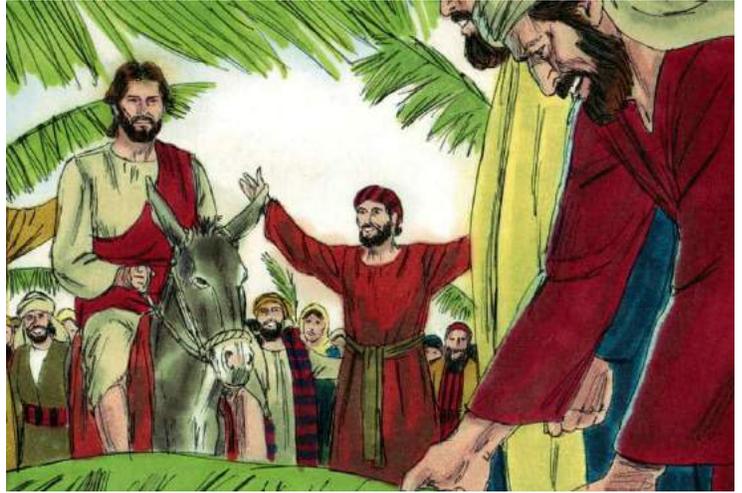


Palm Sunday for Kids

Written by [Felicia Mollohan](#) for [Ministry-To-Children.com](#)

The waiting was over – the promised King was finally coming into Jerusalem and the people crowded the streets to cheer his arrival. Often called the Triumphant Entry, this wave of popularity would be short lived. Yet in that special moment get a hint of the final return of Christ.



This free Children’s Church lesson plan was first written for elementary aged students. It covers the story of Jesus on Palm Sunday. This material could also be used as the Bible lesson for children’s Sunday school. Be sure to consider your own ministry context and modify it as needed.

Bible Story: Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

Scripture: [Matthew 21:1-11](#) or [Luke 19:28-40](#) -- This lesson plan follows the Matthew passage but you could easily take the same talking points and read from Luke, which is slightly shorter.

Target Age Group: Age 6 – 11 (U.S. Kindergarten – 5th Grade)

Time: 20 Minutes

Learning Context: Children’s Church or Sunday School

Learning Objectives:

1. After this lesson, the children will demonstrate an understanding of the story by discussing the main points of the story and then reenacting it.
2. After this lesson, the children will demonstrate a deeper affection for Christ by offering him praise and worship.

Items Needed:

- Bible: We include the text below but suggest you read directly from your Bible.
- 1 paper plate per child, palm branch template, green crayons, scissors, pencils
- Markers
- Whiteboard, whiteboard markers
- [Easter Songs \(extra print out\)](#) to lead the children to sing before the Bible lesson.
- Optional: [Palm Sunday](#) and [Easter Coloring Pages](#)

Kids Lesson About Palm Sunday

Welcome Activity: Welcome activities are things to have out for the children to do as they are arriving for class. These activities will get them engaged as soon as they arrive and will help the transition from their parents.

Have palm branch templates for the children to trace onto paper plates and then to color green and cut out.

Worship: Easter Songs or browse our [kids worship suggestions](#)

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 class 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?

Bible Lesson

- What part of the Bible is Matthew in? The New Testament
- What book of the New Testament is Matthew? #1

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud to the children. 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 was 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.

Optional: Lead the children in rounds of cheering Hosanna and the other words from the passage. Divide the group and see who can cheer the best. Then to settle things down see who can cheer the softest.

That was a big commotion! I bet the people in the city were wondering what was happening.

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. 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

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.

Bible Lesson Activities : Use the following activities to reinforce the learning goals. If time is short, move on to the evaluation portion of the lesson plan.

Activity: Praising God

"In our Bible story today, Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus is the king of kings and so He was riding like a king. The people celebrated His arrival. They were worshiping Him."

- Have the children brainstorm about ways that they could worship Jesus.
- Write them on the whiteboard.

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

Evaluation: Have the children discuss the main points of the story and then reenact it.

Even More Ideas: You'll find even more great ideas for [Palm Sunday for Kids](#) on our website





Mandy Groce '12

ministry-to-children.com

Triumphal Entry: Palm Sunday Skit

 ministry-to-children.com/triumphal-entry-palm-sunday-skit

Written by Felicia Mollohan Last updated March 28, 2019 Leave a Comment Filed Under: Bible Skits for Kids , Easter Ideas

March 11, 2014

Here is a simple skit that presents Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. This would be wonderful to have the children in your class act out on Palm Sunday so they know the story of what happened on on the Palm Sunday. This can be done as simply as having the children read the script while acting or as elaborately with costumes and memorized lines.

Triumphal Entry: Luke 19:28-38

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Owner, Disciples (at least 2), the rest of the class can be the crowds

Props: donkey (picture or cut out) and coats or cloth to put on donkey

(Jesus and disciples walk to the front of the room)

Narrator: He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, saying,

Jesus: (pointing to where the donkey is) Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'"

Narrator: So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them,

Owner: Why are you untying the colt?

Disciple: The Lord has need of it.

(owner nods head in agreement)

Narrator: They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus on it. As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road.

(Jesus walks around with the donkey while crowd is praising Him)

Narrator: As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting:

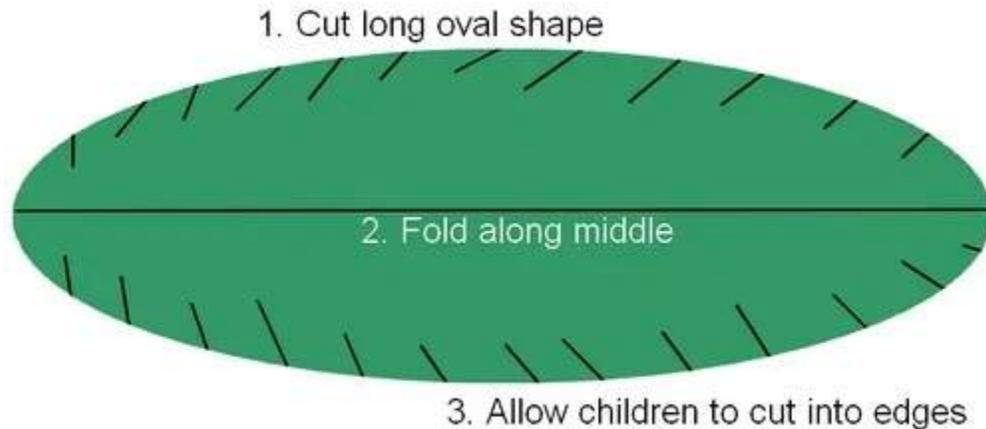
Crowd: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Paper Leaf Craft for Palm Sunday

 ministry-to-children.com/palm-sunday-leaf-craft

Written by Mimi Bullock Last updated March 28, 2019 1 Comment Filed Under: Crafts , Easter Ideas

April 4, 2011



Easter is more than a holiday—it is the reason for the hope of Christians. Jesus’ death and resurrection is terrible and glorious to those that love him. For kids, Easter is full of conflicting images. Chocolate bunnies, Easter eggs and the cross get jumbled up in the Christian child’s spirit. Teach your holiday lesson with clarity by providing crafts to reinforce this important lesson.

Palm Sunday Leaf Craft

The Easter story is panoramic and includes many people and special places. Sometimes we forget to include Jesus’ entrance into the city on a donkey. The children sang, “Hosanna!” and greeted him with palm leaves. This palm leaf craft is an excellent way to reintroduce children to the kingship of Jesus.

Supplies: Large sheets of **green construction paper**. Child-safe scissors.

Directions: Before class cut out as many large leaf shapes as you need. Buy the large size construction paper if needed. Make the leaves long and oval shaped. Fold the leaves in half to make the leaf look like a tropical palm. When children arrive, give them safety scissors. Kids use the scissors to cut the edges making the paper look like fronds. Give kids crayons to write “Hosanna” on the leaves.

Smaller children might find it fun to wave the palms at a volunteer pretending to be Jesus. Play the song, “Hosanna” and allow kids to worship by waving their crafts in the area.