

**Children's Ministries Lesson – Lower Elementary**  
**The Triumphal Entry – Palm Sunday**  
**Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19**  
**April 5, 2020**

Children's Ministries purpose is to **build a spiritual foundation in each child that lasts a lifetime.**

We hope this lesson provides additional opportunities for your family to strengthen your relationship with each other and with Jesus. This lesson has components of both Children's Church and Sunday School fused together.

As you prepare for this lesson and the space you will use, consider gathering supplies, create a worship focal point (ideas: a Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container), and remove other distractions from the area. Read through this lesson before beginning. *Wording in BLUE italics is information for the family leader(s). BLACK italics are actions to do.*

With love, from your Children's Ministries Team and Worship Leaders, Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara.

**BIBLE POINT:** Jesus came to save us all! Let us praise his holy name!

**SUPPLIES:** worship focal point ideas: a Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container; praise & worship music links; Bible story video link; activities supplies (see activity options below)

**FAMILY CHANT:** *During Sunday School, your children begin with a "class chant". To bring that to your home, create a family chant that you can say each time. Create your own or use this one. The chant helps connect mind with body and connects everyone together.*

*Motions/actions are in parentheses.*

Let's create our own family "chant" as a way to begin our time together. Repeat what I say and do.

Together we make the [insert family name] family. *(put arms around each other's shoulders - form a huddle)*

Together we make the [insert family name] family. *(put arms around each other's shoulders - form a huddle)*

I love our [insert family name] family! *(whoop whoop)* I love our [insert family name] family! *(whoop whoop)*

We are the dream team you see. *(clap clap)* We are the dream team you see. *(clap clap)*

*(continued on next page)*

We are safe and helpful too. *(stomp stomp)* We are safe and helpful too. *(stomp stomp)*  
Using kind words is what we do. *(high five each other)* Using kind words is what we do. *(high five each other)*  
I love our [insert family name] family! *(whoop whoop)* I love our [insert family name] family!  
*(whoop whoop)*  
We are the dream team you see. *(clap clap)* We are the dream team you see. *(clap clap)*

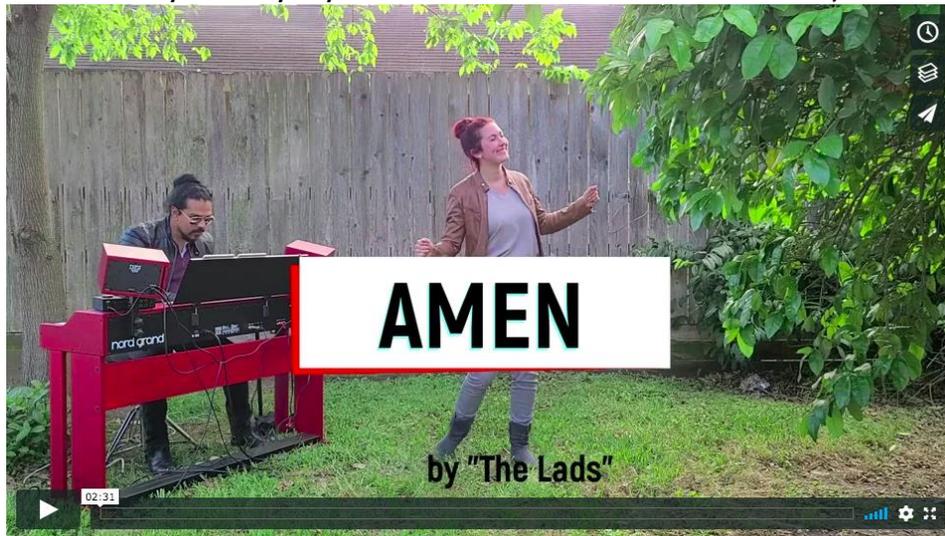
## **OPENING PRAISE SONGS**

**Supplies:** Select the links for Praise and Worship Music (use one or both links)

1. [“Praising”](#) (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara, Contemporary & Children’s Church Worship Leaders)



2. [“Amen”](#) (performed by Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara)



## **OFFERTORY**

*Determine where your offering with go. You may select an organization of your choice, or save it until we return to Sunday School/Children’s Church to give to our current mission. The below scripture is the scripture we use each Sunday during our Offertory time.*

Let's say this scripture together. "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Now, let us pray for those who will receive our offering and The Lord's Prayer. Does someone want to lead us in prayer?

*An optional prayer:*

Dear God, We thank you for our many blessings. May the offering we share today bring your hope to those who will receive it. And now, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **LEARNING SCRIPTURE**

Let us learn this scripture together. Repeat a few times.

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STORY**

Today's Bible story is called "Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem". We often refer to this story as Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter.

Palm Sunday is the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Crowds of people there to celebrate Passover. Does anyone know what Passover is? It is a holiday in which Jewish people remember and thank God for keeping his people and their babies safe as they prepared to escape from the mean pharaoh in Egypt. This was the last of the ten plagues. God led them to a better place through Moses. Today, Jewish people continue to remember and celebrate Passover every year.

Back to our story. Crowds and crowds of people were in the streets. They heard that Jesus was coming to town. They wanted to see him, greet him, and celebrate him. They shouted, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." Hosana means "saves us".

The Triumphal Entry probably looked very similar to a parade. Many times parades are held for important or famous people. The Triumphal Entry was like a parade to celebrate Jesus.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Supplies:** [Click here for the Bible Story video.](#)

We are going to watch and listen to the "Palm Sunday" story as told from The Spark Story Bible, edited by Debra Thorpe Hetherington, Illustrated by Peter Grosshauser and Ed Temple.

Watch the Bible story video.



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Ask and discuss any/all of the following questions.**

1. Why were there crowds of people in Jerusalem on that Sunday? *(They were there to celebrate Passover.)*
2. Why were they celebrating Passover? *(To remember their ancestors' experience in Egypt and to thank God for keeping their families safe while under pharaoh's rule.)*
3. BONUS QUESTION #1: The Passover story is found in the Old Testament in the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of the Bible, also known as the tenth plague. Does anyone know what the second book of the Bible is? *(Exodus).*
4. BONUS QUESTION #2: After the tenth plague, pharaoh finally let the Hebrew people go. What miracle did God do through Moses to help his people escape Egypt? *(He parted the Red Sea.)*
5. Back to the Palm Sunday story. What did Jesus tell his disciples to borrow? Let's look it up in our Bible – the Book of Matthew 21:2-3 *(Donkey and her colt)*
6. What did the crowds spread on the road before Jesus? Let's read it in Matthew 21: 8. *(Some laid cloaks and palm branches)*
7. What did the people shout? Look at Matthew 21:9. *(They shouted "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!")*
8. Why did they do this? *They were full of joy and hope that Jesus would be their earthly king. They wanted to show their love for Jesus.)*
9. If you were among the crowds, how would you have shown your joy when you saw

Jesus and show him that we love him.

There is a big part of this story that is important for us to know. Everyone was so happy to see Jesus. They thought he was going to be the new king of the world. Yet, they did not understand until later that Jesus was not going to be the kind of king like other kings. They were right. He did come to “save” them, but not by being like all the other kings. He would not be an earthly king, but a heavenly king. Jesus is the King of all kings. Jesus “saved” them and us by giving us the greatest gift ever – a forever life full of his love and forgiveness. Jesus is the King of our hearts and lives. We simply need to trust and believe in him. Let us shout together, “Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Jesus is our savior!”

### **ACTIVITY #1- Forgiveness Toss:**

**Supplies:** Paper, pencils, pen or marker, trash can, and blue painter’s tape

#### **Directions:**

1. Get a pen/pencil and paper for each person.
2. Rip the paper into 2 or three pieces, the shapes don’t matter.
3. Ask your child what sin means? (*Sins can be bad attitudes, poor choices, a mistake we made, or something for which we feel guilty. Examples: fighting with your brother or sister, not being respectful to your teacher, choosing to play instead of doing a chore my parents gave me to do, etc.*)
4. Ask everyone to write down one sin he/she has committed on one piece of paper, then form the paper into a ball.
5. Ask everyone to write down one sin that someone has committed against them on one piece of paper, then form the paper into a ball.
6. Set a trash can in the front of the room. Tape a line or pick a spot to stand a throwing distance from the trash can.
7. Have the following discussion before continuing with the activity.

What do you have to do to be forgiven of all your sins? (*Pray and ask for forgiveness*)  
That is right! The only thing you have to do to be forgiven is love Jesus and ask him for forgiveness.

After you ask for forgiveness, does God keep track of all your sins? (*no!*)  
God forgives you and forgets about your sin as soon as you ask for forgiveness. It is kind of like giving our sins to God. God forgiving us, then our sins go in the trash can. God also gives us the strength to forgive people when they sin against us.

After we forgive a person, should we keep track of what they have done wrong? (*No!*)  
*In The Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to forgive others just like he forgives us!*

Are you ready to throw our sins in the trash can?

8. Take turns tossing/shooting the crumpled-up sins in the trash can. If anyone misses, just have them pick up the paper ball and **slam dunk** it!
9. Repeat, as desired.

### **Optional Craft Activity- Handprint Paper Palm Branch Craft:**



<http://ohamanda.com/2011/04/18/palm-palms-a-giveaway-the-beginning-of-our-resurrection-week/>

### **SUPPLIES:**

- For Palm Branches: Green paper or use white paper that is colored green with a crayon or marker.
- To cut out Palm Branches: Scissors
- For Palm Stem: Popsicle stick, or stick from your yard, or rolled up piece of paper (be creative) 😊
- To attach the palms to the stem: glue, or stapler or staples, or tape (be creative) 😊
- To write on the palms: pen or marker

### **Instructions:**

1. Give your child the paper.
2. Have them trace as many of their prints as they want on their palm branch. (they should at least do 2)
3. If the paper is white, don't forget to color it green.
4. Optional: have your child write things they are thankful for or things they are glad they are forgiven for on the finger of one palm.
5. Cut each traced hand print out.
6. Attach each palm to the branch in your creative way 😊 If you decided to the option 4, make sure that handprint is somewhere that can be seen well when you attach them.
7. Have your child wave the palm and shout "Hosanna, praise God". Have a dance party as you wave your palms, using the praise and worship music.
8. Optional: If you would like to send a picture of your Palm Sunday celebration, we would love to see them! Email pictures to [JEllerbrock@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:JEllerbrock@stlukesmethodist.org)

### **CLOSING:**

Today is a special day, indeed! As we remember Palm Sunday, let's think of ways that we can share this story with others as we begin Holy Week.

## **LEARNING SCRIPTURE:**

Let's say our scripture again!

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Ask someone to close your time in a prayer or use the following prayer.*

Dear God, we thank you for teaching us how to love you and others. Lead us to always put our trust in you. Help us, Lord, to never forget how awesome you are. We love you and celebrate you! Amen.

## **CLOSING SONG:**

**Supplies:** [Click here](#) for closing song, "We Will Worship" (Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara)

*Play the closing song.*



## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – to continue our worship all week!**

**Healthcare Cards:** Please consider making one or more cards for our local healthcare workers. Snap or scan a picture and email it to: [HealthcareCard@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:HealthcareCard@stlukesmethodist.org). We will share them with some of our local heroes. **Thank you!**