

General Church Education



Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-15

Lesson 31

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

PALM SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-15

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

The Lord was welcomed as a king when He rode into Jerusalem for the Passover feast. The Jewish people expected Him to become their earthly king and free them from the Roman rulers. When they realized this was not what He had in mind, they turned against Him.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ The donkey is a stubborn animal and provides a good picture of natural reasoning. This lower kind of thought should serve higher, spiritual thought. This is why the Lord chose to ride upon a donkey.
- ❖ Because of this symbolism it was the custom from ancient times for kings to ride to their coronation on donkeys. When the Lord rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, it was a picture of Him as King in our lives.
- ❖ The Lord is King when Divine Truth is the authority in our daily lives.
- ❖ Garments represent thoughts that "clothe" the mind. Throwing garments in the Lord's path pictures our willingness to submit our thoughts to Divine Truth.
- ❖ The temple represents that place in us where we can worship the Lord; that is, in the spiritual part of our minds. Cleansing the temple symbolizes removing or rejecting selfish thoughts or tendencies.

PALM SUNDAY

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The Jewish people thought the Lord would take power and become an earthly king in Jerusalem.
He was already the real King of the whole universe.

LET'S REMEMBER:

We have been learning about the Lord's life on earth. Jesus went out talking to people, teaching and healing them. In one of the stories of His miracles, many people gathered on a mountainside to hear him speak.



- ♦ **When it grew late in the day and everyone was hungry, how much food could be found?** (Five loaves of bread and two fish.)
- ♦ **Did everyone get enough to eat?** (Yes.)
- ♦ **How much food was left?** (Twelve basketsful.)
- ♦ **How many people were fed?** (Five thousand.)

OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

During His life on earth the Lord did many miracles. He healed people of all sorts of diseases or sickness. He also taught them about heaven with wonderful stories. News spread about Him and more people began to follow Him. They recognized He was the *Messiah*—the great leader who had been promised in the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Large crowds welcomed Jesus as a king when He entered Jerusalem for their holy feast of the Passover. The Jewish people thought He had come to free them from the Romans who were ruling over them and to make their nation great again. They did not realize that He had come to do something much more important—to teach them how to live good lives so they could be free from evil! Listen to what Jesus told His disciples to do.



Read **Matthew 21:1-5**.

What did Jesus tell them to bring? (A donkey and colt.) These animals were mentioned in the prophecies about a king coming. Kings in those days rode on donkeys as a sign of their high position. The disciples put their garments or clothes on the donkey and the Lord rode into Jerusalem on it as a king. Let's find out what the crowd of people did and said.



Read **Matthew 21:8-11**.



What did people spread on the path before Jesus? (Their garments and palm branches.) This day is now known as Palm Sunday because the multitudes or large groups of people cut down palm branches to welcome Jesus as their King. They cried out "Hosanna" which means "Lord, save us." But do you remember who they had been saying Jesus was? (A prophet.) A prophet is one who speaks for the Lord. They still did not realize that Jesus was the Lord.

The people accepted Jesus as their leader. The first thing He did was go to the temple. There were people in the temple called moneychangers who were making money for themselves from the gifts people brought for worship. Listen to what Jesus did.



Read **Matthew 21:12-15**.

Where did Jesus send the moneychangers? (Out of the temple.) Then what did He do for the blind and lame people? (He healed them.)

The chief priests and scribes, the leaders of the Jewish people, were jealous and did not like to hear people praise Jesus. However, the priests were very clever, and within days they convinced the people to turn against Jesus. Before the week was over, they put Him to death.



The Lord knew they would do this, but He went to Jerusalem anyway. His plan from the beginning was to show everyone that He was and is and will always be the true and everlasting King of our lives and of the whole universe, not merely an earthly king. He rose from the dead. He showed us that He lives forever and can never really be killed. He is your King when you learn these stories from His Word and then try to do what you know is right.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Who greeted Jesus as king when He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?** (Large crowds of people.)
- ♦ **Why is this story called Palm Sunday?** (Because people cut down palm branches and put them in the path to welcome Jesus.)
- ♦ **What did Jesus do in the temple?** (Threw out the moneychangers and healed the sick.)
- ♦ **Who was jealous of Jesus?** (Jewish leaders: chief priests and scribes.)
- ♦ **When do you think the Lord is your King?**

PALM SUNDAY ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:5-6



Project choices:

Palm Sunday project
Color a picture of Palm Sunday



Songs:

All Glory, Praise and Honor—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-all-glory-praise-and-honor/>
When Very Early in the Dawn—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-when-very-early-in-the-dawn/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ If you live where palms grow, cut some palm branches, or plant a palm tree. Have a procession of palms!
- ❖ If palms do not grow where you live, look for palm-like houseplants. Cut a frond or two to celebrate Palm Sunday, or purchase fronds from a florist or green house.
- ❖ Gather flowers or ferns growing to decorate a worship area.

Palm Sunday

This project helps children picture Jesus when He was welcomed as King riding into Jerusalem.

Supplies:

3 printed pages
crayons or markers
scissors
glue
1 piece of green paper

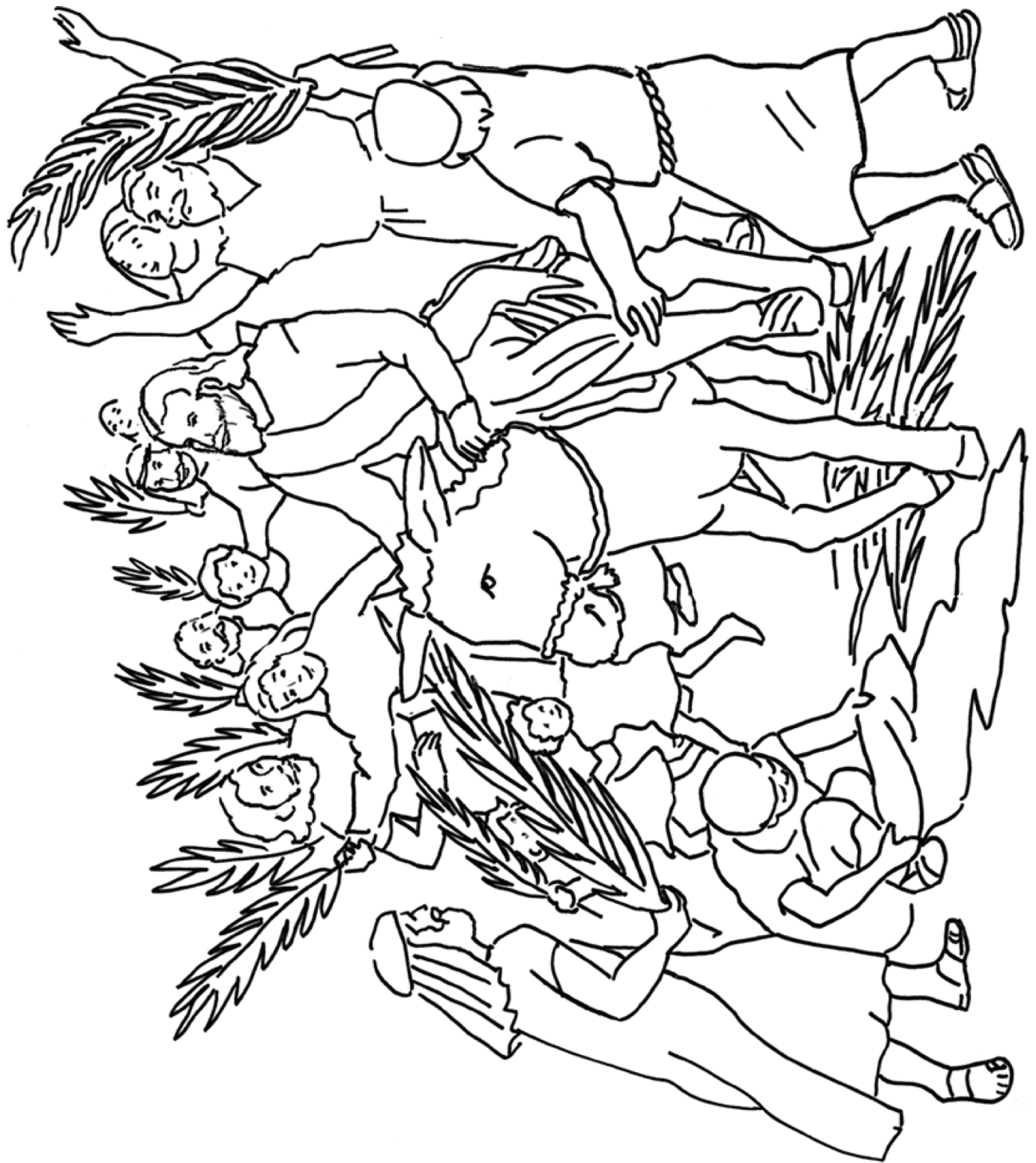
Project instructions:

1. Color the picture of Jesus riding on the donkey.
2. Color the pictures of palm branches and clothing. Cut them out.
3. Glue some of the palm branches overhead as if people are waving them in the air and glue others in front of Jesus.
4. Glue the clothing in front of Jesus, on the path where He is traveling.
5. Glue the finished picture in the center of the green construction paper to form a frame for your picture.
5. Glue the whole picture in the center of the green construction paper to make a frame. Now you are ready to display your picture. Tell your family how happy the people were to see Jesus coming into Jerusalem as their King on Palm Sunday.









Recitation Award: Palm Sunday

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

