

PALM SUNDAY

Good morning Greenhouse! Please let your children know we miss them very much and we hope to have a zoom meeting this week just to say hi!! You have been sent a package this week, it should arrive by Wednesday please enjoy, and know we miss you!!!

Bible Story: Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Activity:

Let's go find a palm branch, or Have palm branch template for the children to trace onto paper plates and then to color green and cut out. Be creative you can have leaves from outside, or just use your broom. Just as long as they are excited and engaged.

Enter into worship:

hillsong kids is our favorite in Greenhouse. Lord we lift your name on high, cast your cares from seed family worship is good too.

Here is a link to free music videos <https://ministry-to-children.com/video-dance-laugh-love/amp/>

Open Conversation:

Introduce the themes from this lesson through some informal questions and answers. You can modify these talking points as appropriate to get your kids talking.

What does a normal king look like? What is his job?

What do you imagine a parade would look like for a king that everyone loved?

Find the Bible Passage

What part of the Bible is Matthew in?

The New Testament

What book of the New Testament is Matthew?

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud. Use an engaging style with dramatic voice. You will be repeating the lesson in smaller pieces as you explain in detail.

Discuss Bible Lesson:

Wow, this was a big parade – and Jesus deserved it. Remember how he had traveled all over Israel helping people, doing miracles, and telling them about God's love. Now he was coming to the capitol, the most important city. This was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years. It was all finally coming together, and the people were going crazy like they had just won the super bowl.

But there was a problem: Jesus wasn't rich like a normal king. He didn't have a big fancy horse or a big fancy army to go with him in this parade. Did you hear how Jesus fixed that problem:

Read Matthew 21:1-3 again...

Matthew 21:1 As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage. It was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two disciples. 2 He said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away."

Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem when Jesus stops them. He sends 2 disciples to get Him 2 donkeys. But He doesn't say anything about paying for them. They are to go to the village and get a donkey and her colt. If there are any problems...they are just supposed to say that "the Lord needs them" and it will all be fine.

But this wasn't an accident. This was just what the Bible had promised for hundreds of years. The real king wasn't going to be fancy, but ride into the city on a donkey ... a donkey he had to borrow.

Read Matthew 21:4-5 again...

4 This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says,

5 "Say to the city of Zion,
'See, your king comes to you.
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.
He is riding on a donkey's colt.' " —(Zechariah 9:9)

Jesus was fulfilling prophecy. He was supposed to ride on a donkey's colt – that means a young donkey. Can you imagine a big important king riding on a simple little donkey? What about the big army and the fancy horse?

You see Jesus wasn't a normal king trying to show he was important and force everyone to serve him. Jesus was the opposite: He came to show love and serve the people.

Read Matthew 21:6-9 again...

6 The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them. Then Jesus sat on the coats. 8 A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" —(Psalm 118:26)
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The disciples did what they were told to do. They went and got the donkey and the colt. A big crowd was already showing up and covering the street with their coats and branches from the trees. Remember that they didn't have paved roads back then – the roads were dirt. They were showing their respect to Jesus by covering the road so that He wouldn't get dirty.

They cheered for Jesus with words from the Bible. This was a big victory celebration, and everyone was excited to see what would happen next.

WIGGLE TIME:

Have your kids shout hosanna in the highest, loud!! Go outside and shout it to the top of your lungs. :-)

Read Matthew 21:10-11 again...

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Jesus made quite an entrance! People were trying to figure out who He was. Remember, there was no television back then no internet, no Instagram. People had heard about Him, but they had never seen Him before. Notice – they didn't say that He was the Son of God. They called Him a prophet. It was difficult for some of the people of Jesus' time to realize that He was God and that He was going to save them. Even his disciples would be confused and abandon Jesus later that same week.

Discuss: Waiting for Jesus Again (This can be done later in the week or at the same time)

The Bible says that Jesus will come again, but not in a parade on a donkey but in the clouds in full glory. Ask the children to describe what that might look like.

Remind them that when Jesus comes again it will be to take his place as King of the world. This means we need to decide now if we will believe and follow Jesus. We need to be ready for his return.

Activity: Bible Verse Memorization

"Your king comes to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey." Matthew 21:5

Your king: act like you are putting a crown on your head

Comes to you: walk in place

He is gentle: smile

And riding on a donkey: act like riding on a donkey

Matthew 21: hold up 2 fingers on one hand and 1 finger on the other hand

5: hold up 5 fingers

Do this a few times with the children. Make it fun for them to do the motions and say the words. Involving them in active learning is essential for memorization.

Activity: Palm Branch Writing

Have the children write the Bible Verse on their palm branch from the Welcome Activity. As the children finish writing, have them tell a neighbor what the Bible Verse is.