

The First Palm Sunday



Bible verses:
Mark 11:1-11



Aim:
To explore how Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, and why it was surprising



Today's fruit:
Self-control

As this is a two-part Easter set of sessions, there is no memory verse.



Start it

Prepare someone to come into your session wearing a party hat, saying 'Surprise!' after you've gathered the group together and sat down. Act surprised – ask the group why there's someone saying 'Surprise!' Do we like surprises? Why? Why not? Are they always good? Has anyone ever had a surprise that they'd like to tell you about?



Share it

Watch:
Jesus and Palm Sunday (God's story) by Crossroads Kids' Club (2:47)

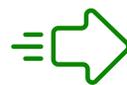
Ask:
What surprising thing did Jesus ask for?
How did people react when they saw him?



Sing it

Watch:
'Jesus Is Alive' (Freeze Dance Preschool Worship Song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:08)

Watch:
'Go Fish - I believe' (Great Music for Kids!) by Go Fish Kids Music (3:08)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Praise rocks. Have cleaned stones available for each person, as well as paint, glue and tissue paper. Decorate the stones with paint and praise words. Alternatively, have praise words printed out so they can be glued on to the stones along with layers of tissue paper. Praise words: Hosanna, praise, worship, hope.
- **Play:** Rock, Palm, Praise! The leader shouts out one of the three words and the group do the actions. Rock – make yourself small; Palm – wave your hands; Praise – hands up high and shout 'Hosanna!'

- **Pray:** Have a coat / sheet / palm leaf that can be placed in the centre of your space. Sit either side of the path you've created and imagine Jesus walking along it. Think of what you'd like to say to him.
- **Try:** Making palm leaves, banners or posters. These can be displayed in your room or gathered worship space, or used during a song.

The First Easter



Bible verses:
Luke 24:1-12



Aim:
To think about what happened on the first Easter Sunday, and what it means for us as followers of Jesus



Today's fruit:
Love

As this is a two-part Easter set of sessions, there is no memory verse.



Start it

Use the *Easter Egg Hunt Story* handout and cut out the egg pictures, hide them around the room before your session. Ask the children to find them and work together to put them in the right order – see if they can re-tell the whole story!



Share it

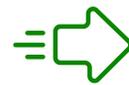
Watch:
Jesus Died on the Cross (God's Story) by Crossroads Kids' Club (5:03)



Sing it

Watch:
'Jesus Is Alive' (Freeze Dance Preschool Worship Song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (2:08)

Watch:
'Go Fish - I believe' (Great Music for Kids!) by Go Fish Kids Music (3:08)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Colour in the Easter eggs and display them in order as a reminder of the story.
- **Play:** Using cushions/sheets/boxes etc, create a den (or empty tomb).
- **Pray:** Take it in turns to sit inside the empty tomb and talk to Jesus. You can leave the space free for children to talk to Jesus, or direct their prayers by suggesting they thank him for saving us / loving us etc.
- **Try:** Telling the 'Easter Egg Story'; you will need a hollow chocolate Easter egg (make sure you check for allergies/intolerances etc before sharing the chocolate).

Ask:

How can this Easter egg remind us of our story about Jesus? Prompt conversation if needed: the egg is like the stone rolled away, the egg is hollow like the tomb, the chocolate tastes good ... the story of Easter makes us feel great. Then share the egg together and thank God for Jesus.

Explore it Light

Easter Egg Hunt Story

