



# GOODNESS – WEEK 1

A heart that reflects the excellent  
character of God



***“A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart,  
and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.  
What you say flows from what is in your heart.”  
Luke 6:45***

## **PARENT DEVO**

*(Parents, this is for you to do ahead of  
time to help prepare your hearts to lead  
your kids.)*

**READ** Matthew 21:1-11 and Luke 19:28-40. What is similar and different about these two versions of Jesus' triumphal entry? What's the difference between this crowd and the crowd Jesus encountered a week later in Luke 23:13-25?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Palm branches were symbols of Jewish nationalism and victory, common on coins and in synagogues. Coats were laid on the ground for a king. This crowd thought Jesus was there to free them from the Romans, and they quickly turned on Him when they realized that wasn't His plan.

**REFLECTION:** Psalm 103. What verses stand out to you? Make a list of all the words that come to mind when you think about God. How does this list impact the way you live your life, spend your time, and interact with others? Write your own psalm of praise to God from the list you made.

**PRAY:** Think about some of your favorite attributes of God and thank Him for who He is. Ask God to prepare your heart to celebrate Easter this year. Thank Him for all the ways you have seen Him work in your life recently.

## **Finish Line:**

**The excellent character of God deserves our praise!**

## **MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 19:28-40  
Palm Sunday

## **LESSON MATERIALS:**

- Paper
- Bible
- Palm leaf page
- Popsicle sticks
- Tape

## **How to use this lesson:**

- Everything that is **bolded** is meant to be read out loud. The rest is either instructions, answers to questions or suggestions for supplies.
- The Finish Line is the key point for the lesson.
- Watermark Kids uses the New Living Translation (NLT) Bible. You can find this translation at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).



## Activity 1

Before you start, find two pieces of paper. On one, you can write “the excellent character of God” or draw a thumbs up. On the other, you can write “not a character trait of God” or draw a thumbs down.

**Our finish line today says: The excellent character of God deserves our praise! What are some of God’s character traits?** Loving, kind, just, holy, forgiving, etc. **Let’s play a game to help us learn more about God’s character!** Hang the thumbs up sign on one side of the room and the thumbs down sign on the opposite side of the room. **I’m going to say a word, and your job is to decide if the word is describing the excellent character of God or not. If it is one of God’s excellent character traits, you will move (walk/hop/crawl/skip/etc.) to this thumbs up sign, but if it is not you will move (walk/hop/crawl/skip/etc.) to this thumbs down sign. Ready?** Read some of the different character traits listed below and let the kids move to the sign. You can ask the kids for more ideas of how to move.

### Character traits

- The excellent character of God: kind, holy, loving, just, faithful, good, forgiving, compassionate, merciful, joyful
- Not a character trait of God: mean, selfish, hurtful, forgetful, afraid, unloving

**Great job! Let’s learn about how the excellent character of God deserves our praise through the life of Jesus.**

## Storytime

Read **Luke 19:28-40** in the NLT Bible. Then discuss the following questions:

- **How did the people know that Jesus deserved their praise?** They heard about and had seen the miracles He did (vs. 37).
- **Did everyone think Jesus deserved their praise?** No, the Pharisees didn’t. They wanted the disciples to stop praising Jesus (vs. 39).
- **What did Jesus say would happen if the disciples stopped praising Him?** The rocks/stones would praise Him! (vs. 40)

Additional story options:

- Read “**Triumphal Entry**” from the Gospel Story Bible by Marty Machowski on pages 216-217.

- Watch “**The Story of Easter (The Triumphal Entry)**” by Saddleback Kids or “**God’s Story: Palm Sunday**” by Crossroads Kids Club on YouTube.

## Activity 2

**Have you ever heard a rock praise God? What do you think it might sound like?** Answers will vary. **What might the rocks say?** God is good, Jesus is the Son of God, etc. **Those are great ideas, but I don’t think that God wants to hear the rocks praise Him instead of us. What are some different ways we can praise God and His excellent character, so the rocks don’t have to?**

Sing praise songs, pray and thank Him for who He is, read and memorize His Word and share it with others. **Yes! Just like our finish line says, the excellent character of God deserves our praise!**

*Parents, for this activity you can print out the palm leaf activity sheet or draw your own – whatever works best for your situation!*

**I have a palm leaf for each of you. I want you to write the finish line on the back. On the front, you can either draw a picture of you praising God or write a sentence praising Him.** Give each kid a paper with a palm leaf outline on it. After they have drawn/written on it, help them cut it out and tape a popsicle stick to it so they can hold it up. Then let the kids take turns sharing how they can praise God. After each kid shares, say the finish line all together: **The excellent character of God deserves our praise!**

**The people of Jerusalem praised Jesus on Palm Sunday because they witnessed his excellent character as the Son of God. Even though we cannot see Jesus, we can read about His character through the Bible. Let’s pray and praise God for His excellent character!** This week try letting the kids have a part in the prayer! You can give them a prompt, saying something like, “God, we praise you because you are...” and then let the kids each say one word about God.

**DEFINITION:**

**A heart** (palms over heart) **that reflects** (point to palm then point away) **the excellent** (two thumbs up) **character of God** (point up).

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**A good** (thumbs up) **person produces good** (thumbs up) **things from the treasury of a good** (thumbs up) **heart, and an evil** (thumbs down) **person produces evil** (thumbs down) **things from the treasury of an evil** (thumbs down) **heart. What you say** (point to mouth) **flows from what is in your heart** (palms over heart).

**Luke 6:45**