

Shout Hosanna

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Palm Sunday Year B

Scripture: Mark 11:9

Memory Verse: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! - Mark 11:9

The Children's Sermon

We use a word today in worship that we don't use every week. It is a word we like to shout almost as if we were shouting HIP HIP HOORAY! Shout with me . . . HIP HIP HOORAY.

But you won't hear us shouting HIP HIP HOORAY in our songs today. The word you heard in today's scriptures and will sing in today's songs is the word HOSANNA. This is a word we always use on Palm Sunday, the day we remember how Jesus was met by the people of Jerusalem as he entered the city to celebrate the Jewish holiday, the Passover. The word HOSANNA comes to us through a few languages including Greek, Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke), and Hebrew.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem 2000 years ago, the people were excited to see him. They had heard about his miracles, especially the miracle that he had raised Lazarus from the dead. Imagine that! Jesus brought a man who had been dead for several days back to life. Lazarus was no longer dead. He was alive and well. People were very excited about this news. They were excited to see a miracle worker.

As Jesus, the miracle worker, came close to the city, they saw him riding on a donkey, and they shouted to him, "HOSANNA." Although they shouted "HOSANNA" like we would shout "HIP HIP HOORAY," the word actually means something very different. "HIP HIP HOORAY" is an expression that doesn't mean much more than "Isn't this great!" But "HOSANNA" is actually a prayer. It means, "Save me, I pray!" It was a recognition that Jesus, who was entering their great city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, had the power to save.

We still believe that Jesus has the power to save. We don't only believe it. We know it. That's why we call Jesus our Savior. Today is a special joyful day. Jesus is coming into the city. He is coming to save us. Let's shout together, "HOSANNA, Save me, I pray!" (have people repeat this with you).

On Palm Sunday, we remember how people waved palm branches and laid them down in front of Jesus as he rode into the city. They did this to show Jesus was a king coming in peace. Palm branches were like the red carpet for Jesus, showing honor and respect.

Let's imagine we were there in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Picture the dusty roads, the warm sun, and the crowd of people all around. You hear that Jesus, the one who healed sick people and even made blind people see, is coming. You feel excited and a bit curious. What would you do? Maybe you would run to find a palm branch or just use your coat to lay on the road for Jesus, just like the people back then.

On Palm Sunday, we also learn about how Jesus shows us a different kind of power. Most kings or leaders might ride on big, strong horses to show how powerful they are.

But not Jesus. He chose a donkey, a humble animal, to show that his power comes from love, kindness, and peace, not from being the strongest or the loudest.

This Palm Sunday Sermon is not just about remembering a story from long ago. It's about understanding that Jesus's message of love and peace is for us today. Jesus wants us to share love and peace with everyone around us. Just like the people who spread their coats and palm branches for Jesus, we can spread kindness and help to others.

Now, let's end our time together by saying "HOSANNA, Save me, I pray!" one more time. And remember, Jesus loves you very much, and so do I. Have a wonderful Palm Sunday, and let's share Jesus's love and peace with everyone we meet.

Bible Memory Verse

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

Mark 11:9

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.
- Gather all other materials and set them out on a table.

Do This:

1. Give each child a green paper leaf and a stick or straw. Explain that people waved palm leaves to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem.
2. Have the children decorate their leaves with markers or crayons. They can write 'Hosanna' or draw pictures on them.
3. Help the children glue their paper leaf to the stick or straw to make their own 'palm' branch. Encourage them to wave their branches and say the memory verse together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors (for teacher use only)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Large piece of poster board or butcher paper

Get Ready:

- Pre-cut palm leaf shapes from the green construction paper.
- Draw a simple outline of a road on the poster board or butcher paper.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pre-cut palm leaf and let them decorate it with crayons or markers.
2. Help the children glue their decorated palm leaves onto the road on the poster board, creating a path.
3. Explain that people laid down palm branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, just like we're making a path for Jesus with our palm leaves.

Snack Activity: Palm Sunday Hosanna Branches

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks (large)
- Green apple slices
- Cream cheese or peanut butter
- Plastic knives or spreaders suitable for children

Get Ready: Wash and slice green apples into thin pieces to resemble palm leaves.

Ensure the cream cheese or peanut butter is at room temperature to make it easier for spreading.

Do this:

1. Give each child a large pretzel stick. Explain that this will be the 'branch' they will decorate with 'leaves' to celebrate Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem, just like in Mark 11:9.
2. Allow children to use the plastic knives or spreaders to apply a thin layer of cream cheese or peanut butter on one side of the apple slices. These will stick to the pretzel stick to create the palm branches.
3. Encourage them to press their apple slices onto the pretzel stick, creating a fan shape to resemble a palm branch. As they work, talk about the story of Palm Sunday and how people celebrated Jesus's arrival by waving palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna!'.

Game Activity: Palm Parade Hop

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper

- Scissors
- Tape

Get Ready: Cut out large palm leaf shapes from the green construction paper and use tape to secure them to the floor, creating a path or several paths depending on the space available.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people spread palm branches on the road to celebrate. Today, they'll hop from palm leaf to palm leaf to remember this event.
2. Have the children line up at the start of the palm path. Play some music related to Palm Sunday if available. When the music starts, children will hop from one palm leaf to another until they reach the end of the path.
3. Once everyone has had a turn, gather the children and talk about how people were happy to see Jesus and showed it by waving palm branches. Encourage them to wave their hands in the air like palm branches as they celebrate Jesus.

Craft Activity: Palm Sunday Hosanna Branches

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready: Pre-cut green construction paper into leaf shapes for younger children. Older children (4-5 years) can try cutting their own with supervision.

Do this:

1. Let the children color or decorate their green paper leaves with markers or crayons. They can draw lines to mimic the veins of a palm leaf.
2. Help the children glue or tape their green paper leaves to the top of a popsicle stick to create a palm branch.
3. Encourage the children to wave their Hosanna Branches and shout 'Hosanna!' just like the people did for Jesus on Palm Sunday. This can be part of a parade around the classroom or play area.

Prayer Activity: Palm Sunday Praise Parade

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Before the class, cut out palm leaf shapes from the green construction paper. Make sure there is one for each child.

Do this:

1. Give each child a palm leaf cutout and markers or crayons. Encourage them to decorate their palm leaves with stickers or drawings.
2. Once everyone has decorated their palm leaf, gather the children in a circle and explain that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people waved palm branches and shouted 'Hosanna!' to praise Him.

3. Lead the children in a mini parade around the room, encouraging them to wave their palm leaves and shout 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' just like in Mark 11:9. This activity helps them remember the joy of Palm Sunday.