

PARENT GUIDE



AT HOME

MATTHEW 26:36-46

PALM SUNDAY

Spring 2020 Session 6



APRIL BIBLE VERSE: Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! (Mark 11:9b)

SEE THE BIBLE STORY: Watch the Deep Blue Adventure video for Session 6 (also found on the Kids' Connection FaceBook Group Page). <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020/33300-lessons/112480-palm-sunday>

ASK: How does our church celebrate Palm Sunday? How can we celebrate at home?

PALM LEAF ACTIVITY: Print the palm leaf picture attached. If you don't have access to a printer or printer ink, draw your own palm leaf! Encourage your children to decorate their palm leaf, using crayons, markers, glitter, glue, macaroni...whatever you can imagine! If your kids aren't the crafting type, head outside and find a branch or leaf that reminds you of the palms that were used. Hang your palms on your front door or in the window facing the street.

SAY: On Palm Sunday, we remember how happy people were to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.
Ask: How would you act if you were in a parade to honor Jesus?

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Amen!

Understanding Palm Sunday: On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey. Pilate, the Roman governor, would have entered Jerusalem riding on a warhorse. Jesus rode a donkey so the people knew he was the Prince of Peace, not a prince of war like Pilate. Did the people get it? We don't know. Within the week, the same people who had greeted Jesus enthusiastically and had waved palm branches at his arrival wanted him dead. Jesus' disciples even denied knowing him.

Riding on the donkey was prophesied in the Book of Zechariah 9:9: "Look, your king will come to you. He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and riding on an ass, on a colt, the offspring of a donkey." Jesus took great pains to make the prophecy be revealed for the people, but they still did not see or understand. Jesus was coming to restore the people to God, not to destroy a government.

Palm branches play a big role in today's Bible story. The people greeted Jesus by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" as he entered Jerusalem. Hosanna and the waving of palm branches were associated with kings. Some in the crowd may have expected Jesus to be a military king who would free them from the Roman emperor. Many would be disappointed that Jesus came as a peaceful leader to teach people to love and serve one another. We continue to celebrate Jesus' entry in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with celebration. Make this a day of celebration in your home. Palm Sunday was a joyous parade! People welcomed and celebrated Jesus by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" We continue to celebrate and praise Jesus today. Hosanna means "save now." The people were shouting, "Hosanna," save now, as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Close your eyes and reflect on the word hosanna. What do you think the people wanted Jesus to save them from? Is there something you want Jesus to save you from?

Older children are encouraged to look up the verse and read it from the Bible. Let them read aloud to you!

LOVE SEEK SERVE

FAMILY CHALLENGE: This week, SEEK answers to our questions through prayer. Memorize the following prayer and say it together once a day, every day this week.

Hosanna, King Jesus! Blessed are you, and I praise God for you. Help me to honor you as the one who came to save each of us and all of us. Thank you for loving each of us as you love all of us. Amen.

FAMILY TIME: Jesus is coming! Work together to write and act out a commercial or news segment letting everyone know that Jesus is coming to Jerusalem. Record it and post it to FaceBook!

