

## Palm Sunday

### Introduction

Think back to a book you've read or a movie you've seen in which people welcome a king. What do people do to honor a king?

### Aim

Today's lesson is about Palm Sunday— a day Christians everywhere celebrate - for it was the day when Jesus was honored as a king. Listen to review what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

### Lesson

It was Sunday morning, and Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. They wanted to be there for the Passover Feast. **This was the last time Jesus would go to Jerusalem. In a few days he would die for the sins of all people.**

When they were a few miles away from Jerusalem, Jesus told two of his disciples, **"Go into the village that is just ahead of us. There you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie it, and bring it to me. If someone tries to stop you, say, 'The Lord needs it.'"**

The two disciples obeyed Jesus. **Everything happened exactly** as he had said. They found the donkey. When they began to untie it, some people asked, "Why are you untying the donkey?" The disciples answered, "The Lord needs it." And the people let them take the donkey.

The disciples led the donkey to Jesus. Then they put their coats across its back for Jesus to sit on. **Jesus rode the donkey as they went on to Jerusalem. A large crowd followed Jesus** as he rode toward the city. Another crowd ran out of Jerusalem to meet him when they heard he was coming.

As Jesus rode along, many people put their coats on the road in front of him. Others cut branches off palm trees and spread them out along the way. Then the whole crowd began praising Jesus by shouting and singing, **"Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"**

**This all happened to fulfill what God had promised through the prophet hundreds of years before so the people could recognize the Savior who would come to save them from their sins: "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See your King comes to you. Righteous and victorious; lowly and riding on a donkey. On a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zephaniah 9:9)**

The Pharisees, Jesus' enemies, didn't want the people to praise him. **They didn't want anyone to believe that Jesus was the promised Savior.** So they went to Jesus and said, "Teacher, make these people stop their singing and shouting!"

**"I tell you," Jesus answered them, "if the people keep quiet, the stones will cry out my praises."**

### **Discussion**

It was a Sunday when Jesus rode towards Jerusalem for the last time.

Why was this the last time Jesus would travel to Jerusalem? **[He would soon die.]**

How did Jesus know that he would soon die? **[Jesus is God, and he knows all things.]**

Why was Jesus willing to go to Jerusalem, knowing he would die? **[He wanted to take away the sins of all people so that they could be saved.]**

Wow! Jesus knew his enemies would capture him and put him to death. But he agreed to God's plan to save all sinners so that we could be forgiven and go to heaven. Jesus truly loves us!

The Bible tells us, **"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."** Mark 10:45

Jesus—called the Son of Man in this passage—is a king. Kings deserve to have people serving them and taking care of them. But this passage tells us that Jesus didn't come to be served.

Do you know what it means to **"serve"**? Brainstorm some examples of the ways the kids serve their families or you as parents serve them.

Jesus, who is God, came to serve others, and he came to give his life for us. This is amazing, and it makes us very happy. We want to thank and praise Jesus, our King. So did the crowd in Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday.

How did the people make a path for Jesus? **[They spread their coats and palm branches on the road.]** That was a way to honor kings long ago. By doing this, the people of Jerusalem were telling Jesus that he was their King.

What did the people shout and sing? **["Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"]** Hosanna actually means, "Save us!" Let's act this scene out!

Who did not want the people to praise Jesus? **(The Pharisees)**

Why? **(They did not want people to believe Jesus was the promised Savior who could save them.)**

What did Jesus tell them would happen if the people were quiet? **[The stones would cry out praises.]**

**Pray: Lord, help me use the heart and hands and voice you've given me to praise you for your gracious love now and eternally. Amen.**

### **Activity (possibly Day 2)**

**Play a game** to remind the children of the reasons we praise our Savior-King and the ways we praise him.

**Directions:** Prepare two sets of clues on small slips of paper. One set is "Reasons We Praise Jesus," and the other is "Ways We Praise Jesus." *Ideas are below.* Take turns with your child(ren) to choose a word and 1) draw a picture of it on the board for the other family members to guess OR 2) act out the word. (Choose whatever is easiest for the word)

**"Reasons we praise Jesus"** goes first. **Ideas: loves us, forgives us, healed people, raised people from the dead, died to take away our sins, came back to life**

**"Ways We Praise Jesus"** goes next. **Ideas: sing, pray, listen to God's Word, tell others about Jesus, obey your parents, love, wash dishes, vacuum, watch siblings while mom gets something done, pooper scoop) •**

### **Application (Possibly Day 3)**

*On the front of each of seven pieces of construction paper, write one of the seven letters of "HOSANNA." On the backs write the listed corresponding words or phrases that name ways to praise and honor our Savior and King. Attach the papers to a wall with "HOSANNA" showing. • H: Help others • O: Offerings • S: Sing praises • A: Always pray • N: Nice words • N: Nice actions • A: Active in worship*

How did people honor and praise Jesus with their voices? **[They sang and shouted, "Hosanna!"]** *Point out "HOSANNA" on the wall. We cannot see Jesus in this room, but we still want to praise and honor him. Doing this is a wonderful way to thank him for riding into that city and dying on the cross to take away our sins.*

Can you name a way to honor Jesus that starts with an H? *(listen to the child(ren)'s example and then flip the construction paper with the H on it. Repeat this pattern for the other letters of HOSANNA.*

## **Additional Activities (Possibly Day 4)**

**Parents - this is the perfect time to encourage children to participate in worship!**

This is how:

- teach them parts of the liturgy AND have the readers in the family follow along with the power points each Wednesday and Sunday.
- teach them the confession of sins and remind them that every time we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and forgives us our sins.

**Brainstorm as a family a list of favorite hymns.** Choose your child's favorite to sing every night before going to sleep. Text Mrs. Glende those hymns and she'll try to include one to play as preservice in the coming weeks.

## **Day 5**

### **Praise Rhythm Band**

**Purpose:** To make rhythm instruments to use while singing songs of praise.

**Procedure:** Here are ways to make some simple instruments:

- Pie-tin tambourine—Put some dried beans in an empty pie tin (or use sturdy paper plates). Place another tin upside down on the top. Staple the edges together, and cover the staple ends with tape. Decorate with markers and stickers.
- Shaker—Use an empty concentrated-juice can. Put some dried beans into the can, and tape the lid back on. Cover the can with paper, and decorate with crayons.
- Rhythm sticks—Use two unsharpened pencils or wooden dowels. Tap them together.
- Drum—Use a large, empty margarine container with a plastic lid. Tap on the lid with two unsharpened pencils.
- Bells—Attach some large bells to a wide strip of ribbon.

Use these rhythm instruments as the children sing some of their favorite songs of praise to Jesus

### **Palm Branches Art**

Give each child a long, thin rectangle cut from brown cardboard to use as a stem. Tell the children to cut small, long, thin rectangles or strips from green paper and then glue them to the stem so that it resembles a palm branch. They can cut points on the outer ends and write "Hosanna" or "Praise Jesus" on the stems. Use the palm branches for acting out the lesson

