

Palm Sunday

BIBLE BASIS: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is a beautiful picture of the excitement we should feel in worshipping Jesus as our King. At the same time, many of the

people in the crowd that day may have misunderstood Jesus' purpose on earth, thinking he would be a conquering hero and an earthly king.

We should praise Jesus with more

vigor and exuberance than we would use to welcome any earthly ruler. Help kids understand that Jesus deserves our praise because he's God, the ultimate King.

BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Celebration Preparation

OBJECTIVE: Kids will create a modern-day celebration for Jesus.

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles
- colored tissue paper
- tape
- scissors
- card stock
- markers
- red wrapping paper
- craft sticks
- glue

TIME: 15 minutes

PREPARATION: Set out the supplies for kids to share.

Have kids open their Bibles to Mark 11:1-11. Ask three volunteers to each read a portion of the passage aloud for the large group.

SAY:

This is how the people in Jerusalem greeted and honored Jesus as he came into the village one day. Jesus rode into town on a colt. The people threw their cloaks on the road, and others spread branches on the road. The people waved palm branches, which was a sign of celebration of victory. They shouted and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem. They were excited and wanted to

celebrate Jesus' arrival. Let's prepare our own modern-day celebration for Jesus' arrival. Let's see if we can make some things to show how we can honor Jesus.

Help kids form three groups. Instruct one group to go to the "pompom" table. At this table, kids will make pompoms with craft sticks and colored tissue paper. Ask kids to cut strips of tissue paper, about 8 to 10 inches long and no more than one inch wide. Then have kids gather the strips of tissue paper together at one end and tape them together. Have them tape the bundled end to one end of a craft stick. As kids make their pompoms, have

them suggest ways people use pompoms today. For example, they could be used as a way to cheer for a team.

SAY: Just as the people in Jesus' day waved palm branches to celebrate victory, we wave pompoms. As you make your pompoms, discuss this question with your group.

ASK: What are some other ways we celebrate victory in our world?

Ask a second group to make "number one" hand signs from card stock. Instruct kids each to place one of their hands in a "number one," place that hand on the card stock, and trace it. They will cut out the "number one" hand sign and glue it to a craft stick. They may choose to write "We're number one" or "Jesus is number one" on the hand. Explain that one way "number one" hand signs are used is to cheer a team.

SAY: Just as the people in Jesus' day worshipped Jesus to show

he was important to them, we wave "number one" hand signs at sporting events to show our favorite team that they are first with us. As you make your "number one" hand signs, discuss this question with your group.

ASK: What are some other ways you can show Jesus he is "number one" with you?

Ask the third group to roll out a long piece of red paper (a roll of red wrapping paper would work well) on a table and cut a 10-foot piece. Encourage these group members to draw or write things they would want to lay at Jesus' feet to honor him. After the students have finished their mural, ask them to roll the paper back up. Explain that this will be used as the red carpet when the modern-day Bible story is read.

SAY: Just as the people in Jesus' day laid down their coats and palm branches on the road to

welcome him and show him he was important to them, we "roll out the red carpet" when important people come to visit our town. As you create your "red carpet," discuss this question with your group.

ASK: What are some other ways we can show Jesus he is welcome in our lives?

After the three groups have finished with their projects, return to a large group. Explain that you will read Mark 11:1-11. At the appropriate time, each group will honor Jesus with its creation. After each group celebrates Jesus,

SAY: We celebrated Jesus in ways similar to the people outside Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This week, be looking for ways to celebrate Jesus in your life every day!

Happy Day

OBJECTIVE: Children will discover that Jesus deserves our praise.

SUPPLIES:

- Bible
- green construction paper
- scissors
- yarn
- CD player
- worship music CD

TIME: 20 to 30 minutes

PREPARATION: Cut twelve 1x12-inch strips of green construction paper, and tie a piece of yarn around one end to hold them together to make a “palm frond.” Make one frond for each child.

Have kids form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Mark 11:1-11, and show children the words. Give each child a palm frond. As you read the following story, act out the motions and have children follow your lead, waving their palm fronds to celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry.

SAY: Jesus and his friends were walking to Jerusalem.

Have children stand up and walk around the room a couple of times, anticipating getting to the city.

SAY: Jesus sent a couple of his disciple friends ahead of him into the city to find a special donkey for Jesus to ride.

Have children cover their eyes with their hands, and then send them around the room for about 30 seconds, looking for a donkey to ride. Encourage kids to use their imagination and find something they could pretend is a donkey. Some might find a chair, a riding toy, or even a class friend!

SAY: Jesus’ friends found the donkey and brought it to Jesus to ride.

Have children pull their “donkeys” to the sides of your story area and then sit down.

SAY: The people were very happy to see Jesus coming into their city. They knew all about how he had healed lots of people, so they made what we call a parade.

Have children form two parallel lines facing each other. The lines should be wide enough so that children can ride their donkeys through with ease.

SAY: As Jesus and his friends entered the city, all the people were lining the streets, waving the palm leaves.

Give each child a palm frond. Place one of the children’s favorite praise songs in a CD player, and let the children take turns riding their donkeys one at a time through the center of the lines as the other children wave their palm fronds. Make sure every child gets a chance to go through the lines. Then pause the CD.

SAY: All the people were celebrating and shouting, “Hosanna, hosanna, the King of glory has come!”



Play the CD again. Let a few more children ride through the crowd on their donkeys. Have the rest of the crowd shout, "Hosanna!" and wave the palm fronds as they pretend Jesus is riding through. Pause the CD.

- ASK:**
- How did it feel to ride through the center of the lines?
 - What was it like to wave your palm fronds?
 - What would you shout if Jesus were riding by today?

SAY: There were some people in the crowd who didn't like Jesus. They tried to stop the people from celebrating Jesus as King.

Have children each turn to someone nearby, put their fingers over their mouths, and say, "Shh."

But Jesus said to let the people cheer for him. They had been waiting many years for Jesus to come and be their King. Play the CD one last time, and let children ride their donkeys through the crowd, wave their palm fronds, and shout,

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!"

- ASK:**
- Why were the people praising Jesus?
 - Why is it important to praise Jesus?
 - How can you praise Jesus this week?

SAY: The people were praising Jesus because he is the King and deserves praise. Jesus deserves *our* praise, too. We can praise Jesus by singing to him, praying to him, telling others about him, and following Jesus' words. There are lots of ways we can praise Jesus!