

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 29**  
**The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The principle, which rules our thought and conduct, is our king.
- B. When we willingly give up Ideas that are contrary to the Lord's teachings, we are casting our garments before Him.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. Does anyone remember what a prophecy is? (A message from the Lord)
- 2. The Old Testament is full of prophecies that the Lord would one day be born, that He would live on earth, and about some of the things that would happen while He was on earth.
- 3. There is a prophecy in the book called Zechariah that tells of something that is going to happen in our lesson today. Listen while I read it to you, and see if you can guess what today's lesson is going to be about.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your King is coming to you;  
He is just and having salvation,  
Lowly and riding on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

- 4. "Your King"; "having salvation"; "riding on a donkey." What is our lesson for today? (Palm Sunday!)
- 5. Our story begins on a Sunday. The Lord and His disciples are on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud Matthew 21:1-11.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. What city was Jesus coming near to? (Jerusalem)
- 2. What did He tell two of His disciples to do? (Go into the village and bring back the donkey and colt that they would find tied there.) A colt is a baby donkey.
- 3. What did the disciples put on the donkey and colt? (Their clothes)

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4. What did the multitude do when they saw Jesus coming? (They spread their garments on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.)
5. What did the multitude call out as they went ahead of and followed after Jesus? ("Hosanna" which means "save now")

### D. Further Ideas

1. It was the custom for kings and judges to ride on donkeys. The Lord chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey to show that He was King.
2. When the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as king, they thought He would be king of their country. They didn't really understand that He was the Lord, the King of heaven.
3. Throwing our clothes and branches on the road in front of the Lord pictures our willingness to throw away our own ideas and to recognize Him as the King whom we should obey.
4. When we are good, we are welcoming the Lord into our hearts as king; and when we are bad, we are turning against Him.
5. Just a few days after the multitude cried "Hosanna!" and welcomed Jesus as king on Palm Sunday, the same people would turn against Him and crucify Him. Sometimes we are like these people. Sometimes we go to church and to Sunday School to learn what the Lord wants us to do, and then we turn around and let our selfishness rule us as king instead of the Lord. We must practice letting the Lord be King in our hearts every day.

## III. Enrichment Activities

### A. Music

1. "Shout the glad tidings, exultantly sing," HYMNAL #209.
2. "Lo, they come in glad procession," HYMNAL #212.

### B. Activities

1. Illustrate the story while talking by using Palm Sunday flannel board figures; or have a student do this while you are teaching the lesson. If there is time, the students might have fun setting up the figures after the project is done.

### C. Project

1. Mural of Jesus on a donkey entering the city with the multitude following and going before, spreading garments and branches on the road. Suitable for a good number of children since the picture needs a multitude of people and lots of garments, branches, and trees from which the branches were cut.

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- a. One option is to use little scraps of fabric for the garments spread on the road.
2. If you are able to get palm branches (or make a substitute), you may want to dramatize this event, perhaps having children wear a suggestion of a costume as well. This could be a robe or a headress (piece of cloth reaching from forehead to shoulders, secured with elastic, ribbon, or string).
3. 11" X 17" picture available from General Church Office of Education: Jesus riding on a donkey, entering Jerusalem amidst hosannas from multitude. These can be mounted on colored 12" X 18" construction paper so they look special.
4. *Note:* There are many Palm Sunday projects in the General Convention *Sunday School Activity Book* (see Lessons 110, 120, 144).

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- B. Flannel board figures illustrating the triumphal entry

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 4, "Palm Sunday" (Matthew 21:1-27), pp. 372-384.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 21:1-22.