



4.17.11/Mark 11:1-11

Palm Sunday

Materials Needed

Leaders: please print enough copies of the attached activity page for each child.

Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers

Read Mark 11:1-11

"As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you doing this?" tell him, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve." (NIV)

Activity/Craft:

Have the children cut out their palm leaf. Have them write (or help them write) "Hosanna!" on the leaf. Allow them to color and decorate it however they'd like.

Discussion:

Have you ever been to a sports game or a concert where the people in the audience make big signs cheering on the athletes or performers? Some fans bring big foam fingers, some paint their faces and some just yell and cheer. In today's passage, we see that crowds gathered as Jesus rode in to town and began to shout to him, laying palm leaves on the road for him, and waving them in the air. But Jesus is so much more important than a musician or an athlete. The crowds were cheering because they realized that their Messiah (or Savior) was here with them after years and years of waiting! "Hosanna" is a cry of adoration and love that means "save us now!" They were shouting praises to God!

Questions:

1. In the beginning of this passage we see that Jesus tells the disciples exactly what they would see when they would go look for the colt, where they would see it and what to say if they were questioned about taking it. Because Jesus is God, He could have gotten this colt in any number of ways but He intentionally chose to have his disciples be a part of His plan. Today, in our daily lives, Jesus chooses to use us to help carry out His plans. Can you think of a way that you are a part of His work? *Examples: cooking meals for those that don't have food, being a good friend and loving your neighbors, classmates and family, donating clothes and toys to children who don't have much, etc.* Why do you think God wants you to be a part of His work? *Because when we are a part of God's will, we are becoming more like Jesus. Jesus came and was completely in line with what God the Father wanted. We are called to become more like. When we are doing His work, He uses those times to grow and develop us and make us more like Him. He also works through us to show others how much He loves them!*



2. How do we become more like Jesus? *We can't do it on our own. We can try and try all we want, but we'll never become more like Him that way. His Spirit must live inside of us first, and when it does, that's what changes us and makes us able to love others like He loves them and us! When we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, we are saved from sin and death and are given a new life in Christ! He gives us His Holy Spirit to change us and make us more like Himself. If you would like to know more about what it means to be saved and follow Jesus, talk to your parents about this!*

3. Think about movies or TV shows you've seen where a King is riding an animal. What does the King normally ride? *A horse. Jesus is called the King of Kings. He is the everlasting and most powerful King that has ever existed. What animal did Jesus choose to ride into Jerusalem? A donkey. (Explain to the children that a colt is a donkey!) Hundreds of years ago, a prophesy was written in the Old Testament (Zechariah 9:9), that said when the King was coming to save the Jews, he would ride in on a donkey. During this time, a donkey was considered a sign of peace. Why do you think Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey rather than a war horse? Because He did not come to start a war or to oppress the people, but rather to love them with great compassion and reconcile the relationship between us and God the Father. A war horse would be something an earthly king would ride to show his power and authority. Jesus, the King with ALL the power and ALL the authority, came in complete humility, to serve rather than to be served. Riding on a donkey, a sign of peace, showed that Jesus came to bring peace and save us from the destruction of sin.*

Reflection/Prayer

Jesus is the most powerful King that has ever lived. He came to serve us by destroying the sin and to restore peace between us and God the Father. Praise God for His mighty work! Praise Him for His unending love and compassion! Praise Him for His goodness and graciousness! Hosanna in the highest!

Spend your prayer time praising how good Jesus is to you. Think and reflect about all of the many blessings He has given to you and praise Him for all that He is (Redeemer, Restorer, Counselor, Prince of Peace, King of Kings). Hosanna!