

Palm Sunday – Luke 19:28-40 → Sunday School Online – April 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

Here are some ideas for providing a Sunday School lesson for your children. This Sunday, we begin Holy Week by remembering Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on the back of donkey. Five days later, He would be crucified for our sins. Palm Sunday is always a good lesson for our children, as it is a time in the Bible when the children are recognized for praising the Lord and Jesus commends them for it. The lesson is not difficult and should be fun time of faith-talk with your kids. God bless your efforts to teach your children the faith in this time of testing.

Blessing,

Carolyn

Begin your time together in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to join you in your discussion and activities, that everyone might learn to know God better and love Him more.

Supplies

- Video – Small People Productions (this video is available on our App - @thecross - along with this lesson)

Discuss and Watch “Small People Productions”

Today we're learning about the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People praised Jesus because they realized that Jesus is the King! Close your eyes and imagine the scene of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. What do you see? What do you hear? What might have been like to be there that day?

Watch “Small People Productions.”

How did this production compare to what you pictured?

There probably weren't rubber chickens on Palm Sunday. And I'm pretty sure a giant dog didn't try to eat Jesus! But people did praise Jesus and put their coats on the road to treat him like a king. And we can do the same because Jesus is the King!

Object Lesson – Power of the Scepter

Supplies (all of these are things you should have readily available at home)

- 2 white plates (disposable or regular)
- 5 cotton swabs
- clear liquid dish soap
- cup of water
- pepper
- paper towels

Easy Prep

Dip 1 of the cotton swabs in the dish soap so one end is well-coated. (Don't let the kids see you do this part and don't let the other cotton swabs touch the cotton swab with the soap.) Place all 5 cotton swabs on a plate, but make sure to keep track of which one has soap on it.

Watch Pepper React to Soap

Today we are learning about how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as their King. Let's think more about what that means as we do something fun.

Pour the cup of water onto the empty plate. Sprinkle a large amount of pepper onto the surface of the water. (Keep paper towels close by for spills.)

When I say that Jesus is the King, that means Jesus is really powerful. Let's see if we have anyone powerful enough to get this pepper to move without touching it with your hands.

Show the cotton swabs on the plate, and hold up a dry one. Say: Often a king has a special stick to hold. It's called a scepter. A king holds a scepter to show he's in charge and he has the power to tell people what to do. Jesus doesn't need a scepter—he doesn't need anything to make him powerful. But we're not powerful like Jesus is, so we'll need to use these tiny scepters to move the pepper.

Give a child a plain cotton swab off the plate. Have the child gently touch the surface of the water with the cotton swab, without stirring the water. Encourage the rest of the family to notice that nothing happens. Try the rest of the plain dry cotton swabs, each time noticing no major changes.

I don't see anyone yet who has the power to control the pepper. I guess we should try one last time.

Choose one more child to dip the soap-covered cotton swab into the water. Kids will notice that the pepper quickly moves away from where the cotton swab touches the water.

Say: Wow, that was the scepter with power!

Talk About It

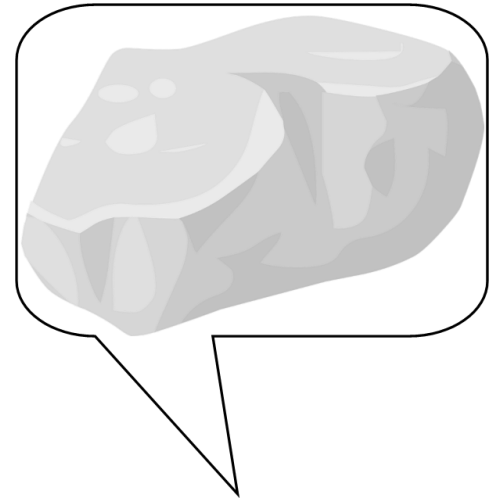
What did you think when the special scepter made the pepper move?

Only one scepter could move the pepper. It was the only powerful one. Like that, Jesus is the only real powerful King. He's not like other kings, so he doesn't need anything to help him be powerful. Jesus is the King of the whole world, and he's the most powerful person ever. He's powerful enough to give you everything you need. And he's powerful enough to take care of you always.

Bible Discovery – Jesus’ Triumphant Entry – Luke 19:28-40

Supplies

- Bibles
- “call-out” rocks – cut these shapes out of paper ahead of the class time (or have the kids do during class time!) At least one per person. There’s a page of these at the end of the lesson.
- Markers / pens/ crayons



Easy Prep

- Bookmark Luke 19:37-38 and Zechariah 9:9

Talk About Kings and Royalty

- Today we’re learn that Jesus is the King. Let’s think about what kings are like.
- How do you picture a king?
- If a king was going to be in a parade right near your house, what would you do?
- Think about famous people you’ve seen on TV or in real life, like the president or movie stars. How have you seen them travel?
- The president travels in a long line of fancy cars called limousines, with people all around protecting him. Movie stars often show up to fancy events in limousines, and then they walk on a special red carpet.
- Jesus is the King, but he didn’t travel like that. He walked from one place to another, and his feet probably got dirty with no red carpet to walk on. But in today’s Bible story, we’ll see a time Jesus was treated just like the King he really is.

Travel in Style

Show the kids the six pictures below depicting different ways to travel. Have your children analyze the different ways to travel if you are the King. Why did they make the choice that they did?







Of course, a lot of these kinds of transportation didn't exist yet when Jesus was alive. But there was a specific way Jesus wanted to travel.

Read Luke 19:28-31.

There's a very specific reason Jesus wanted to travel on a baby donkey. You see, way back before Jesus lived on earth, God had given a prophet a special message about who Jesus would be. Listen.

Read Zechariah 9:9.

When Jesus told his disciples to find him a young donkey to ride on, He was showing them that He is the King God had told people about a long time ago!

Read Luke 19:32-36

Read Mark 11:8.

Putting down their coats and the palm branches from the trees was a sign reserved for an honored king returning victoriously. Have you ever seen a ticker-tape parade on TV or been to one in person? We don't throw our coat on the ground, but in big cities they throw little bits of paper on the winning team when they come home. – Show the kids the pictures below.







Read Luke 19:37-38.

We've heard what the people shouted to praise Jesus. And we've heard they praised him for the miracles they'd seen him do. What about you? Jesus is the King today, just as he was back then. What words would you use to praise Jesus if he were riding by today? What wonderful things has he done that you'd praise him for?

Make Stones Cry Out

Jesus had a great response to those Pharisees.

Read Luke 19:40.

What would it look like for a stone to praise Jesus? We're going to make some stones to praise Jesus. *Distribute "call out" rocks and markers. Have kids decorate the stones with faces, adding a speech bubble with a one-word praise for who Jesus is. For example, kids could write "King," "loving," or "amazing."*

Jesus is the King. He deserves our praise! And if people didn't praise Jesus, he's so worthy of praise that the rocks would! But we don't need to let rocks praise Jesus because we can always praise him for being our King!

Craft – Paper Palm Branches Turned into a Cross

Your children should have received a large envelope with activities for Holy Week in the last few days. Now is the time to make the “Palm Leave” into crosses. There will be an 11x17 sheet of palm fronds to cut out, then look at the YouTube video at this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT-0Z6YSJoU>

or type “how to make a palm cross – Michael Walther in the YouTube search engine.

He gives the simplest instructions to produce the most elegant form of this cross.

If you didn’t receive an activity kit, just cut a long ½” wide strip of paper, color it green and follow the folding instructions.

The little kids are going to need lots of help with this one. There’s also a coloring page at the end for them to do as well.



Game – Even the Stones

Make a Motion!

In our Bible story, the people waved palm branches and shouted out praises to Jesus as he rode by. When the Pharisees told Jesus to make them stop, Jesus told them that if the people were quiet, even the stones would burst out in cheers. Let’s think more about that as we play a game.

Explain to kids you’re going to randomly call out either “praise” or “stones.” When you say “praise,” kids will wave their hands over their heads like they’re waving palm branches. When you say “stones,” kids will curl into a ball on the ground and cheer. Once kids understand the actions, begin the game. Start out slowly calling either “praise” or “stones.” Then begin calling out the commands faster and faster until kids can’t keep up.

For an added challenge, add a third motion for “donkey.” Kids will use their hands to make donkey ears and gallop in place.

Talk About It

It was hard to keep up in this game. When is it hard for you to remember to praise Jesus?

How does it make you feel to know that the stones would praise Jesus even if people wouldn’t?

Sometimes we’re moving so fast or are so focused on other things that we forget that Jesus is the King. The Bible reminds us that as King, Jesus deserves our praise. Even the stones would recognize that Jesus is the King.

Palm Sunday



