

## Children's Ministries Lesson – Upper Elementary

### The Triumphal Entry - Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44; and 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 your space, 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, Your Children's Ministries Team and Worship Leaders, Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara.

**BIBLE STORY 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 and worship music links; Bible story link; activity 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.

*We are the [insert family name] family. (whoop whoop) **We are the [insert family name]. (whoop whoop)***

*We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap) **We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap)***

*Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp) **Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp)***

*Together we can make the world a better place. (high five) **Together we can make the world a better place. (high five)***

*This is our family! (whoop whoop) **This is our family! (whoop whoop)***

## 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. [“Thank You Lord, Risen”](#) (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara)



## OFFERTORY:

*Determine where your offering will 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.

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

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

### **INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STORY**

Today, we are going to learn about the celebration of Palm Sunday! Palm Sunday is celebrated the Sunday before Easter during Lent.

What do we know about the Lenten Season? (wait for responses)

It is the 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday, not including Sundays, that lead us to Easter. This special season helps us prepare our hearts and minds for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **BIBLE STORY:**

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

The Palm Sunday story, also known as Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, is found in all four books of the Gospel: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

We are going to watch and listen to "The Palm Sunday" story as retold from The Bible for Children from Good Books. [Watch the Bible story video.](#)



## **PRAYER:**

Dear God,

As we gather to learn about Palm Sunday, please be with our family. Help us to learn about Jesus's journey from Palm Sunday, to the cross to Jesus' resurrection next Sunday. Lord be with us in all our journeys today. Thank you for loving us so much. Please bless this time that we have together.

Amen.

## **ACTIVITY 1: Scripture Lookup**

**Supplies:** Bibles (one per person)

Let's find the four Gospels in our Bibles. Some of you may have Bible tabs on your Bible. If not, let's practice finding it this way.

The Bible has a Table of Contents, which is one way to find where each book is located. Now, we will learn a quick way to find the Gospels without using the Table of Contents. (*You will want to demonstrate this with a Bible.*)

1. Hold the Bible in your lap, spine down and open edge up. Place one hand on each side. With your thumbs, divide the pages in half.
2. Open your Bible. You should be somewhere in the Book of Psalms. If not, turn a few pages toward the front or the back until you are there.
3. Have the family close their Bibles and find the Book of Psalms several times by trying to open their Bibles near the center.

This is a quick way to find Psalms. Now let's find the first Gospel - Matthew. (*Demonstrate with your own Bible.*)

1. Have everyone find Psalms by dividing your Bible in the middle.
2. With the Bible still divided in the middle (Psalms), hold the back half of the Bible between your hands.
3. With your thumbs, divide these pages in half.
4. You should find the Book of Matthew. (*Everyone might have to look a few pages in front or back of what they think is the middle.*)

*Now have family look up and read Matthew 21:1-11. If desired family can look up and read the remaining scriptures below. Fun tip: make finding the scripture a family race!*

*Mark 11:1-11*

*Luke 19:29-44*

*John 12:12-29*

## **ACTIVITY 2: Journey to Easter Review Game**

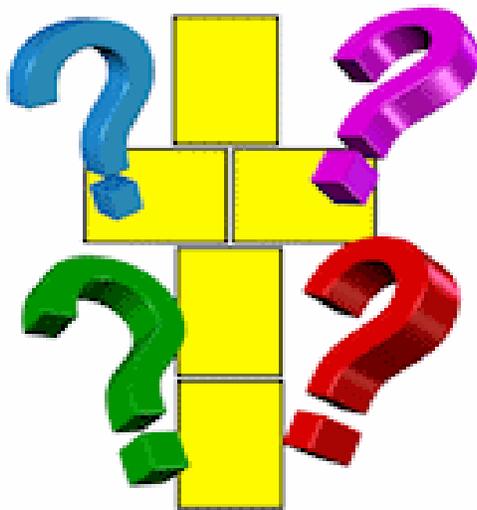
**Supplies:** beanbags or anything that can be used to toss (i.e. crumbled up paper or hacky sack), 5 sheets of paper, tape and Bible for reference.

**Preparation:** Use five sheets of paper to form a cross shape. Tape the sheets to the floor. (See example.) Then, use masking tape to create a line about ten feet from the cross shape. The family will stand behind this line and toss the beanbag onto the cross shape.

### **Instructions:**

1. Have family members line up behind the masking tape, facing the cross. Give a beanbag to the first person in line. Have one family member toss his or her beanbag and try to get it to land anywhere on the cross.
2. The first person to succeed, getting the beanbag on the cross, wins a question. If the person answers the question correctly, they receive 2 points. If they do not know the answer, see if another family member does and award this family member 2 points for the correct answer. If the family is stumped, look up the answer using the provided scripture references.

Play continues until you ask all 15 questions or until your families wishes to stop. The person with the most points wins, or in the event of a tie, come up with a tiebreaker question or have a toss off (i.e. the person who gets closest to the center of the cross wins!).



## JOURNEY TO EASTER REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Into which city was Jesus going in order to celebrate Passover?  
(Jerusalem - Matthew 21:1)
2. On what kind of animal did Jesus ride when He came into the city of Jerusalem?  
(A young donkey, or colt - Matthew 21:5)
3. How many disciples did Jesus send to go and get the donkey?  
(Two - Matthew 21:1-2)
4. What two things did the people spread on the road before Jesus as He came?  
(Palm branches and coats or cloaks - Matthew 21:8)
5. Finish this cheer shouted by the people as they saw Jesus coming. "Blessed is He who comes in \_\_\_\_\_!"  
("the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" - Matthew 21:9)
6. What is another word meaning, "death on a cross?" (Crucifixion)
7. What was the name of the man who helped Jesus carry the cross?  
(Simon - Luke 23:26)
8. True or False: As Jesus carried the cross, a small number of people followed Him.  
(False, a large number of people followed Him - Luke 23:27)
9. What was the name of the place where they crucified Jesus?  
(Golgotha or The Place of the Skull - Luke 23:33)
10. How many people were crucified with Jesus? (Two - Luke 23:32)
11. What crimes did the two men commit who were crucified with Jesus?  
(They were both thieves or robbers - Matthew 27:38)
12. What did Jesus ask His Father as He hung on the cross?  
(Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing - Luke 23:34)
13. Jesus told the second thief that today he would be with Jesus where?  
(In paradise - Luke 23:43)
14. Why did the sky become dark just before Jesus died?  
(The sun stopped shining - Luke 23:44-45)
15. What were the last words Jesus spoke before He died?  
("Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." - Luke 23:46)

*In the Bible, some of the Pharisees did not understand why the disciples and the people of Jerusalem were cheering for Jesus, waving palm branches for him, so they wanted Jesus to tell them to stop. Jesus says to these Pharisees "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout." Jesus wants us to celebrate him! We should not be afraid to proclaim our love for him!*

### **CLOSING SCRIPTURE:**

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10  
This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Thank you for sending us your son to give us eternal life. We pray that our home may be filled with celebration for the life of Jesus. Help us to live like him and remember all that he has sacrificed for us. Prepare our hearts for Holy Week, which leads to Easter Sunday. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

### **CLOSING SONG:**

**Supplies:** [Click here](#) for the 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!**