

# Palm Sunday



### Bible verses:

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king



### Aim:

To respond to the events of Palm Sunday



### Today's fruit:

Goodness



In this session we will discover what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Jesus gave two of his followers specific instructions so that he could ride into the city on a donkey. The people were full of excitement and gathered to sing his praises. Finally, their king and Saviour had arrived – but he wasn't quite what the people were expecting.

The people welcomed Jesus because they believed he would be a good king – fair, strong, and good to his people. God is good all the time.

## Each child will need:

- A slip of paper and a pen/pencil
- Different shades of green A4 paper, a pen/pencil, scissors, glue and a lollypop stick – ideally a large one
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout



## You will need:

- A container for slips of paper
- To watch *Super easy Palm Sunday craft for kids* by Trueway Kids (0:57)
- Today's fruit sign: *Goodness*

## Start it

### Say:

In today's story the disciples were asked to follow a specific set of instructions. We will start today by testing your ability to do the same!

Give each child a slip of paper and a pencil. Ask them to write down a simple instruction. Examples could be: jump on the spot, touch your nose, lift up your arms, sit down etc. Once they have written down their instruction, ask them to fold it up and place it in a container. Randomly choose three of the instructions, read them out and then see if the children can complete all three instructions in order from memory.

Return the slips of paper to the container and try the activity again, this time using four instructions. Discuss with the children whether they found it easy or challenging to remember all the instructions and follow them in order.

## Sing it

### Say:

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the people sang their praises. We're going to do the same with our own song of praise.

### Song

'Hosanna rock' (Yancy and Little Praise Party official preschool music video Palm Sunday song) by YancynotNancy (2:19)

## Share it

### Say:

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Let's watch the clip to see what happened.

### Video

*The story of Easter (The triumphal entry)* by Saddleback Kids (3:07)

### Say:

Jesus was approaching Jerusalem with his followers. He sent two of them with instructions to find a colt (a young donkey), telling them exactly where they would find the donkey and what they should say to anyone who questioned them.

**Ask:**

Are you good at doing what you've been asked to do? Explain your answer.

**Say:**

Sometimes, when we're asked to do something, we question why we have to do it. The disciples were asked to do something quite unusual. Even in the time of Jesus, it would have been strange to walk into a town and just take an animal that obviously belonged to someone else.

**Ask:**

The two followers willingly obeyed Jesus' instructions. Why do you think they trusted Jesus?

**Read:**

**'The followers went into the town. They found a colt tied in the street near the door of a house, and they untied it. Some people were standing there and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?" The followers answered the way Jesus told them to answer, and the people let them take the colt.**

**'The followers brought the colt to Jesus. They put their coats on the colt, and Jesus sat on it. Many people spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches in the fields and spread the branches on the road.'**

(Mark 11:4-8 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

- Why do you think the people laid branches and their coats on the road?
- What might we do today to show respect and recognition if Jesus came to our town?

**Say:**

Everyone was excited because they hoped that Jesus was the king they were waiting for.

**Read:**

**'Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were following him. All of them were shouting,**

**"Praise God!**

**God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**God bless the kingdom of our father David!**

**That kingdom is coming!**

**Praise to God in heaven!"'**

(Mark 11:9-10 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

Have you ever been in a large crowd? What was it like?

Ask the children to imagine they were with all the people in Jerusalem that day. Encourage them to shout their praises by repeating the words of Mark 11:9-10. Read each line and ask them to shout it as loud as they can.

**‘Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were following him. All of them were shouting,**

**“Praise God!**

**God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**God bless the kingdom of our father David!**

**That kingdom is coming!**

**Praise to God in heaven!”**

(Mark 11:9-10 ICB)

**Say:**

Palm Sunday was a day of celebration; everyone was shouting words of praise and welcome. They believed that Jesus was the king who had been promised and would save them.

## **Action it**

Explain that the children are going to make palm leaves to wave, made from their own palm! The following video clip is provided for use by the leader to give an idea how the palm leaf can be made. Perhaps fold the A4 paper into four before the children draw around their hand before cutting it out, and use different shades of green. The children could also write ‘Praise to God in heaven’ (Mark 11:10) on one of the palm leaves.

## **Video**

*Super easy Palm Sunday craft for kids* by Trueway Kids (0:57)

## **Pray it**

Display the *Goodness* sign.

**Say:**

The people had suffered under cruel leaders for many years. In Jesus, they saw hope for a leader filled with goodness. In our world today it can be tempting to look out for our own interests rather than showing God’s goodness to others.

**Ask:**

How can we show God’s goodness in our lives?

**Say:**

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we do not need to try hard to be good. Instead, we can ask for God’s power to help us show his goodness to others. We don’t have to do it on our own. Let’s share our memory verse together.

## Memory verse

**'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'**

(John 15:5 *NIV*)

Pray with the group, asking God to grow the fruit of goodness in the heart of each child and the leader.

To bring the session to a close you could share the 'Hosanna rock' song again and encourage children to wave their palm leaves.

## Sing

**'Hosanna rock' (Yancy and Little Praise Party official preschool music video Palm Sunday song) by YancynotNancy (2:19)**

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## Palm Sunday

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



**Bible verses:**  
Mark 11:1-11



**Aim:**  
To respond to the events of Palm Sunday



**Today's fruit:**  
Goodness



### Create

Make up your own song or poem of praise to show how much you love Jesus.



### Discover

As we move into Holy Week, take some time with the people at home to discover how people around the world celebrate Easter.

**What are some Easter traditions around the world?** By The Adventure Buddies

Which Easter tradition would you most like to try?



### Song for the week

'Hosanna rock' (Yancy and Little Praise Party official preschool music video Palm Sunday song) by YancynotNancy



### Memory verse

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

(John 15:5 NIV)

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