

Shout Hosanna

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Palm Sunday Year B

Scripture: Mark 11:9

Memory Verse: 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

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

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper (green, brown, yellow)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes ahead of time.
- Cut the brown paper into strips for the palm tree trunks.

Do This:

1. Give each child a piece of yellow construction paper. This will be the background.
2. Have the children glue the brown strips onto the yellow paper to make the trunk of their palm trees.
3. Next, let the children glue the green palm leaves at the top of the trunk to create a palm tree. Encourage them to overlap the leaves for a fuller look.
4. Once the trees are done, have the children use crayons or markers to add details like grass or sun. If you have stickers or glitter, they can use these to decorate their scenes.
5. While they work, talk to them about the meaning of Palm Sunday and how people celebrated Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem by waving palm branches. Explain that when we say 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,' we are celebrating Jesus just like the people did on the first Palm Sunday.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Popsicle sticks
- Bible or printed verse of Mark 11:9

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes ahead of time.
- Write "Hosanna!" on some of the palm leaves to prepare for the activity.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Mark 11:9 together: "Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"
2. Explain that people waved palm branches and celebrated Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Today, we're going to make our own palm leaves to remember this special day, Palm Sunday.
3. Give each child a pre-cut palm leaf and a popsicle stick. Have them color their palm leaf with markers or crayons and then glue it to the popsicle stick to create their own "Palm Sunday palm."
4. Once everyone has their palm made, lead a mini parade around the room, waving the palms and shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" just like the people did for Jesus.
5. Conclude by talking about how Palm Sunday reminds us to celebrate and welcome Jesus into our lives every day, not just on Palm Sunday.

Snack Activity: Palm Sunday Hosanna Branches

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks (large)
- Green icing or green candy melts
- Sprinkles (green, yellow, or gold)
- Wax paper
- A microwave-safe bowl or a small saucepan

Get Ready: If using candy melts, melt them according to the package instructions in a microwave-safe bowl or melt over low heat in a small saucepan. If using icing, ensure it's at room temperature for easy spreading.

Do this:

1. Lay out a piece of wax paper on a flat surface. This will be your workspace where you'll assemble your Hosanna Branches.
2. Take a pretzel stick, which represents the branches people laid down for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Dip it into the green icing or melted green candy to cover about half the length of the pretzel. This green part represents the palm leaves.
3. Before the icing or candy melts harden, sprinkle your green, yellow, or gold sprinkles over the coated part to add texture and make it look more like a festive palm branch. The sprinkles also remind us of the celebration that took place on Palm Sunday.
4. Lay your finished Hosanna Branch on the wax paper to set. Repeat with as many pretzel sticks as you like. Allow them to harden completely, then share and enjoy your edible Palm Sunday craft as you remember the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, shouting 'Hosanna!' just like the crowds did, as told in Mark 11:9.

Game Activity: Palm Parade Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Chalk
- Large open space like a driveway or sidewalk
- Palm leaves or green construction paper

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground, but instead of numbers, write the letters to spell 'HOSANNA' in the squares. If you're using green construction paper, cut out palm leaf shapes to place in each square.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people spread palm branches on the road and shouted 'Hosanna!' just like we're going to hop and shout on our Palm Parade Hopscotch.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a small stone or bean bag to land on one of the hopscotch squares. If it lands on a letter, they hop on one foot (or two for younger children) to that square, pick up the stone, and shout 'Hosanna!' just like the people did for Jesus in Mark 11:9.
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how Jesus is our King and why people were so happy to see Him, just like we are happy to play and celebrate Him today.

Craft Activity: Palm Sunday Parade Sticks

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper or craft foam
- Wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper or craft foam into palm leaf shapes. If you're not sure how to do this, you can find a template online or just cut out long, oval shapes with pointed ends.

Do this:

1. Decorate your palm leaves using markers, crayons, stickers, or glitter. You can write 'Hosanna!' or 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' on them to remember what people shouted when Jesus entered Jerusalem.
2. Once your palm leaves are decorated, glue or tape them to the top of a wooden craft stick. This will be your handle.
3. Let the glue dry, and then you're ready to have your own Palm Sunday parade! Wave your Palm Sunday Parade Stick to remember the day Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as a king.

Prayer Activity: Palm Sunday Prayer Path

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Get Ready: Before class, cut the green construction paper into palm leaf shapes. Write one word from Mark 11:9 ('Hosanna!', 'Blessed', 'comes', 'name', 'Lord!') on each palm leaf with markers or crayons.

Do this:

1. Spread the palm leaves around the room, taping them to the floor to create a 'path'. Each leaf should be a step on the path.
2. Gather the children and explain that they will go on a prayer walk, stepping on each 'palm' as they move along the path. At each step, they will say the word on the leaf and add a simple prayer related to Palm Sunday. For example, when stepping on 'Hosanna!', they might say, 'Help us praise you every day, Jesus!'

3. Once they've walked the path, gather in a circle. Encourage them to share how they felt during the prayer walk and what Palm Sunday means to them. Conclude with a group prayer, thanking Jesus for being our King and asking for hearts that are always ready to welcome Him.