

Palm Sunday

“Jesus’ Triumphant Entry”

Palm Sunday is the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, to the shouts of **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”** It was a celebration, because people knew that Jesus was coming to rescue them from their sins.

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud to the children. Use an engaging style with dramatic voice. You will be repeating the lesson in smaller pieces as you explain in detail.

Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus sent two of his followers into the town. ² He said to them, “Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey tied there with its colt. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell him, ‘The Master needs them. He will send them back soon.’” ⁴ This was to make clear the full meaning of what the prophet said:

*⁵ “Tell the people of Jerusalem,
 ‘Your king is coming to you.
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.
 He is on the colt of a donkey.’”*

⁶ The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus. They laid their coats on the donkeys, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ Many people spread their coats on the road before Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. All the people were shouting,

*“Praise^[a] to the Son of David!
God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Psalm 118:26
Praise to God in heaven!”*

¹⁰ Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. The city was filled with excitement. The people asked, “Who is this man?” ¹¹ The crowd answered, “This man is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee.”

Discuss Bible Lesson:

Wow, this was a big parade – and Jesus deserved it! Remember how he had traveled all over Israel helping people, doing miracles, and telling them about God’s love? Now he was coming to the Capitol, the most important city. This was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years. It was all finally coming together, and the people were going crazy like they had just won the super bowl.

But there was a problem: Jesus wasn’t rich like a normal king. He didn’t have a big fancy horse or a big fancy army to go with him in this parade. Did you hear how Jesus fixed that problem:

Read Matthew 21:1-3 again...

Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus sent two of his followers into the town. He said to them, "Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey tied there with its colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell him, 'The Master needs them. He will send them back soon.'"

- Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem when Jesus stops them. He sends 2 disciples to get Him 2 donkeys. But He doesn’t say anything about paying for them. They are to go to the village and get a donkey and her colt. If there are any problems...they are just supposed to say that "the Lord needs them" and it will all be fine.
- But this wasn’t an accident. This was just what the Bible had promised for hundreds of years. The real king wasn’t going to be fancy, but ride into the city on a donkey ... a donkey he had to borrow.

Read Matthew 21:4-5 again...

This was to make clear the full meaning of what the prophet said:

*⁵ "Tell the people of Jerusalem,
'Your king is coming to you.
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.
He is on the colt of a donkey.'"*

- Jesus was fulfilling prophecy. He was supposed to ride on a donkey's colt – that means a young donkey. Can you imagine a big important king riding on a simple little donkey? What about the big army and the fancy horse? You see Jesus wasn't a normal king trying to show he was important and force everyone to serve him. Jesus was the opposite: **He came to show love and serve the people.**

Read Matthew 21:6-9 again...

The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus. They laid their coats on the donkeys, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ Many people spread their coats on the road before Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. All the people were shouting,

*"Praise^[a] to the Son of David!
God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Praise to God in heaven!"*

- The disciples did what they were told to do. They went and got the donkey and the colt. A big crowd was already showing up and covering the street with their coats and branches from the trees. Remember that they didn't have paved roads back then – the roads were dirt. They were showing their respect to Jesus by covering the road so that He wouldn't get dirty.

- They cheered for Jesus with words from the Bible. This was a big victory celebration, and everyone was excited to see what would happen next.
- That was a big commotion! I bet the people in the city were wondering what was happening.

Read Matthew 21:10-11 again...

Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. The city was filled with excitement. The people asked, "Who is this man?" The crowd answered, "This man is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee.

- Jesus made quite an entrance! People were trying to figure out who He was. Remember, there was no television back then. People had heard about Him, but they had never seen Him before. Notice – they didn't say that He was the Son of God. They called Him a prophet. It was difficult for some of the people of Jesus' time to realize that He was God and that He was going to save them.
- It's such an exciting story—Jesus returning home in triumph and welcomed by cheering crowds! It's a reminder that no matter what might be happening in our lives, God is always with us and will never leave us.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What did Jesus say his disciples would find in the village? *(Donkey and her colt.)*
- 2. How did the disciples prepare the donkey for Jesus? *(They laid their cloaks or clothes on them.)*
- 3. What did the crowds spread on the road before Jesus? *(Some laid cloaks, others branches.)*
- 4. What did the people shout? Why did they do this? *(They shouted Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Because they were full of joy.*
- 5. If you were among the crowds, how would you have shown your joy when you saw Jesus?

Summary

- Jesus performed many miracles. The news about how He healed many, and His remarkable teachings spread quickly. The people believed Jesus was the Christ, the one who would rise to power and free the people from the hardships placed on them by the Romans.
- So they shouted praises of joy when they saw Him. Little did they know the reason Jesus came to earth was to free the people not from the Romans, but from their sins.
- Jesus offered the gift of everlasting life.
- That gift is for everyone who hears the Word of God and welcomes Jesus into their hearts.
- Now that calls for shouts of praise. Hosanna! Save us Now!

Activity

Have the children discuss the main points of the story and then reenact it. "In our Bible story today, Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus is the king of kings and so He was riding like a king. The people celebrated His arrival. They were worshipping Him."

- Give the kids 2 palm leaves each and Lead the children in rounds of cheering Hosanna and the other words from the passage. (See below). Let them take turns pretending to be Jesus on a donkey and the others cheering for him.

Have them shout:

Hosanna to the Son of David!

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" —

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

(Psalm 118:26)

Memory Verse: **Your king comes to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey.” Matthew 21:5**

Videos:

Palm Sunday Story

<https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE>

Video: Veggie Tales - Twas the night before Easter

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/405419558831/veggietales-twas-the-night-before-easter?recommended=q%3Aveggie%20tales%20easter%20>

Craft: Jesus Rides in on a donkey

Craft package includes all cut-outs and stickers to assemble.

<https://www.orientaltrading.com/>



Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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