

CHILDREN'S LESSON (of whatever age)

Theme: Palm Sunday

Objectives:

- * prepare for Jesus arrival like the first Palm Sunday
- * experience being a king or queen
- * discover what it means to be a follower of King Jesus

You will need:

- * plastic containers or pans or anything that can be made into an “instrument”
- * Green paper or green markers or crayons to color paper green
- * scissors
- * a “crown” – this can be made out of paper or decorate a hat to look “royal”
- * straws or sticks
- * tape or glue

Bible verse:

Matthew 21:1-11 (This can be acted out or use puppets you make out of paper or popsicle sticks)

Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus sent two of his followers into the town. ² He said to them, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey tied there with its colt. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell him, ‘The Master needs them. He will send them back soon.’” ⁴ This was to make clear the full meaning of what the prophet said:

⁵ “Tell the people of Jerusalem,
‘Your king is coming to you.
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.
He is on the colt of a donkey.’”

⁶ The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus. They laid their coats on the donkeys, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ Many people spread their coats on the road before Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. All the people were shouting,

“Praise to the Son of David!
God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Praise to God in heaven!”

¹⁰ Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. The city was filled with excitement. The people asked, “Who is this man?”

¹¹ The crowd answered, “This man is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee.”

Activities:

1. Noise makers:

- Talk about the noise from the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem. They shouted and waved and greeted Jesus loudly.
- What do we do when we get excited about someone important coming to visit?
- Make an instrument to praise Jesus with.

2. Palm Branches:

- In Bible times the palm leaf represented value and luxury. The palm tree was a necessity and produced dates, coconuts, coconut milk, sugar, flour, mats, brooms, baskets, thread, ropes, butter and soap. The people in Jerusalem cut down branches and laid them before Jesus shouting ‘Hosanna!’
- Ask, “I wonder what they thought Jesus would do when he came into their town?”
- What are things others do for you whenever you are sad or scared or not feeling well?

This is how God helps us through others.

- Make palm branches by tracing your hands on the green paper then cutting them out. Make at least 4. Tape or glue these to either straws or sticks.

3. Jesus is King:

- People in the crowd wanted Jesus to be their king. Think about what would make a good king?
- Take turns being “king” and tells others what you want them to do?
- How did it feel to have to take orders from a “king?”
- Jesus came to be a different kind of king, a king of peace. How do you think Jesus is a good king? How can you be a good follower of a good king?
- Make a king’s crown. Have a parade with someone pretending to be King Jesus and others being in the crowd. Use your homemade palm branches and your instruments for the parade.

4. Prayer: “Thank you God for Palm Sunday. Thank you for giving us Jesus. Help us make you king of our lives. Help us turn to you all the time. Help us remember that you are our king. Thank you for loving us so much. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.