



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 19:28-40 & JOHN 12:12-19

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

A HAMMER AND A PALM

Supplies

- green construction paper palm fronds
- black construction paper
- nails
- hammers

Before class, make enough palm fronds, nails, and hammers for each child to hold a palm frond and either a nail or a hammer.

Give every child palms for his right hand and a hammer or nails for his left. Explain to them to lay down the palms as you pretend to be Jesus riding a colt. If they ask what the hammer is for tell them you will explain it in the end.

After the palms have been laid down, explain the hammer and nails to them by asking them this question: Why do you each have a hammer or nails in your hands? (Note: There is no hammer or nails in the story.) This is the answer: the same people who on Palm Sunday welcomed Jesus with praise, shouted "crucify Him" the following Friday.

Explain to the children that our hearts are equally sinful. We can say we believe in God, but we continue sinning. Share with them that the reason for Jesus' trip into Jerusalem was to die on the cross for the sins of men so that we could be forgiven.

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ON THE WAY HOME

Talk to the children about the story of the colt and how the disciples found it just as Jesus had said. Ask them what they think the disciples might have said about this amazing incident as they walked back with the colt. (i.e. "I can't believe it! It was just like Jesus said! He is amazing!")

After drawing this out, pick a couple of children to play the roles of the colt owner and two disciples. Act out the scene and add the comments on the way home. Give several groups a chance to try it. When done, ask the children, "What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?" Jesus is all-knowing and all-powerful. Jesus knew exactly what would happen. Jesus is no mere man. Jesus is God!

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Even as Jesus is riding into Jerusalem, He is aware that the very people that are celebrating His arrival will in a few days put Him to death.

Jesus would soon die for the sins of men by suffering on the cross. It is true that Jesus is coming to be king, but not an earthly king with an earthly kingdom. He is coming as a heavenly king for a spiritual kingdom. That is why He said if the people did not cry out the very stones would cry out.

