

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Palm Sunday (Luke 19:29-40)

To the Teacher:

Palm Sunday is one week away from Easter. A lot transpired during this final week of Jesus' time on earth. In just five days, the people go from welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem as their king, to crying out for his execution. Pray for the kids to see that Jesus is the true and good King of all creation, who is worthy to be praised!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus is the King who has come to make all things right!
- **Question:** Imagine the most important person in the world was about to come into this room. What would you do to welcome him/her?
- **Starter:** 'Let's Throw A Parade!'
You may choose to give the kids noisemakers and march around like a parade to welcome the most important King Jesus.

Optionally, you may choose to do this after the story is over rather than before, in order to not get them too excited ahead of the story.

- **Story:** from Luke 19:29-40

[READ]

Jesus had come into the world declaring God's kingdom was coming to earth, the way it was always supposed to be. He did many amazing things to fix what was broken; like healing the sick, feeding the hungry, loving the lonely, and even bringing dead people back to life!

Now, as he made his way to Jerusalem he sent two of his followers ahead, saying, "Go to the village ahead and you will find a donkey tied up, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you why you are doing it say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Sure enough, they found the donkey just as Jesus said. As they were untying it, the owners asked, "Why are you taking it?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." So the owners let them take it.

They brought it to Jesus, threw their coats on the donkey, and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people laid their coats and palm branches on the road to give him a clean path to walk on.

When he entered into Jerusalem, the whole crowd of disciples began to joyfully praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen. It was a parade for Jesus! They cried out:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Only kings were welcomed into towns like this! So, some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell them to stop calling you king and Lord!”

Jesus replied, “I tell you, if the people keep quiet, then rocks will cry out in their place.” The whole earth would one day know that Jesus is King... but for now, there were still people who doubted him.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Most kings might have rode into town on a horse. Why do you think Jesus rode into town on a donkey instead? (*Jesus wasn't coming in to physically conquer by force, but as a peaceful rescuer*)
- Did you know? The day Jesus entered into Jerusalem was also the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This was a celebration that lasted a whole week and God's people had been celebrating it for centuries. On the first day they were supposed to take palm branches and wave them around as they danced and celebrated God's goodness. That's why we call today Palm Sunday, because this time the palms were used to celebrate Jesus!
- Ask: What do you think Jesus meant that if the people did not praise him then the rocks would cry out in their place? (*Help guide answers to understand that Jesus is King over all creation and all creation exists to praise him.*)

• **Prayer:**

God, You are so good! Help us to praise You more for who You are. Thank You that Jesus is our Good King who is fixing this world. Thank You for Your Spirit to help us live in Your kingdom!

- **Craft:** Palm Branch Palms
 - Have the kids their palms on green paper multiple times, cut them out, and fan them out glued to a popsicle stick to make a palm branch like these:



- **BLESS Activity:**
 - *For kids to do during the week**
 - **Speak:** Palm Sunday is all about lifting our voices to praise Jesus as King! How will you use your voice to praise Jesus this week? Who will hear it?