

April 1, 2020

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday!! The beginning of Holy Week when we see Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey and people praising Him as King.

- 1) Worship | If you've got a smart tv, pick a few worship songs off Youtube to sing together. Maybe each person in your family can take a turn picking their favorite song
- 2) Examen: Click [here](#)
- 3) Lesson: **Palm Sunday**

Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

Mark 11:1-11

Luke 19:28-44

John 12:12-19

Main Point: Palm Sunday: Jesus announces that he is the Rescuer

Tips for teaching: The fact that this event was prophesied so specifically is pretty cool—and shows us how significant this event is. Emphasize that for kids!

Goal: to help kids dig deeper into the story and consider what it shows us about Jesus and how it applies to our lives

INTRO: JESUS ANNOUNCES HE IS THE KING

This coming Sunday is a special day. Does anybody know the name of it? (Let kids respond: Palm Sunday.) Yep, Palm Sunday! And every year, on the Sunday before Easter, we celebrate the time Jesus announced to the whole city of Jerusalem that he is the rescuer and King! We call it Palm Sunday because people treated him exactly like a king. That means they shouted at Jesus as he rode into town on a donkey—and they laid down cloaks and palm branches like they were rolling out the red carpet. That's how we got the name Palm Sunday.

Now, we don't have kings in America, but we do sometimes shout and wave at important people who ride limos or fancy cars. Who have you shouted for?(musicians, athletes, actors, etc) Picture crowds getting that excited when Jesus came through town. But in a different way... because Jesus wasn't just a celebrity they wanted to see, he was the Rescuer they wanted to worship!

PALM SUNDAY IS BITTERSWEET

Now, the day Jesus came to town on a donkey to announce he was King was an incredibly exciting day. And tons of people believed in him as the Rescuer and the King. But it was also bittersweet. Something bittersweet means there are both good and bad parts.

For example, when school's out, it's sweet because you get to sleep in and have fun. But it's bitter because you won't see your friends every day. Or, if you are playing soccer and have the best game of your life because you score five goals, that's sweet! But if your team still loses, the game is also bitter.

So Palm Sunday was sweet because TONS of people believed that Jesus was the rescuer! But there was a bitter—or sad—part too. In fact, Palm Sunday was so bittersweet that in the midst of the celebration, Jesus began to cry. We're going to watch a video of the story. As we watch, see if you can figure out why Jesus started crying in the middle of all the celebration.

[Video: God's Story Palm Sunday](#)

So why did Jesus start crying? Yes, on the very day Jesus announces his rescue, some people don't believe he IS the Rescuer! And they wanted others to stop treating Jesus as King!

JESUS WANTS TO RESCUE US

Jesus was sad, because he really IS the Rescuer. A week after he rode into Jerusalem, he knew he would die to take the punishment of all the wrong things in the world. And he wants EVERYBODY to believe he is the Rescuer, so that EVERYBODY can be a part of God's family.

See, John 1:12 says this: "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"

That verse is saying that EVERYBODY who does believe Jesus is the Rescuer, sent by God to save us from all the wrong things we've done—is a son or daughter of God, in God's own family! Now, that's GREAT news!

THE SWEETEST PART

But this story gets even better. Remember, there were still huge crowds waving palm branches and praising Jesus! It's what they wanted to do in order to treat him as a king. Let's see how that might feel.

Have everyone cheer and wave their arms like they are part of the welcome party for the person they would most like to meet.

Imagine if everyone were waving, dancing, celebrating Jesus. We don't know how it would look but maybe it looked like this. All those waving and cheering on Palm Sunday gives us a little preview of how God will one day restore the world for his whole family, where everybody will know Jesus is King and everybody will praise him! Even the trees will praise Jesus! God told us about it through his prophet Isaiah. Let's stop waving a minute to hear what God says:

Isaiah 55:12- "You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands!"

Palm Sunday is really special because it gives us a taste of when Jesus, our king, will restore the world for all God's family! And because Jesus rescued us, we can all live in that world one day

Review

1. Something else that might surprise you is this: God told a prophet named Zechariah what would happen.... hundreds of years before Jesus announced he was king. Have someone read the verse below

Zechariah 9:9: "City of Zion, be full of joy! People of Jerusalem, shout! See, your king comes to you. He always does what is right. He has the power to save. He is gentle and riding on a donkey. He is sitting on a donkey's colt."

- a. Wow, can you believe that? Wave your hands if you can find ONE thing that happened in the story and in this verse. I'll read it one more time.
 - i. Jesus entered Jerusalem (City of Zion is the same thing)
 - ii. He announced he was King
 - iii. He rode on a donkey
 - iv. People shouted with joy and praise
- b. What else happened in the story that isn't in that verse?
 - i. It doesn't say how Jesus got a donkey (by telling the disciples to go ask for one)
 - ii. It doesn't say that some people didn't want Jerusalem to treat Jesus as the king.

Tip: The fact that this event was prophesied so specifically is pretty cool—and shows us how significant this event is. Emphasize that!

2. Why would God tell Zechariah about Jesus hundreds of years before Jesus came? (He wanted everybody to be ready for the king and to recognize Jesus as the Rescuer! He wants everybody to be a part of his family.)
3. What would you have done if you were in Jerusalem when Jesus came riding in?

ACTIVITY

Go outside and see if you can find some large leaves to act as Palm leaves. Take the leaves and have kids use them to create a picture of what they think it may have looked like when Jesus entered the city on a donkey and all the people were cheering for Him.

Jesus will one day restore the world. Even the trees will treat him as king! But we can start treating him as our king right now, just like the people in Jerusalem who believed

in the rescuer. What are some ways we can treat Jesus as king? (Brainstorm with the kids. Here are ideas to get you started: obey parents, sing to Jesus, pray, be kind to others like Jesus was gentle and kind, give thanks, etc.)