

The Palm Frond And The Rooster

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: A study in contrasts for Palm Sunday

Scripture: John 12:12-13

Memory Verse: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" - John 12:13

The Children's Sermon

Let's all crow three times: Cock a-doodle-do! Cock a-doodle-do! Cock a-doodle-do! So, we have two symbols today on Palm Sunday to remind us that we often both celebrate the coming of the savior of the world and at the same time, we turn on him and betray him when times get hard.

Which do you do? Praise God and celebrate his coming, or do you betray him by not keeping your promises? I think for all of us, we do both, just like Peter and the disciples.

Let's both celebrate by waving palm fronds and then let's remember that we need that savior's forgiveness because we have also denied him. One half the congregation yell "Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," and the other half say "cock a- doodle-do, cock a-doodle-do, cock a-doodle-do."

Today, in our Palm Sunday Sermon, we're going to talk about a very special day. Palm Sunday is the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and people waved palm branches to welcome him. They were so happy to see Jesus! They shouted

"Hosanna!" which means "save us." They thought Jesus was going to be a king who would make everything perfect right away.

But, you know, not everything went as people expected. Even though they were happy to see Jesus at first, things changed quickly. This is why we also talk about the rooster crowing. Peter, one of Jesus' friends, said he would never leave Jesus. But then, he got scared and pretended he didn't know Jesus, not just once, but three times! The rooster crowing reminds us of how Peter made a mistake.

Sometimes, we're a bit like the people who waved the palm branches and like Peter. We get excited about Jesus when things are going well, but when it gets tough, we sometimes forget to trust Him. Our Palm Sunday Sermon is a reminder that Jesus loves us, even when we make mistakes. He forgives us and always wants us to come back to Him.

Now, let's imagine we are in that crowd, waving our branches. Feel the excitement! Everyone is cheering and happy. But then, let's also remember how quickly we can forget our promises when we're scared or when things don't go our way. It's okay to feel both feelings because Jesus understands us completely.

In our Palm Sunday Sermon, we also learn about love and forgiveness. Jesus showed us the biggest love by forgiving Peter and still loving him, even after Peter said he didn't know Jesus. This teaches us that no matter what we do, Jesus' love for us doesn't change. He's always ready to forgive us.

Let's think about how we can show love and forgiveness in our lives. Maybe there's a friend you need to forgive, or maybe you need to say sorry for something you did. Remember, Jesus forgives you, and He helps you to forgive others too.

During this Palm Sunday Sermon, we also learn about being brave. It takes courage to stand by our friends and to stand up for what is right, just like it would have taken courage for Peter to say he knew Jesus. We can ask Jesus to help us be brave, especially when it's hard.

Now, let's do something fun. Let's split into two groups. One group will shout "Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," just like the people who welcomed Jesus. The other group will gently say, "cock a-doodle-do," reminding us of Peter's mistake but also reminding us of forgiveness.

This Palm Sunday Sermon isn't just about hearing a story from a long time ago; it's about learning how much Jesus loves us and how we can try to be more like Him. We celebrate because Jesus came to save us, and we remember that He forgives us when we make mistakes.

Let's pray together: Dear Lord, we are amazed by your love. Sometimes we are like the people waving palm branches, and sometimes we forget our promises like Peter. Thank you for forgiving us and loving us always. Help us to love and forgive others too. Amen.

So, remember, this Palm Sunday Sermon is about celebration, forgiveness, love, and being brave. Let's carry these lessons with us, not just today, but every day. And let's try our best to be kind, to forgive, and to remember that Jesus loves us, no matter what.

Bible Memory Verse

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” -

John 12:13

You Will Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Sticks or straws

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into leaf shapes ahead of time.
- Prepare a sample palm leaf by gluing a stick or straw to the back of a construction paper leaf.

Do This:

1. Give each child a construction paper leaf and a stick or straw. Show them the sample palm leaf.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their leaves with markers or crayons, writing 'Hosanna' or drawing simple designs.
3. Help the children glue the stick or straw to the back of their leaf to create their own palm leaf. Once dry, gather the children and have them wave their palm leaves while reciting the memory verse together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Sticks or small branches
- Glue
- Scissors (for teacher use only)
- A picture of Jesus on a donkey
- A simple crown and a heart cut out of paper

Get Ready:

- Pre-cut palm leaf shapes from the green construction paper.
- Gather sticks or small branches from outside.
- Cut out a simple crown and a heart from any color of paper.

Do this:

1. Show the children the picture of Jesus on a donkey and explain that people were very happy to see Jesus and waved palm branches to welcome Him.
2. Help each child glue a pre-cut palm leaf to a stick or branch to make their own "palm branch."
3. Have a mini parade where the children can wave their "palm branches" to welcome Jesus.
4. After the parade, show the children the crown and the heart. Explain that Jesus is a king, but He is also full of love. Ask the children to choose between the crown and the heart to glue onto their palm branch, discussing Jesus as a king who loves us.

Snack Activity: Palm Sunday Sweet Palms

You'll Need:

- Green grapes

- Celery sticks
- Cream cheese or peanut butter (allergy-friendly option available)
- Plate

Get Ready: Wash the grapes and celery sticks. Cut the celery sticks into 4-inch pieces. If using cream cheese, ensure it's softened for easy spreading.

Do this:

1. Spread cream cheese or peanut butter onto the celery stick to resemble the 'road' Jesus entered Jerusalem on.
2. Place green grapes along the top of the celery stick to mimic the palm branches people laid down. Encourage the children to line them up neatly, discussing the contrast between Jesus' humble entry and the royal welcome with palms.
3. Enjoy eating the snack together while reflecting on the story of Palm Sunday, emphasizing the contrast between expectations of a king and Jesus' message of peace and humility.

Game Activity: Palm Parade and Quiet Quest

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Tape
- Quiet music (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes. Tape a 'start' line and a 'finish' line on the floor, far enough apart to allow some running or walking in between. Scatter the palm leaves along the path between the start and finish lines.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people were very excited and waved palm branches, shouting 'Hosanna!'. Have the children start at the 'start' line and, when you say 'Go', they can parade to the 'finish' line, picking up palm leaves and waving them while walking or running.
2. After everyone has reached the 'finish' line, explain that after the excitement, Jesus also had quiet, thoughtful times. Ask the children to walk back to the start line as quietly as they can, pretending to think deeply like Jesus might have after the parade. You can play quiet music during this time to set the mood.
3. Repeat the activity, allowing children to experience the contrast between excitement and quiet reflection, emphasizing the different aspects of Palm Sunday.

Craft Activity: Palm Sunday Crowns and Crosses

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Pre-cut green construction paper into strips for the crowns and into smaller pieces for the crosses.

Do this:

1. Help each child to make a crown by gluing the ends of a green paper strip together. They can decorate their crowns with markers or crayons to make them special.
2. Show the children how to arrange the smaller pieces of green paper into the shape of a cross and glue them onto another piece of construction paper. This represents the

contrast between Jesus being celebrated as a king with palm branches and His journey to the cross.

3. Encourage the children to talk about the story of Palm Sunday as they work on their crafts, emphasizing the themes of celebration and sacrifice. Explain in simple terms how Jesus was welcomed like a king but also carried a cross for us.

Prayer Activity: Palm Sunday Praise

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Crayons or markers

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes large enough for little hands to hold.

Do this:

1. Read John 12:12-13 to the children, explaining how people waved palm branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Emphasize the joy and celebration of the moment.
2. Give each child a paper palm leaf and crayons or markers. Ask them to decorate their palm leaf with symbols of joy or words like 'Hosanna' if they can write or draw.
3. Lead the children in a simple prayer, inviting them to wave their palm leaves gently in the air as they pray. The prayer can be: 'Dear God, thank you for Jesus, who teaches us about love and joy. Help us to welcome Him into our hearts every day. Amen.'

HINT: Can reuse palms throughout the lesson