

Palm Sunday

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: The triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Scripture: Matthew 21:8

Memory Verse: A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. - Matthew 21:8

The Children's Sermon

One sunny morning, you decide to go on an adventure in your backyard. You run to your palm tree and carefully pick some branches because these branches are very special. They are signs of winning and happiness. You give a branch to each person in your family because today is a very important day. You all are going to be part of something called a Palm Sunday procession.

You and your family start walking to the road, holding your palm branches high. When you get there, you see lots of other people. They also have palm branches and are very excited. You feel like you are part of a big, happy group. You take off your coat and lay it on the road. This is a way to show respect and welcome someone very special.

This special person is called the Messiah. He is coming to town, and everyone wants to greet Him. People start singing, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." You join in, singing loudly and feeling joyful. This is what the Palm Sunday procession is all about.

Now, let's imagine what it was like back then. The roads were not like the roads we have today. They were dusty and full of stones. So, when people laid their coats on the road, it was a big deal. It showed that they really cared and wanted to honor the Messiah.

As the Messiah came closer, riding on a donkey, everyone waved their palm branches even more. Did you know that the donkey is a symbol of peace? That's right. The Messiah didn't come on a big, scary horse like a warrior. He came on a donkey, showing that He brought peace.

The Palm Sunday procession was like a big parade. Imagine being in that crowd, feeling the excitement and happiness. Everyone was there for the same reason - to welcome the Messiah and show Him love.

But why do we remember this day and call it Palm Sunday? Well, it's because this day reminds us of the love and peace that the Messiah brings. It's a day to be happy, to sing, and to be kind to others. Just like the people back then, we can show love and kindness in our own ways.

Maybe we don't have palm branches, but we can still be part of the Palm Sunday procession in our hearts. We can be kind to our friends, help our family, and share our toys. These are ways we can spread love and peace, just like the Messiah did.

And remember, the Palm Sunday procession was just the beginning of a very important week. It was a week that showed how much the Messiah loves us. He taught us to be kind, to forgive, and to be good to each other. That's why we celebrate Palm Sunday - to

remember these important lessons and to start the week with joy and love in our hearts.

So, next time you see a palm branch or hear about Palm Sunday, think about the big, happy parade. Think about how you can be part of the Palm Sunday procession in your own life. How can you spread love and peace to the people around you? How can you show kindness and make others happy?

Remember, even small acts of kindness are very powerful. They can make someone's day better and spread happiness just like the palm branches waved in the air. So, let's be like the people in the Palm Sunday procession, full of joy and ready to make the world a better place with our love and kindness.

And that's the story of Palm Sunday and why it's so special. It's a day to remember the love and peace that the Messiah brings and to share that love with everyone around us. Let's keep the spirit of the Palm Sunday procession alive every day by being kind, loving, and peaceful.

Bible Memory Verse

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. -

Matthew 21:8

You Will Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

- Crayons or markers
- A large piece of poster board or butcher paper

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into leaf shapes ahead of time for younger children. Older children can cut their own leaves with supervision.
- Draw a simple road shape in the middle of your large poster board or butcher paper to represent the road to Jerusalem.

Do This:

1. Read Matthew 21:8 to the children, explaining that people spread their cloaks and branches on the road to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem.
2. Give each child several green paper leaves and let them decorate their leaves with crayons or markers, writing 'Hosanna' or drawing palm branches.
3. Have the children glue their decorated leaves onto the poster board around the road to create a scene of the triumphal entry. Explain that just like the people welcomed Jesus, we welcome Him into our lives with joy.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Toy donkey or picture of a donkey
- Palm branch stickers or real palm branches (if available)
- Tape or glue

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into simple leaf shapes.
- If using a picture of a donkey, print it out and place it on a wall or floor where children can easily reach.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children about Jesus entering Jerusalem and how people spread palm branches on the road to welcome Him.
2. Give each child a green paper leaf or a palm branch sticker and let them take turns placing their leaves on the path in front of the toy donkey or around the picture of the donkey to recreate the scene of Jesus' triumphal entry.
3. Encourage the children to shout "Hosanna!" just like the people did for Jesus, to make the experience more interactive and engaging.

Snack Activity: Palm Branch Pretzels

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Green candy melts
- Sprinkles (optional for decoration)
- Wax paper

Get Ready: Lay out a piece of wax paper on a flat surface.

Do this:

1. Melt the green candy melts according to the package instructions. This might require adult assistance for the melting process.
2. Dip one end of each pretzel stick into the melted green candy to create the 'palm leaves'. If you have sprinkles, you can add them now for extra decoration.

3. Lay the coated pretzel sticks on the wax paper to cool and harden. Once they're set, gather them into bundles to represent the palm branches that were laid down during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Game Activity: Palm Parade Hop

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Tape
- Music player

Get Ready: Cut out large palm leaf shapes from the green construction paper. Tape them on the floor, spaced out enough that children can hop from one to another.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people spread palm branches on the road to welcome Him. Today, they will hop on 'palm leaves' to celebrate His arrival.
2. Start the music. The children will hop from one palm leaf to another, pretending they are welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.
3. When the music stops, everyone freezes. Start the music again to resume hopping. This can be repeated as many times as desired, encouraging the children to celebrate and have fun.

Craft Activity: Palm Leaves for Jesus

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper

- Scissors (to be used by the teacher or with adult supervision)
- Crayons or markers
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue or tape

Get Ready: Pre-cut the green construction paper into leaf shapes large enough for the children to decorate. If older children are participating, they can help with cutting under close supervision.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pre-cut palm leaf and let them decorate it with crayons or markers. They can draw lines to represent the leaf's veins or simply color them.
2. Once the children are done decorating, help them glue or tape the popsicle stick to the bottom of the palm leaf to create a handle.
3. Explain the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and how people laid palm branches on the road to welcome Him. Encourage the children to wave their palm leaves and shout 'Hosanna!' just like the people did for Jesus.

Prayer Activity: Palm Branch Prayers

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Pre-cut green construction paper into the shape of palm branches. Make sure there are enough for each child to have one.

Do this:

1. Tell the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, emphasizing how people spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road to welcome Jesus.
2. Give each child a pre-cut palm branch and ask them to think of something they are thankful for or a prayer they want to share with Jesus.
3. Let them draw or write their prayer/thankfulness on the palm branch. For those who cannot write, they can express their thoughts out loud, and you can help by writing it for them.
4. Gather all the children in a circle and let them wave their palm branches in the air. Lead them in a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for his love and asking him to hear their prayers.