

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Bible Verse

They shouted, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the first lesson in the *Lent* series which explores the Biblical account of the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. In today’s church, Lent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. This series exposes children to the events leading up to Jesus’ death and prepares their hearts to receive the gift of Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem to great fanfare, cheering and enthusiasm. The son of God has arrived in their city and people are excited! This is in stark contrast to the scene of Jesus being nailed to a cross only five days later, yet on this Sunday, the excitement persists. People come out to greet Jesus, laying palm branches and clothing in the road and shouting “Hosanna” as He passes. Today, Jesus may not be riding down the street on a donkey, but we have the same opportunities to “see” Jesus and cheer His arrival in our lives. God’s love is at work all around us and we should not be afraid to name it and celebrate it. Yes, it can be in stark contrast to the broken and hurting parts of our world, but God’s love persists.

This lesson will teach children to celebrate Jesus and His love for everyone. It will help children identify ways Jesus is at work in the world and remind them to rejoice when they see God’s love.

Before Class Begins

- ◆ Place the Sign In sheet and a pen where parents can see it upon arrival.
- ◆ Place the Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards and pens where students can see them upon arrival.
- ◆ Check that you have supplies for this lesson:
 - Arrival Activity, Palm Sunday activity page – 1 per child
 - Laminated Palms – 1 set
 - Construction paper
 - Decorative items for cards
- ◆ Place an arrival activity at each place on the table.

Welcome

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards, Attendance chart, stickers, pens, Palm Sunday activity sheet, pencils, markers

- ◆ Greet each child individually as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name.
- ◆ Help children find or add their name on the attendance chart. Provide each child with a sticker to place in today's column on the attendance chart.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Joy or Concern card if they have a particular joy or concern they would like to express. Collect completed Joy & Concern cards.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Time or Talent offering card if they gave their time to God or used their talents to serve God or others during the previous week. Children should keep their own completed Time and Talent cards.
- ◆ If children bring monetary offering, they should keep it with them.
- ◆ Direct children to complete **Palm Sunday activity sheet**.
- ◆ Encourage conversation among the children and with you! Get to know the children in your classroom by asking about their week including school, activities and families. Introduce new children to each other and encourage friendships.

Children's Worship

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards

- ◆ The Children's Worship Leader will direct your class to come to Ruth Hall at 9:20 or 11:05.
- ◆ Bring the Sign In sheet and completed Joy & Concern cards to Ruth Hall. Hand the Joy & Concern cards to the Children's Worship leader as you arrive.
- ◆ Have children bring their completed Time & Talent cards and any monetary offering.
- ◆ If additional children arrive while in Ruth Hall, have parents complete the Sign In sheet and remind parents that pickup is in Room 105.
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in Children's Worship and provide re-direction if necessary.
- ◆ Assist the Children's Worship leader as needed.
- ◆ At the conclusion of Children's Worship, have children line up and return to Room 105.

The Lesson

SUPPLIES: Laminated palms, Sharpie, Green palm cutouts, craft sticks, scissors, tacky glue

- ◆ Gather all the children on the carpet. As you are able, sit on the floor with them or use a chair as part of the circle.

ASK: Today we learned about Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. What did the people do when Jesus arrived? (*Cheered, laid down palm branches and clothes*)

SAY: The people were so excited to see Jesus, the son of God! We may not get to see Jesus ride into town on a donkey, but we can see Jesus at work in the world. I have some palm branches here and I'd like to write examples of Jesus working in the world. We can see Jesus at work when we see people showing love to others.

ASK: What are some ways you see Jesus (or God) at work in the world? What are some ways you see God's love in the world?

- ◆ As children provide examples, write one on each laminated palm branch.
- ◆ If children run out of ideas, here are some examples.
 - Donating food
 - Praying
 - Helping someone who is hurt
 - Inviting a classmate to play

- Doctors and nurses healing sick people
- Feeding the homeless
- Sharing toys with a brother or sister
- Helping parents with chores
- Surprising a friend with a card
- Making a new friend

SAY: When we see these kinds of things in the world, we should get excited! It shows Jesus at work in the world. Just as the people were excited to see Jesus riding into town, we should be excited when we see Jesus in the world.

SAY: Jesus rode across the palm branches and people cheered. Today, let's lay these palm branches in a path and walk across them like a parade. We can cheer for Jesus while we walk!

Lay the laminated palm branches in a path around the room. Lead the children in a "parade" on the path and cheer for Jesus.

SAY: Our children's worship leader told us about our craft today. We are going to make joyful Easter cards for those in our community who may need extra cheer this time of year. Show children a sample card.

- ◆ Provide each child with a piece of construction paper.
- ◆ Make decorative items available to the group.
- ◆ Write phrases on white board – Happy Easter, He is Risen, Jesus is Risen.
- ◆ Make sure children sign their first name only.

Closing

- ◆ Lead the children in a closing prayer. You may say your own prayer, ask one of the children to say a prayer or use the one below.

God,

Help us notice all the ways you are at work in the world. Remind us to cheer when we see them!

Amen

- ◆ If time remains before parents arrive, encourage children to return to their Palm Sunday activity sheet if they did not complete it. Also encourage conversation between children and with you. This is another opportunity to build relationships with the children in your classroom.

