



APRIL 13, 2025

PALM SUNDAY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

People welcomed Jesus as their King.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

MEMORY VERSE

By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday — the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of Kings the week of Passover. Many of God's people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem as well. Near Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into a village.

Jesus told them, "You will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Jesus would fulfill Zechariah's prophecy: "Look, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." (Zech. 9:9)

Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city. He rode a donkey, and people laid branches and their robes on the ground in front of Him. The people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem believed He was the promised Messiah, but they expected Him to overthrow Roman oppression and set up an earthly throne. Jesus sent a different message.

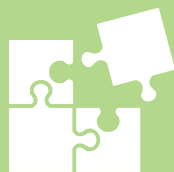
The next day, Jesus entered the temple and turned over the tables of the money changers and those selling doves. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7, declaring that His kingship would not just be over the Jews but over all people. While Jesus was in the temple, He healed the blind and the lame. Jesus' actions declared, "I am not just your King; I am also your God" (Isa. 35:4-6).

Finally, the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshiping Jesus as their King. "Do You hear what these children are saying?" they asked.

Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2: "Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?" Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help kids connect the dots between God's promises of a Messiah and Jesus' coming. Help them understand why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Skip To My Lou”:

By his wounds you have been healed,
you have been healed,
you have been healed.
By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24

(Repeat)

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “By his wounds you have been healed.” God sent Jesus to earth to help us. Jesus saves us from our sins when we trust in Him. By Jesus’ wounds, we have been healed!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Hosanna means, “Save now.” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people and children praised Him as King and Savior. Jesus is God’s Son. Hosanna! Hosanna!

ACTIVITY #2: SHOUT HOSANNA

Give each child a palm branch from your bin. Invite children to march around the room with you and play the provided instruments.

When you stop, have children shout, “Hosanna!” Also have them wave their palm branches as you walk.

CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Your palm leaves are beautiful. The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is when we celebrate the day Jesus arrived in Jerusalem before He died on the cross for sin. We call it Palm Sunday because the people cut palm branches from trees and laid them on the ground in front of Jesus to praise Him. People welcomed Jesus as King.

CRAFT: MAKE PALM BRANCHES

Supplies: popsicle sticks, palm leaf cutout, tape/glue, markers/crayons, foam letter stickers

Give each child a green popsicle stick, a palm leaf cutout, and the letter stickers to spell out "Hosanna".

Give children a few minutes to decorate their palm branch with markers or crayons if they like, then help them place their letter stickers on their branch to spell out "Hosanna".

Tape or glue a green popsicle stick to the back of each child's branch to finish the craft. Make sure to write each child's name on their craft so they know which one to take home!





JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

It was the time of year when the Israelites celebrated Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to remember what God had done when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

Jesus and His friends also traveled to Jerusalem. He sent two of them ahead to a village. Jesus said, "Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey and her colt tied up. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you should say that the Lord needs them."

The friends did what Jesus said. They put their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too. The crowds walked ahead of Jesus, and those who followed Him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One — the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The word hosanna means "Save now!"

The religious teachers didn't like it. They asked Jesus to tell His friends to be quiet. "If they didn't praise Me," Jesus said, "the rocks would cry out!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people asked, "Who is this?" The crowds replied, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!" They were only half right. Jesus wasn't just a prophet of God — He was God's Son!

Jesus went to the temple and drove out the money changers there. While Jesus was at the temple complex, people who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them.

The priests and the scribes at the temple heard children shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The priests and scribes asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" The children were saying, "The king is here! The king is here!"

Jesus said, "Yes. Even the children will praise Me." Then Jesus left and went to spend the night in the town of Bethany.

CHRIST CONNECTION

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people laid down their coats and palm branches on the road for Him and shouted, "Hosanna!" **The people welcomed Jesus as their King.**

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What does the word "hosanna" mean?
4. Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!