

Family Sunday School Helps

Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Special Lesson

Triumphal Entry - Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Prayer: Dear God, As we celebrate on this Palm Sunday help us to remember that day when all the adults and children waved palm branches and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem as King. We know Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. Help us to remember that He is our wonderful King and that we can praise him every day! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

About: Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday.

About Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITmbTuutBgg>

Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' "

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Arch Book: "Jesus Enters Jerusalem" <https://youtu.be/LRb2mGwZgic>

Song: "Oh, the Lord Rode on a Donkey" (Tune: "Oh! Susanna" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_ZnngzPHJw)

Oh, the Lord rode on a donkey
Into Jerusalem.
"Hosanna, Son of Da-vid!"
The people cried to Him. **Refrain**

Refrain

Ho-ho-sanna,
Hosanna now we sing,
For our Savior,
Jesus Christ has come,
Our great and mighty King.

Oh, the Lord went to the temple then
Into Jerusalem.
"Hosanna, Son of Da-vid!"
The children cried to Him. **Refrain**

Craft: Handprint Palm Branches

1. Trace your child's hands five times on green paper (or white paper, colored green).
2. Cut out the handprints.
3. Glue them onto a wooden craft stick, paint stick, ruler, etc.



4. Recreate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem by laying blankets down on the ground, waving your handprint palm branches, and shouting "Hosanna".

Prayer: Pray with your child to praise Jesus our King. You might encourage them to pray aloud their own prayers of praise to Jesus. Here is one suggestion if time is short: "Dear Jesus, I praise You for being my King. In Your name I pray. Amen."

Family Discussion Points

Key Discussion Points: Long ago and in storybooks kings sat on thrones and wore fancy clothes. But thrones and fancy clothes don't make someone a king. Jesus is King because He is God's Son. He has always been King. Different kings rule over different things. Some rule over lands and people. Others rule over the hearts and minds of people. Jesus wants to rule over the hearts of your children to help them do what is right. Jesus is King even if we don't listen to or obey Him. When we choose to praise Him as our King we learn that He is the greatest King we will ever have because of His great love and power to save us from our sins.

Talk About it:

1. What do kings do? (Children might say kings tell people what to do; they wear robes and crowns, and sit on thrones; they make rules; they lead countries; they're rich; they live in palaces, etc.)
2. How do people treat kings? (They might say people bow to kings, follow their directions, serve them food, and so on.)
3. Who is your king? (They might name government leaders, Jesus, or people. They might not have an answer. This question will help children consider the possibility that they do have a king. Jesus is our King.)

Discussion Questions for Older Students

How does news travel today? Compare that to how news traveled in Jesus' time. (Social Media, TV, internet, etc. makes news travel fast today. News traveled by word of mouth at the time of Jesus. The fact that news traveled so slowly in Jesus' time makes Palm Sunday even more remarkable. A huge crowd came to greet Jesus. They lined the streets, waved palm branches, and sang praises. They did not know what was to come, but they were thrilled to see Him."

Did Jesus want a large crowd? Did He hold a press conference to announce His plans? (No, Jesus kept his arrival secret, arranging for a donkey without the disciples knowing until the last moment. But despite these efforts, a large crowd was there when Jesus arrived.)

How would these same people respond to Jesus less than a week later? Do we treat Jesus the same way in our lives? **(On Good Friday, these same people would be calling for Jesus' crucifixion. Because of sin, we also turn on back on Jesus by breaking His commandments. The good news is, He came with a plan, and fulfilled that plan to save us from sin, death, and the devil.)**

Will we hear about/read about Jesus' resurrection in the news this coming week? How can we share this good news? **(Likely, no. But, we have the opportunity to share this good news with others! Even in this time of quarantine, we can share the news with friends and family using social media, email, phone, etc. We have the opportunity to spread the news that Jesus died and rose again for each of us. This week [Passion Week] takes us through the fulfillment of His secret mission. Even in this time of uncertainty, we can be sure that God's plan to save the world has been fulfilled. Jesus saved us from sin by His death and resurrection, and He secured eternal life for each of us.)**

Other Points of Emphasis:

- ❖ Jesus was riding into Jerusalem as a King on His way to His coronation - much in contrast to the coming Friday. The crowds that followed Him were very aware of His presence, etc. And many in Jerusalem heard that He was coming.
- ❖ The donkey was the choice of royalty. Horses were used for military processions.
- ❖ Animals that had not been used were good for holy purposes, hence the unriden donkey. Jesus' entry was purposeful and planned because it fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, particularly Zechariah 9:9:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

