

# Shout Hosanna

## UPPER 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:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into palm leaf shapes.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, glue, and stickers.

Do This:

1. Have each child decorate their paper palm leaf with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to write 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' on one side of their palm leaf.
2. Once everyone has finished decorating, gather the children in a circle and explain the significance of the palm leaves in the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, relating it to the memory verse.
3. Lead a procession around the classroom or church, with children waving their palm leaves and chanting the memory verse together. This will help them remember the verse and understand its context in the Bible.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Sticks or dowels
- Tape or glue
- Bible or printed verse of Mark 11:9

Get Ready:

- Cut the green construction paper into large leaf shapes.
- Print out Mark 11:9 or have a Bible ready for reference.

Do this:

1. Begin 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. Have each child use the markers or crayons to write "Hosanna!" or "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" on one side of their green leaf.
3. Attach the leaves to the sticks or dowels using tape or glue to create palm branches.
4. Organize a small procession around the classroom or church area, with the children waving their palm branches and reciting Mark 11:9, reenacting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

## Snack Activity: Palm Sunday Hosanna Branches

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks (large)
- Green candy melts
- Sprinkles (green, yellow, or gold)
- Wax paper
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon

Get Ready: Line a baking sheet with wax paper.

Do this:

1. Melt the green candy melts in the microwave-safe bowl according to the package instructions. Stir until smooth.
2. Dip one end of each pretzel stick into the melted green candy, covering about half the pretzel to create the look of a palm branch.
3. Before the candy melt hardens on the pretzel, sprinkle the green, yellow, or gold sprinkles over the candy-coated part to add texture and color, resembling the palm branches that were waved and laid down as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

4. Lay the coated pretzels on the wax paper-lined baking sheet to harden. While waiting, read Mark 11:9 together and discuss the significance of the people shouting 'Hosanna!' and spreading branches on the road before Jesus.
5. Once the candy has set, enjoy your edible Hosanna Branches while reflecting on the story of Palm Sunday.

## Game Activity: Palm Pathway

You'll Need:

- A long roll of paper (like butcher paper)
- Markers or paint
- Palm leaves or branches (real or made from paper or cardboard)

Get Ready: Lay the long roll of paper across the room to create a 'pathway'. Use markers or paint to draw stones, sand, and other pathway details on it. If using real palm leaves, ensure they are clean and safe for indoor use. If making them, prepare palm leaves from paper or cardboard in advance.

Do this:

1. Read Mark 11:9 together as a group. Discuss the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the meaning of the people spreading palm branches on the path before Him.
2. Explain to the children that they will reenact this event by creating their own 'Palm Pathway'. Each child takes a turn being 'Jesus' walking on the pathway, while the others line the sides, waving their palm leaves and shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children to reflect on how Jesus felt during His triumphant entry and what this event signifies for Christians today.

## Craft Activity: Palm Sunday Parade in a Box

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard box (shoebox size)
- Green construction paper or felt
- Wooden skewers or craft sticks
- Markers or paint
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

Get Ready: Gather all materials, and read Mark 11:9 together as a group. Discuss the significance of Palm Sunday and the meaning behind the people's shouts of 'Hosanna!'.

Do this:

1. Cut the green construction paper or felt into palm leaf shapes. You may want to draw the shape first before cutting. Each child should make several leaves to fill their parade box.
2. Attach the palm leaves to the wooden skewers or craft sticks using glue or tape. These will serve as the palm branches that were waved during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
3. Decorate the outside of the box with markers or paint to represent the streets of Jerusalem. Children can draw crowds, buildings, or anything they imagine might have been on the road where Jesus entered.
4. Once the palm branches and box are ready, arrange the sticks inside the box so it looks like a crowd of people holding palm branches aloft. Encourage the children to reenact the parade, waving their palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna!' just like the people did for Jesus.

## Prayer Activity:

Do this:

1. Begin 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!'" Discuss the meaning of 'Hosanna' and why the people were so joyful.
2. End with a group prayer, thanking God for Jesus and asking for ways to welcome Him into our lives every day.