



Family  
Ministries

Having faith in the family



# JUMP In!

Leaping into Faith with Little Ones

## SPRINGTIME

A seven-week series outline  
including Lent, Mother's Day and Easter.  
For use with Pre-school children.

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- *The Play-Along Bible, Bob Hartman*
- Percussion instruments
- Instrument songs

# Springtime



## SESSION ONE: PANCAKE DAY AND LENT



### BIBLE STORY

Matthew 4:1-4  
Jesus in the desert

#### Note

*Talk about how Pancake Day in the UK is also known as Shrove Tuesday and it is traditionally a day of fun and feasting before the 40 days of Lent start on Ash Wednesday.*

*There are 40 days in Lent to prepare for Easter because Jesus went to the desert for 40 days to prepare for his ministry.*

*Lent is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter, just as Advent helps us prepare to celebrate Christmas.*

*You can also talk about the food we eat at special times and why we eat pancakes.*



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

#### 1. Theme Song

*(Tune: 'Thank you, God, for this fine day')*

Thank you, God, for pancakes round,  
Thank you, God, for pancakes round,  
Thank you, God, for pancakes round,  
Frying in the pan!

Thank you, God, for food to eat,  
Thank you, God, for food to eat,  
Thank you, God, for food to eat,  
At celebration times.

#### 2. 'Pancake Day' by Christina Rossetti

Mix a pancake,  
Stir a pancake,  
Pop it in the pan.  
Fry the pancake,  
Toss the pancake,  
Catch it if you can.

### CRAFT IDEAS

- Paint pancakes using food colouring or softened jams and spreads.
- Bring pancakes for families to eat with a variety of toppings for them to try.
- Make cardboard cut-out frying pans and pancakes and have fun trying pancake races.
- For more craft ideas check our [Pinterest](#).



### PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the different food we eat to celebrate special times of year. As this week we eat pancakes, we remember that Lent is a special time of preparing for Easter, and we ask that you will help us to be kind and caring to others during this time.  
Amen.



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## SESSION TWO: SPRING 1 - FLOWERS



### BIBLE STORY

Song of Songs 2:11-12 (NLT)

'Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come.'

Genesis 1:9-13

#### ***The Play-Along Bible***

'Land Ho', p7

#### **Note**

*Talk about the changing seasons and how we can see signs of Spring around us.*



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. Theme Song

*(Tune: 'London Bridge is falling down')*

Thank you, God, for flowers that grow,  
Flowers that grow, flowers that grow,  
Thank you, God, for flowers that grow,  
In the springtime.

2. 'All things bright and beautiful'

3. 'Mary, Mary quite contrary'

### CRAFT IDEAS

- Make or paint springtime flowers – daffodils are easy to do using egg cartons or cake cases for the middle.
- For more craft ideas check our [Pinterest](#).



### PRAYER

Thank you, God, for all the signs of Spring we can see around us – daffodils and crocuses flowering, leaves and buds on the trees, lighter nights and mornings. We are so looking forward to Spring. Amen.



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## SESSION THREE: SPRING 2



### BIBLE STORY

Song of Songs 2:11-12 (NLT)

'Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come.'

#### Note

*Talk about how Spring is a time of new life and a time when lots of baby animals are born.*

Luke 15:1-7

#### The Play-Along Bible

'Runaway Sheep', p76

#### Note

*Talk about how sheep are mentioned lots of times in the Bible and tell the story of the Runaway Sheep and how the Good Shepherd celebrates when he finds it.*



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

#### 1. Theme Song

*(Tune: 'Here we go round the mulberry bush')*

This is the way the bunny hops, bunny hops,  
bunny hops,  
This is the way the bunny hops  
On a springtime morning.

This is the way the little chick walks ...

This is the way the little lamb runs ...

#### 2. 'Baa, baa black sheep'

#### 3. 'Old McDonald had a farm'

### PRAYER

#### Action Prayer

Thank you, God, for all the baby animals that are born in Spring.  
Thank you for the soft fur of the rabbits, their long ears and their fluffy tails.

Thank you for the little chicks that cheep and chirp.  
Thank you for the lambs that run through the fields.

Thank you for Springtime.  
Amen.



### CRAFT IDEAS

- Make baby animal masks using paper plates.
- For more craft ideas check our [Pinterest](#).



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## SESSION FOUR: MOTHER'S DAY



### BIBLE STORY

Luke 4: 38-39

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law

Ask the children about their Mum and everything they do for them. Talk about all the women who love and help them – Mum, Grandma, Auntie, Godmother etc, and how special they are.

There are a number of stories about good mothers in the Bible. For example, you could also use:

Exodus 2:1-10

#### ***The Play-Along Bible***

'River Baby', p30

#### **Note**

*If possible, prepare a small take-home gift for all the women present in the group and any single dads.*



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

#### 1. Theme Song

(Tune: 'Row, row, row your boat')

Help, help, help your mum,  
Help her every day.  
Eat your fruit and vegetables –  
To grow big that's the way!

Help, help, help your mum,  
Help her every day.  
Tidy all your toys and games,  
Put everything away!

Help, help, help your mum,  
Help her every day.  
Tell her that you love her lots,  
Give cuddles as you play!

#### 2. Action Rhyme: My Mum is the Best!

My Mum is the best – she cooks my tea,  
My Mum is the best – she cuddles me.  
My Mum is the best – she washes my clothes,  
My Mum is the best – she plays with me loads.  
My Mum is the best – she takes me to school,  
My Mum is the best – she's yummy and cool!  
My Mum is the best – she's gorgeous to touch,  
My Mum is the best – I love her this much!



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## SESSION FOUR: MOTHER'S DAY CONTD.



### CRAFT IDEAS

- Make a small gift to take home for Mums, Grandmas, Aunties. There are lots of ideas on our [Pinterest](#).

### PRAYER

#### 1. Action Prayer

Thank you, God, that our Mums are great. (*jump high with thumbs up*)  
Thank you, God, that our Mums are smart. (*point to side of head with finger*)  
Thank you, God, that they love us. (*hug self*)  
And we love them with ALL our heart! (*hands on heart then outstretched*)  
Amen.

#### Note

*You can use Grandma, Auntie, carer as appropriate for your group*

#### 2. Prayer Song

*(Tune: 'Twinkle, Twinkle')*

Mums and Grandmas, Aunties too,  
Let's thank God for all they do,  
For the times they play with me,  
Wash my clothes and make my tea.  
Mums and Grandmas, Aunties too,  
Thank you, God, for all they do.  
Amen.



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## SESSION FIVE: SPRING 3 - APRIL SHOWERS



### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 8:22

'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.'

#### Note

*There is usually lots of rain in springtime! Talk about why we need it to rain and about the fun we can have playing in the rain.*

*Tell the story of Noah and how it rained for 40 days and nights, but that God has promised never to flood the whole world again.*

Genesis 6:9-8:22

#### The Play-Along Bible

'Safe from the storm', p18



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. Theme Song  
(Tune: 'Frère Jacques')

April showers, April showers  
Drip, drip, drop, drip, drip, drop.  
Rain on my umbrella,  
Rain on my umbrella,  
Never stop – drip, drip, drop!

April showers, April showers,  
Drip, drip, drop, drip, drip, drop.  
Splashing in the puddles,  
Splashing in the puddles,  
Never stop – drip, drip, drop!

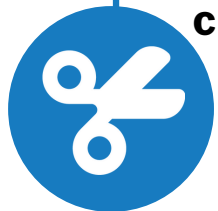
2. 'I like the sunshine, I like the rain'  
3. It's raining, it's pouring'

### CRAFT IDEAS

- Do a water-themed craft or have [water trays](#) to play with.
- For more craft ideas check our [Pinterest](#).

### PRAYER

Thank you, God, for Springtime.  
Thank you for April showers that help to make the plants and flowers grow. Thank you that we can have lots of fun splashing in puddles.  
Amen.



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## SESSION SIX: PALM SUNDAY



### BIBLE STORY

Matthew 21:1-11

#### *The Play-Along Bible*

'Clippity-Clop', p86

#### Note

*Talk about how Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey and how all the people waved palm branches and cheered.*



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

*On next page*

### CRAFT IDEAS

- Make a Hobby Donkey by giving each child two donkey head shapes to decorate. Ensure the shapes face different ways. Add wool fringing for a mane. Sandwich the end of a garden cane between the two heads and hold in place with parcel tape.
- Choose another Palm Sunday craft on our [Pinterest](#).
- Play 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey'

### PRAYER

A prayer to join in  
Hip, Hip, Hooray!  
Hip, Hip, Hooray!  
Hip, Hip, Hooray!  
Jesus is our King today!  
Amen.

*Practise getting the children to join in. If they have made hobby donkeys they could ride round on them or wave palm branches.*



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# SONG SUGGESTIONS



**(Tune: 'Here we go round the mulberry bush')**

Jesus went to Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
Jesus went to Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

The people there all waved and cheered,  
Waved and cheered, waved and cheered.  
The people there all waved and cheered at Jesus on  
a donkey.

Jesus showed that he is King, he is King, he is King,  
Jesus showed that he is King by riding on a donkey.

**(Tune: 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor')**

We have a King who rides a donkey,  
We have a King who rides a donkey,  
We have a King who rides a donkey,  
And his name is Jesus!

Hooray! The King is coming!  
Hooray! The King is coming!  
Hooray! The Kind is coming!  
And his name is Jesus!



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## SESSION SEVEN: CELEBRATING EASTER!



### BIBLE STORY

#### Easter Story

See outline below using coloured eggs to help you tell the Easter story.

#### *The Play-Along Bible*

'The Cross', p90

'Alive Again!' p93

#### Note

Although the story of Good Friday is difficult for small children to understand, it is important that we talk about both the death and resurrection of Jesus as part of the Easter Story.



### SONG SUGGESTIONS

#### Theme Song

(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')

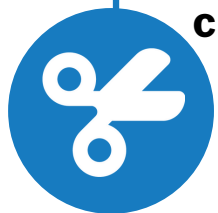
If you want to welcome Jesus, wave your arms.  
If you want to welcome Jesus, wave your arms.  
We want all the world to see, Jesus loves both you and me,  
If you want to welcome Jesus, wave your arms.

If you're sad Jesus died, stamp your feet,  
If you're sad Jesus died, stamp your feet,  
We want all the world to see, Jesus loves both you and me,  
If you're sad Jesus died, stamp your feet!

If you're happy Jesus lives, shout 'We are!'  
If you're happy Jesus lives, shout 'We are!'  
We want all the world to see, Jesus loves both you and me.  
If you're happy Jesus lives, shout 'We are!'

### CRAFT IDEAS

- Make a simple Easter basket to decorate and add some chocolate eggs to take home.
- For more craft ideas check our [Pinterest](#).



### PRAYER

#### Action Prayer

(Heads down, sad faces)

I feel sad, I feel sorry, Jesus died upon the cross.

(Heads up, smiling faces!)

I feel great, I feel happy, Jesus is alive again!

Happy Easter!

Amen.



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## EASTER STORY

**Bring out hollow coloured Easter eggs with the items in brackets inside and as you open them tell the Easter story.**

**GREEN (donkey)** – Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and everyone shouted and cheered for him. We celebrate this on Palm Sunday.

**PINK (bread)** – On Thursday, Jesus had a very special meal with his friends.

**ORANGE (coins)** – Jesus' friend Judas told the guards where to find Jesus to capture him for 30 pieces of silver.

**BLUE (nails)** – On Friday some men who didn't like Jesus took him away to die on a cross.

**YELLOW (white handkerchief)** – On Saturday some of Jesus' friends wrapped Jesus' body in a white sheet and put it into a special cave.

**GOLDEN (empty!)** – But on Sunday, Jesus was alive! It was the first Easter Day!

**PURPLE (chocolate eggs)** – They remind us that Jesus died and rose again for us.



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# INSTRUMENT SONGS



## **(Tune: 'Bobby Shaftoe')**

Now that Easter time is here  
Let's all shout and give a cheer!  
It's a time we love so dear  
Thank you God for Easter!  
Trumpets toot and bells all ring  
Drums go bang and voices sing  
Make a noise with everything  
Thank you God for Easter!

## **(Tune: 'Twinkle, Twinkle')**

Jesus is alive today,  
Bells go ring and shakers play,  
Tambourines make such a clang,  
Maracas clap and drums go bang,  
Jesus is alive today  
Make a noise and shout hooray!

(More Songs for Little Singers, Diocese of Wakefield 2002)

## **(Tune: 'London Bridge is falling down')**

Ring the bells it's Easter time,  
Easter time, Easter time.  
Ring the bells it's Easter time,  
Happy Easter!

Play the drums it's Easter time .....  
Make a noise it's Easter time ....

## **(Tune: 'Row, row, row your boat')**

Bang, bang, bang the drums  
Bang them loud and clear  
Tell the people everywhere  
That Easter time is here.

Ring, ring, ring the bells,  
Ring them loud and clear  
Tell the people everywhere  
That Easter time is here.

Play, play, play the tune  
Play it loud and clear  
Tell the people everywhere  
That Easter time is here.

## **(Tune 'The wheels on the bus')**

Jesus is alive so bang the drums, bang the drums, bang the drums  
Jesus is alive so bang the drums at Easter time.

Jesus is alive so ring the bells.....  
Jesus is alive so sing and play.....



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