

Lesson 6: Seeing the Whole Picture

Palm Sunday: The Beginning of Holy Week



*(At the end of the lesson I have included a fun activity "Racing Caterpillars", which is just that... a time to laugh and hopefully have fun. You will need paper, markers, and straws.)

Call to Worship

Leader: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Children: Hosanna in the Highest!

Leader: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Children: Hosanna in the Highest!

Ask:

- What does Hosanna mean? (save, rescue, savior)
- How Much Do You Know? Tell a parent or a sibling everything you know about Palm Sunday.

Lesson:

Let's read or have someone read to you the following verses from Matthew entitled "Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as a King."

Matthew 21:1-11 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[c]

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Time to Tell: Tell someone something new you learned about the day Jesus came to Jerusalem.

Let's try to picture this story:

Inside this box draw a picture or write down words which would describe all the sights and sounds you would have seen and heard on that day.



Time to Think:

Your picture was much like a scene that took place in Jerusalem. King Jesus was coming to their city. People lined the streets. Some people walked in front of the Jesus and some walked behind him. Jesus rode on the back of a small donkey. Let's do what the people did when Jesus came to town.

As Jesus rode through the streets of the city, the crowds...

- waved palm branches (Pause for kids wave their arms.)
- shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Pause for kids to respond.)
- shouted, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Pause for kids to respond.)
- shouted, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Pause for kids to respond.)

Ask:

- When they shout "Hosanna", what are the people in the crowd saying to Jesus? (save us, rescue us, savior)
- Yet, when questioned, "Who is this?" people in the crowd called Jesus a prophet.
- Did they see Jesus as the Savior?
- Did they see the whole picture?
- Did they see how Jesus was going to save them and still save us today?
- How did Jesus save us?
- If you are asked today, "Who is this?" How would you answer that question? _____

As we continue through Holy Week, you may want to read the following Bible verses:

Monday	Jesus Cleanses the Temple	John 2: 13-17
Tuesday	Jesus Anointed at Bethany	Mark 14: 1-11
Wednesday	The Plot to Kill Jesus	Luke 22: 1-6
Thursday	Passover with His Disciples	Luke 22: 7-21
Friday	The Death and Burial of Jesus	Luke 23: 44-56

Just as the crowd celebrated the entrance to Jesus into Jerusalem, we can celebrate Jesus in our lives for He is our Savior. Let us pray together! (You could say a part and then the children repeat.)

Gracious God, help us to worship and adore you..... not only when the crowds do..... and things are going well,but also in the dark times of our lives.Help us to show others..... the way towards Jesus.....by behaving in ways..... that are pleasing to you. Amen

Let's have some fun with a "Caterpillar Race":

The Caterpillar:

- Cut a strip of paper $8 \frac{1}{2}$ by $1 \frac{1}{2}$
- Then folding the paper accordion style. Start by folding the strip in half and then folding the ends in to meet in the middle. Trim the edges round and unfold. On one end of the strip, use markers to draw a face for your caterpillar.
- Then, it's time to race! Using straws pointed at the unfolded caterpillar, blow to get the paper to move.
- The motion resembles the up and down crawling of an actual caterpillar.
- Make a starting line for your caterpillar
- On your mark, get set, go!