

Family Church: Palm Sunday

Theme: What do we expect from Jesus

SONGS

Here are some new songs:

Toothbrush song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGMjyE3rCDw>

This is amazing grace: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxVadCcRfol&list=PL_CuhzrVm2PG9heEwehcFr6CE3Jk26bF5

And some familiar:

Big Family of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs>

King of the Giants: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9zWwltpMOc>

God of Science: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqoYaksgnc0>

Shine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVLG-aVKRMc>

As the World Shakes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>

Do Not Fear: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DyocxTTV6w>

FAMILY GAME:

You'll need some fabric you don't mind standing on, eg old T shirts, coats, small blankets. Using just 2 pieces of fabric, can you get the whole family across the room (or drive/garden) from one side to the other? You are only allowed to use the fabric, not touch the floor!

Today we are learning about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, when the people threw palm leaves and clothing on the floor to welcome him as a king.

Intro:

What do you expect from Jesus? Do you ever wonder if he can do more than you think? What do you think the people who lived around him expected from him?

Children ask adults: Have you ever had a visitor who you were nervous or excited about? Have you ever had a really important visitor? How did it make you feel?

STORY:

Either

Read the passage Matthew 21: 1 - 11

Watch the film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTmbTuutBgg> (if you like cartoons)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thlZW0WV5Lw> (if you like Lego)

DISCUSS:

What did the people shout?

What do you think Hosanna means?

Say: The word Hosanna means “save us”. The people must have expected a saviour.

0 - 5s

Ask: What do you think it means that Jesus saves us?

We have all done things wrong - nobody has never been on the naughty step! The Bible calls this sin. But God wanted us to be our friends and he loves us. He doesn't like our sin but he loves us more and that's why he came to save us from our sin. We are forgiven!

6 - 11s

What kind of transport should a king drive? Use pens or lego or whatever you can find to build the greatest 'King Mobile' – a vehicle fitting for a king! After you've finished building talk about what design features have been included and why they're good for a king.

The explain that today we are going to discover how Jesus was recognised and welcomed as King by the people. When He made His way into Jerusalem it was a right royal procession! But at first glance his form of transport seems a bit unglamorous for a king.

All together read about it from **Matthew 21:1–11**.

Ask the young people to get back in their pairs and to think of reasons why Jesus may have chosen a donkey as his mode of transport into Jerusalem. Then look up the following 2 references: Zechariah 9:9 1 Kings 1:32-35

For each reference they need to say what the link is with these bits from the Old Testament to the event you have just read together. - By travelling in just the way described by Zechariah, Jesus was living out the Old Testament prophecy that the promised King, Messiah, Saviour would be recognised by His riding on a donkey. The verses from the book of Kings show how Solomon, the son of King David, rode on a donkey to his anointing as king. The people following Jesus would know all about that and they would have thought it fitting that Jesus should do the same.

In choosing to ride on a donkey Jesus was confirming that He was a King – like King David and King Solomon, but more than that for He was the promised Messiah sent by God to rescue his people. The Galilean people certainly seemed to have understood who He was – cheering, waving branches and putting down their cloaks and branches for Him to travel over. Definitely a welcome fit for a king.

Finish by saying that the cheering crowds may have had an understanding of who Jesus was but in Matthew 21:10 there is an undercurrent of suspicion as well as curiosity as it says that the city people of Jerusalem were stirred up by Jesus' arrival and wanted to know who He was.

RESPOND:

Choose your preferred activity:

If you like art and craft:

Make a peg donkey, donkey painting or weave a leaf (pictures below)



If you like Lego/construction

Make a building of the Palm Sunday story

If you like puzzles

Do the attached puzzle sheet

If you like colouring

Do the attached colouring sheet

If you like writing stories

Can you write the palm Sunday story as a comic strip?

If you like running and being active

In your biggest room, or the drive or garden, set up a “palm way” track - put leaves or paper and fabric along a track and run down it shouting Hosanna. Do this as many times as you can!

PRAYER (optional - you can say your own prayer if preferred)

1. Say thank you for something that God has surprised you with
2. Say sorry for times when you have done or thought wrong things
3. Ask Jesus to help you welcome him in your heart and expect him to be your saviour
4. Tell Jesus that you love him.

Some of these ideas and materials come from Jessica Ann-Jenner who has a useful website for more ideas - check it out on <https://www.tath.co.uk>