

Palm Sunday

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

-Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into long strips to represent cloaks and branches.
- Draw a simple outline of a road on a large piece of paper or poster board.

Do This:

1. Have the children color and decorate their 'cloaks' and 'branches' with markers or crayons.
2. Explain the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, emphasizing how people showed their love and respect by spreading cloaks and branches on the road.
3. Let the children glue their decorated cloaks and branches onto the road outline, creating a colorful scene of Jesus' entry. Encourage them to remember the verse as they work on their project.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Palm leaf template (optional)
- Toy donkey or a picture of a donkey
- Small pieces of cloth or fabric
- A clear path or area in the room

Get Ready:

1. Cut out palm leaves from the green construction paper using scissors. If you have a palm leaf template, it can make this step easier. Make enough so each child has at least one.
2. Set up the toy donkey or picture of a donkey at one end of the clear path or area in the room. This will represent Jesus entering Jerusalem.
3. Spread the small pieces of cloth along the path to simulate the cloaks people laid down for Jesus.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they are going to reenact the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Read Matthew 21:8 to them, emphasizing how people spread their cloaks on the road and cut branches from the trees to spread in Jesus' path.
2. Give each child a palm leaf they cut out and explain that they will use these as the people did when Jesus entered Jerusalem. They can wave them and shout "Hosanna!" just like the crowd did.
3. Have the children line up at one end of the path. One by one, or in a small group, have them walk down the path towards the donkey, laying their palm leaves and the pieces of cloth down as they go, shouting "Hosanna!" to welcome Jesus.
4. Once everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a joyful occasion and how we can welcome Jesus into our lives with joy and celebration, just like the people of Jerusalem did.

Snack Activity: Palm Sunday Path Treats

You'll Need:

- Green Fruit Roll-Ups
- Pretzel Sticks
- Mini Marshmallows

- Small Plastic Knives
- A Plate

Get Ready: Wash your hands and make sure you have a clean surface to work on.

Do this:

1. Unroll a Green Fruit Roll-Up and use the small plastic knife to cut out palm leaf shapes. These will represent the palm branches people spread on the road for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
2. Lay a pretzel stick on the plate. This will be the 'path' that Jesus took. You can place several pretzel sticks side by side to make a wider path.
3. Stick the mini marshmallows on both sides of the pretzel sticks to represent the crowd that gathered to welcome Jesus. Then, gently lay the green fruit roll-up palm leaves on top of the pretzel sticks to complete your Palm Sunday Path Treat.
4. As you enjoy your snack, remember the joy and celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and how people honored Him with palm branches.

Game Activity: Palm Branch Relay

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape or chalk
- Music player (optional)

Get Ready: Before the game, cut out palm branch shapes from the green construction paper. You'll need at least two per child. Use tape or chalk to mark a start line and a

turnaround point about 10 feet away for the relay race. If you're using music, prepare a playlist of upbeat songs.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind the start line. Give the first child in each line two paper palm branches.
2. When you say 'Go', the first child in each line hops like a donkey, holding the palm branches, to the turnaround point and back. They must wave the branches as they hop.
3. Once they return to the start line, they pass the palm branches to the next child in line. The race continues until all children have had a turn.
4. The first team to finish the relay wins. Celebrate by talking about how people celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by waving palm branches and spreading them on the road.

Craft Activity: Palm Leaves and Cloaks Path

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Old clothes or fabric scraps
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- A long piece of blue or brown paper (to serve as the road)

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes. You can prepare these ahead of time or have the children cut them out as part of the activity, depending on their age and skill level.

Do this:

1. Lay the long piece of blue or brown paper on the floor to represent the road into Jerusalem. Tell the children this is the path Jesus will walk on.
2. Explain to the children that people in the Bible story laid down palm leaves and their cloaks on the road to honor Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. Show them the palm leaves and cloaks (fabric scraps) you have.
3. Invite the children to decorate the 'road' by laying down the palm leaves and cloaks they have. As they do this, discuss the significance of Jesus' triumphal entry and what it meant for the people who were there.

Prayer Activity: Palm Branch Prayers

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Before the activity, cut out palm branch shapes from the green construction paper. Make sure there's one for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, focusing on Matthew 21:8. Explain how people spread their cloaks and branches on the road to welcome Jesus.
2. Give each child a paper palm branch and ask them to think of a prayer or a wish they have for welcoming Jesus into their hearts or lives. They can think about things they are thankful for or wish to ask Jesus for help with.
3. Have the children write or draw their prayer/wish on the palm branch. Once everyone is done, gather the branches and form a 'path' on the floor. Let the children walk on this

path as they say their prayers out loud or silently, imagining they are part of the crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.