

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 27
Triumphal Entry (John 12:12-19)

Theme: Palm Sunday

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The ancient Jews interpreted all the prophecies of the Old Testament literally. They believed that they were the chosen people, and that the Messiah would come as a king who would overthrow all their enemies and establish them forever as rulers of the earth.
- B. The people who hailed Him as King on Palm Sunday thought He would be their Messiah - their earthly Savior.
- C. The Lord riding on a donkey into Jerusalem symbolizes that He completely conquered the "natural" (the donkey) and that He is our Heavenly King.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. I bet most of you know about the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We call it "Palm Sunday".
 - 2. When will we be celebrating Palm Sunday?
 - 3. I'll ask you why we call it Palm Sunday after I read the story, so listen to hear why we call it Palm Sunday.
- B. Read the Story
 - 1. John 12:12-19
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. Why do we call it "Palm Sunday"? (The people laid palm branches down for the Lord)
 - 2. What did the Lord ride to Jerusalem on? (A young donkey or a colt)
 - 3. What did the people say when the Lord rode into Jerusalem? (Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!)
- D. Further Ideas
 - 1. The people thought the Lord was going to be their earthly king. They thought He was going to save them from their enemies (the Romans.) But He really was their Heavenly King.

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. Palm Sunday music from *Hymnal*:

"Ride on, ride on"

"Lo, He comes"

B. Activities

1. Make simple palm branches to wave while singing
2. Encourage the children to really be joyful as they say "Hosanna!" Palm Sunday is a time to *celebrate* that the Lord is our King.

C. Projects

1. Group collage of Palm Sunday scene
 - a. Have children draw figures and wave branches. (Encourage them to keep it *simple*)
 - b. Put many sheets of colored paper together and cut out many copies of the children's figures and branches
 - c. Children glue these on a long sheet of paper
 - d. Have someone make the Lord on a donkey (or make it ahead of time) and glue it on
 - e. Write "Hosanna" across the top
 - f. This would be an excellent display for the Palm Sunday service
2. King's crown
 - a. Cut out crown shapes
 - b. Children decorate with glitter, craypas, beads and sequins
 - c. Staple to fit head
 - d. Text slip: "The Lord is our Heavenly King"

IV. Teaching Aids

V. Further Reading for the Teacher