

Palm Sunday (Jesus Welcomed into Jerusalem)

Teacher Pep Talk: Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter when all the children dress up and carry “palm” leaves (that someone got from a helpful florist’s shop) waving them around as they walk into the Sanctuary at the beginning of the Worship Service, while everyone sings a traditional Easter song like [“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”](#). (Nice.)

It’s fun. It’s expected. And everyone loves it! But the kids may not know what it all means. YOUR JOB (as the trusted Sunday School teacher) is to EXPLAIN the story behind the pageantry.

As you can see, you have your work cut out for you! I hope that this lesson will provide you with the information and the resources you need to teach a great lesson on Palm Sunday! God bless you!

You will need: One of those “palm” leaves the kids had earlier. ☺
Copies of the activity sheet for each child
Scissors, crayons, tape or glue, and thin wooden dowels

Major Points: God keeps His promises
God promised the Jews a King and Savior
Jesus is the King of the Jews
Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (fulfilling prophecies)
The people welcomed Him on that day

Scripture Ref: John 12:12-16, Psalm 118:25-26, and Zechariah 9:9

Memory Verse: John 12:13 ... “Hosanna!” ... “Blessed is the King...”

Lesson: **God keeps His promises**

- Have you ever made a promise? (*Wait for responses.*)
- Has anyone ever made a promise to you? (*Sure!*)
- Did that person keep their promise to you? (*Listen attentively to the children’s answers.*)
- Do you think God would keep a promise that He made? (*Yes!*)
- I think so too! God ALWAYS keeps His promises!!

God promised the Jews a King and Savior

- God has a special group of people whom we call the Jews
- A long time ago God promised the Jews that He would send them a King (whose Kingdom would never end)
- The Jews waited and waited for their King
- They knew He would come one day (because God ALWAYS keeps His promises!)

Jesus is the King of the Jews

- Jesus is the King and Savior that God promised to the Jews
- But when Jesus came, at first the Jews did not recognize Him.
(Read the story below once by yourself and then read it again, asking the children to do the hand motions with you.)

When Jesus came as a baby, They didn't know Him.	<i>(hold arms as if cradling a baby)</i> <i>(shake your head "No!")</i>
When He grew up, They didn't recognize Him.	<i>(raise arm up high showing how tall)</i> <i>(cover your eyes)</i>
When He did miracles, They wondered about Him.	<i>(hold your hands up in surprise)</i> <i>(scratch your head in wonder)</i>
When He raised the dead, They began to believe in Him.	<i>(bring both hands up dramatically)</i> <i>(shake your head "Yes!")</i>
When He rode into Jerusalem, They welcomed Him as King! <i>Hosanna! Blessed is the King!</i>	<i>(act as if riding and holding reigns)</i> <i>(wave your hands in the air)</i> <i>(have the children repeat "Hosanna!")</i>

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (fulfilling prophecies)

- God gave the Jews many promised signs so that they would know their King when He arrived
- These signs are called prophecies
- One of these prophecies was that their King would come to His people riding on a donkey
- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (fulfilling the prophecy)

The people welcomed Him on that day as their King

- The people heard Jesus was coming!
- They went and got palm branches *(hold up palm branch)* and placed them on the road for Him to ride over.
- And on that day they welcomed Him as their King!
- They shouted Hosanna! Blessed is the King! *(Have the children repeat the word "Hosanna!" and raise their hands in praise.)*

NOTE: The word "Hosanna" literally means "Save us, we pray." The people recognized Jesus Christ as their promised King and Savior. Realizing that their promised Messiah had come, they immediately sought for salvation calling out "save us, we pray!"

Reference: <http://www.bibleornot.org/hosanna-save-us-we-pray/>

Prayer: Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior and King.

Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior and King.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Pick and choose the activities that work best for you!)

Blessed is the King!

Read this story from the lesson again and have the children repeat the hand motions with you. Use palm branches to wave, if you have some available.

When Jesus came as a baby, They didn't know Him.	<i>(hold arms as if cradling a baby)</i> <i>(shake your head "No!")</i>
When He grew up, They didn't recognize Him.	<i>(raise arm up high showing how tall)</i> <i>(cover your eyes)</i>
When He did miracles, They wondered about Him.	<i>(hold your hands up in surprise)</i> <i>(scratch your head in wonder)</i>
When He raised the dead, They began to believe in Him.	<i>(bring both hands up dramatically)</i> <i>(shake your head "Yes!")</i>
When He rode into Jerusalem, They welcomed Him as King!	<i>(act as if riding and holding reigns)</i> <i>(wave your hands in the air)</i>
Hosanna! Blessed is the King!	<i>(have children repeat "Hosanna!")</i>

Palm Branches

Items Needed: For each child a copy of the palm branch coloring page (or a piece of green construction paper) scissors, tape, and one paper rod off the bottom of a pants hanger. (Alternatively use something like an unsharpened pencil or a short dowel.)

Before class starts: Copy one coloring sheet per child. **OR** Using the pattern provided on the attached sheet, draw a "palm branch" on a green sheet of construction paper for each child. Older children may use the pattern to draw out their own palm branches.

During class: Provide crayons and scissors for the children. Allow them to color and then cut out their palm branches. Have them cut the "leaves" by cutting down the dotted lines, but stopping well before they reach the center! Allow the children to tape the "stem" and center to a short cylindrical object like an unsharpened pencil or dowel. (Alternatively: The round paper rod at the bottom of a pants hanger works great!)

Palm Sunday Parade

(You don't have to have palm branches to do this! But be sure to use them if you do.) Line up the children in a parade formation. Have them walk around the room, or possibly to an adjacent classroom *(older adult classes will love this, but be sure to make arrangements beforehand)*, waving their palm branches in the air and saying "Hosanna! Blessed is the King!" or singing a favorite song such as "Jesus Loves Me." Then march back to the room and have a snack!

Suggested Snacks:

Easter is next Sunday. That should give you some ideas for snacks. (It is never too early to get a "jump" on the Easter Bunny. ☺) Watch out for choking hazards, such as jelly beans... And NEVER, EVER serve nuts. However, otherwise, have fun and make the snacks sugary and sweet! Water is the best drink to offer with this type of snack!

