

WEEK 1

K-4 LESSON



Need to Know: *God's Plan Is the Best Ever*

Bible Story: *Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Crucifixion, & Resurrection*

Circle Up



1. WELCOME kids to church, and TELL them your name. Then SAY: *I can't wait to get to know you! (SHOW the **bag** with **eggs** inside) When it's your turn, you will reach inside the bag, without looking, and choose one egg. I will ask you a question based on the color of the egg you chose.*
2. PASS the **bag** to a child, allowing him/her to say his/her name and select one **egg** from it. Then ASK the child a question from the **Egg Question Sheet** based on the color of **egg** he/she selects.
3. CONTINUE until every child has had a turn to introduce themselves and answer a question from the **Egg Question Sheet** and they can do their coloring sheet during check-in time as well.
4. Then SAY:
 - *Now we know something new about each other! Today we're going to find out something about God that you may not have known.*
 - *Did you know that God has a plan just for you? He does! It is the best plan ever! Let me hear you say this after me:*
God's Plan (make book with hands)
Is the Best Ever (two thumbs up)

Read the Bible



1. SAY: *As we read God's great plan, I'm going to need you to help me. I will give some of you a **Prop Card**. Keep your Card still and in your lap until your time in the story comes! When I say what is on your Card, show your Card to the group, and then put it in the center of the circle.*
2. GIVE each child one of the **Prop Cards** (Heart, Lamb, Earth, Donkey, Coat, Palm Branch, Jewish Leader, Pharaoh, Money, Bread, Cup, Cross, Praying Hands).
3. READ the **Bible Story Sheet** to the group, allowing kids to show their **Prop Card** and place it in the middle of the circle as you read. *NOTE: Some kids will lay down their **Cards** at the same time.
4. COLLECT **Prop Cards** and put them away.

Let's Practice



1. SAY: *Now we're going to play "Pictionary" to help us remember that God's plans are the best!*
2. PLAY "Pictionary" using the **dry erase board**, **dry erase marker**, and **paper towel**. ALLOW one child at a time to choose a **Pictionary Card** from the **bag** without showing the rest of the group what it is and give the **Card** to you. Quickly DRAW the picture on the **dry erase board**, allowing the group to watch as you draw.
 - Grades 2-4 OPTION: ALLOW kids to draw if they would like to.
3. GIVE the group five guesses to name the picture. If they've used all of their guesses, the child who chose the **Card** will tell the group what the picture is.
4. After the picture is either correctly guessed or revealed, READ the corresponding question from the **Leader Guide**, allowing the group to respond.
5. REPEAT steps 2-4 until all questions have been read from the **Leader Guide** or as time allows.
6. After the game, COLLECT the **dry erase board**, **Pictionary Cards**, **dry erase marker**, and **paper towel**.
7. **SANITIZE** kids' hands, **CHECK** kids' tags for allergies, and GIVE each child a piece of **candy**.
8. SAY: *You did a great job guessing the pictures! This game reminded us that God always has a plan for our lives and that His plan is the best ever! Let's say that together again:*
God's Plan (make book with hands)
Is the Best Ever (two thumbs up)

OPTION 2: Palm Scratch Off Craft

- Give each child a palm scratch off and a utensil. Allow them to make their own design or give suggestions. Help children tie the ribbon on the top so they can hang it at home! See other sheet for example.

Memorize It

4

1. SAY: *I don't want you to forget that God's plan is the best ever, so let's play a fun game to help us remember.*
 2. PRACTICE saying the Need to Know with the group two times, having them repeat with the motions.
God's Plan (make book with hands)
Is the Best Ever (two thumbs up)
 3. PLAY "JELLO" with the Need to Know.
 - HAVE kids sit in a circle and hold out both hands with palms up.
 - HAVE kids place their left palm under the right palm of their neighbor.
 - As they go around the circle, HAVE kids use their right hand (that's on top) to gently clap their neighbor's hand (that's laying on their left hand) as they say the next word of the Need to Know.
 - On the last word, the person being clapped will try to move their hand without being clapped.
 - If they get clapped, they're out. If the person clapping doesn't clap their neighbor's hand, they're out.
 - CONTINUE to play, reviewing the Need to Know until only one child remains.
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Let's Pray

5

HAVE children think about one person they want to invite to come to church in two weeks for Easter. Then PRAY the following for your group:

- *Father God, thank You for having the best plan ever. We pray that each person these children thought of inviting will come to church this Easter so they can know that You love them and have a great plan for their lives, too. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!*
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Stay Together

6

KEEP kids engaged in Small Group until they are checked out by doing the following activities:

- ALLOW children to finish their **Coloring Sheet**.
- ALLOW kids to take turns using the **dry erase marker** to draw a picture on the **dry erase board** for the rest of the group to guess.
- PLAY a version of "Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?" with the **egg**.
 - TELL kids to close their eyes.
 - While kids' eyes are closed, GIVE the **egg** to one child, and ALLOW him/her to hide the **egg** (under leg, behind back, in hands, etc.) while everyone's eyes are still closed.
 - TELL kids to open their eyes.
 - ALLOW kids to guess who has the **egg**.
- USE the **bag of eggs** from "Circle Up" and HAVE the group say/do the following based on the color of **egg** selected:
 - **Purple** - Stand and spin in a circle
 - **Orange** - Quack like a duck
 - **Blue** - HAVE kids repeat the Next to Know after you: **God's Plan** (make book with hands) **Is the Best Ever** (two thumbs up)
 - **Green** - Hop up and down like a bunny
 - **Yellow** - Flap arms like a chicken
 - **Pink** - Give three high-fives
- PLAY "Would You Rather" by asking the following questions:
 - *Would you rather have one giant jelly bean or 50 normal-sized jelly beans?*
 - *Would you rather have a fluffy tail or big floppy ears?*
 - *Would you rather search for Easter eggs in the desert or on the bottom of a lake?*
 - *Would you rather have 100 prize eggs to share with a friend or 20 prize eggs all to yourself?*
 - *Would you rather eat chocolate eggs or hard boiled eggs?*