunday and Easter (examples include palm branches, donkeys, lilies, crucifix, empty tomb, eggs, candy, baby chicks, and butterflies). Using a slide show application, place an image of each symbol on a slide.

### Activity Instructions

- The events that occurred occurred between Palm Sunday and Easter are some of the most important events in the life of Jesus. This season is when we celebrate Jesus' sacrifice and his victory over sin and death. What parts of this story have you heard before? What parts are exciting? What parts are hard to hear? What parts bring you joy?** Allow kids to discuss.
- Today, we're going to research Easter symbols. We often use symbols as a way to remember something without words. They are like signs that point us back to a story or idea we've heard before. I've found a bunch of symbols that help us remember the story of this important week in Jesus' life. I will assign one symbol to each group of 3-4 kids. I want you to read about this symbol online. Use paper and pencil to take notes. When you're done, bring me your notes, and I'll use them to make a slide show to share with the class.**
- Give each group a device. Ask Shepherds to help kids with their research. As groups bring you their notes, put them in the same order as the symbols on the slides. When you have all the notes, use them to narrate through the slide show. Invite each group to add any additional information about their symbol.
- Thanks for your wonderful research. There are many important symbols of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, but the cross is the one we remember the most. The cross used to be a horrible symbol of torture and death. Because of Jesus, the cross is now a symbol of hope and a promise that we are saved and loved and forgiven.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Devices with internet access,  
enough for one per group of  
3-4 kids

Device with a slide show  
application

Large screen

Lined paper

Pens and Pencils



# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Isn't the Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday story incredible? In one week, we see it all: Christ adored, Christ arrested, Christ in pain, Christ on the cross, Christ in the tomb . . . and Christ resurrected. Jesus took a long, painful road to the cross. Why? For us. Because he loves us and saves us.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

## Prayer Time

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Ask kids to gather in a circle. **Let's thank God for his most precious gift of all. Recite this prayer with me and imitate my motions:**

**Dear God,**  
**Jesus rode into Jerusalem,**  
**The palms laid down before him.** (wave palms)  
**But soon the celebration**  
**Gave way to signs of warning.**  
**One more final supper,** (eating motions)  
**And Jesus was arrested.** (hands out in cuffs)  
**They nailed him to a cross.**  
**At death's door he was tested.** (heads down)  
**But Jesus rose again,** (heads up)  
**And walked out of the grave,** (stride in place)  
**His love to share forever,**  
**Our very souls to save.**  
**Thank you, Jesus!**  
**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** In living and giving up his life, Jesus gives us life.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

#### Activity Instructions

Search online for pictures of types of Roman crosses. Have these ready to look at during the lesson.

Pass out Spark Bibles and Spark Story Bibles. Invite older kids to turn to Luke 19:28-40; 22:14—23:56; 24:1-12 on pages 1159-1160 and 1163-1168 of their Spark Bibles, the story Jesus' journey to the cross and his resurrection. Younger kids can follow the action in their Spark Story Bibles, on pages 454-487. Because of the length of these passages, abridge readings as you see fit, in accordance with time constraints. Go around the group with each older kid reading one verse from the selected Spark Bible passages.

**In these passages, Jesus experiences many dramatic situations. For most earthly kings, the story might end on a day like Palm Sunday—a great celebration where you become the king, right? But Jesus is on a very different path. Instead of being powerful, Jesus chooses to give up his life, and in the end, the same crowds that cheered him as a leader treat him as a common criminal.**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Device with internet access  
Large screen

**In Roman times, crucifixion was a common method to execute criminals. Did you know that the Romans used at least three different kinds of crosses to punish people? Here are pictures of the crosses the Romans used.** Show images to group, allowing time for kids to discuss what they see in the picture.

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Life From Death

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**Set Up:** Search online for a video describing the importance of natural wildfires in forests. Connect your device to the large screen.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Activity Instructions

- In the Bible stories we've been studying lately, we've learned about the death of Jesus. This week we talked about Jesus being celebrated as a king on Palm Sunday. The people didn't know he would die soon. What do you think it was like for the people to discover that Jesus had died?** Allow for kids' responses. **Jesus' death was sad, but his dying and rising from death brings the promise of eternal life to all who believe. Maybe it seems strange for life to come from death. That's what we're going to talk about today.**
- Have you ever heard of a sequoia tree? They're giant, old trees that require forest fires to grow. That seems a little weird, doesn't it? A tree needing fire to live. Let's watch a video that explains it.**
- Gather kids around the screen and play the video about forest fires.
- What was surprising about that video? What wasn't surprising? How do you think the forest rebirth is similar to Jesus' resurrection?** (*Death leads to new life. Both examples can be sad, but they are also something to be celebrated.*)
- Distribute paper and coloring supplies. **To remind ourselves of the new life Jesus gives us when he dies, I want you to draw a forest of big sequoia trees. Once you have your forest, draw a cross among the trees to remind you that these are all symbols of life coming from death. Show this picture to a friend or family member. Tell them what you learned about death and resurrection.**

#### Supplies

Device with internet access  
Large screen  
Paper  
Coloring supplies

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Today's story is a big one! It starts with a parade fit for a king and ends with Jesus being our king!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

Palm leaves or a suitable substitute

## Prayer Time

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Ask kids to gather in a circle and pass out the palms. **As we pray today, take the palm and remember Jesus, both the way he began this story and the way he ended it: as a glorious king. Repeat each line after me.**

<b>Good and gracious God,</b>	(echo)
<b>We thank you for the life of your Son</b>	(echo)
<b>Who taught us how to love</b>	(echo)
<b>Who taught us compassion</b>	(echo)
<b>Who lived with courage</b>	(echo)
<b>And treated others with care.</b>	(echo)
<b>To the very end of that life</b>	(echo)
<b>Jesus gave of himself</b>	(echo)
<b>And we salute him</b>	(echo)
<b>With shouts of Hosanna!</b>	(echo)
<b>Hosanna! Hosanna!</b>	(echo)
<b>Jesus lives! Jesus lives!</b>	(echo)
<b>And long live the one and only king of our hearts.</b>	(echo)
<b>Thanks be to God!</b>	(echo)
<b>Amen.</b>	