

Adventures with GOD!

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (B.1.SPRING.2)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 21:1-11
Key Verse	John 8:23
Key Concept	Jesus is King of kings. He invites me to be a part of his kingdom and follow him confidently.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story in their own words 2. Express different ways that we can follow King Jesus 3. Name some of the disciples that were with Jesus when he entered Jerusalem

Life Application

The people of Jerusalem were expecting a much different Savior than Jesus. They were waiting for someone that would change their circumstances – a powerful, mighty king. But Jesus came to establish a very different kingdom: one of love, forgiveness, compassion, and unity. During this week the children will learn that we can know Jesus and his teachings through the study of the Bible and that way we will know how to follow him and obey him to so we can experience life to the fullest.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Decoration		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, visual aid	15 minutes
Prayer and song		10 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue, fabric	10 minutes
Activity	Scrolls, palm branches, crayons	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: In today's class you will put a new symbol on your "tree". The symbol is that of a palm branch. This represents Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Make sure to have the symbol made a head of time and put some string on it so that it can be hung from a branch on your tree.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Craft: When the children arrive let them color the picture of the palm branch and put the Bible verse for today on the back. As they finish one, give them another to color as they will be used in the drama. Each child should have two branches, plus the sheet they've colored with the branch and the Bible verse. When they are working you can begin to talk with them about the importance of this symbol and what it represents.

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Bible Story: During this class the disciple who will tell the story is Bartholomew. He will tell the story of the triumphal entry from his point of view. He can begin by saying. “It was a beautiful day and we were visiting some friends , Mary, Martha, Lazarus, who lived in Bethany. I wasn’t too excited about going to Jerusalem, but Jesus said we had to go and celebrate the Passover there. The Passover is one of our most important celebrations. All of the religious Jews had to go to Jerusalem to celebrate it and so we went. Some of our friends, like Peter, weren’t in agreement that we should go. As you may or may not know, Jesus had enemies in Jerusalem...”

Some important concepts to share from the story are:

1. Jesus knew that he was going to Jerusalem to die.
2. Jesus is the King of kings, as people called him, but they were expecting a different type of king.
3. Jesus’ disciples didn’t know that he was going to die and that he wasn’t going to take over an earthly throne.
4. Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey to show his humility.
5. Today we can follow Jesus as the King of our lives.

Once Bartholomew is done telling the story, the children can act out Jesus entry into Jerusalem. One child could be the donkey, another Jesus, others the disciples and others the people in the crowd. Have them put their palm branches on the floor, as well as any sweaters or coats they have. They can do the drama more than once so they can change roles.

Prayer and song: Continue to teach them to pray using short sentences. It’s important to remind them that prayer is one of the ways that we communicate with God and God communicates with us. Give thanks together that Jesus is our King. Start the prayer saying something like, “Thank you Jesus because I can follow you without fear.” Have the children think of other things they want to thank Jesus for. When you finish praying you can sing the song they learned last week, adding another phrase like, “God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God’s so good to me..”

Craft: Give them a copy of the illustration of Jesus on the donkey in the following pages. Allow them to color it and add fun craft items to it, like pieces of fabric on the ground representing peoples’ coats, actual leaves, sand on the road, etc. Or there are other craft options available as well in the following pages.

Activity: In their scrolls they can add the phrase, “I am from above.”

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Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

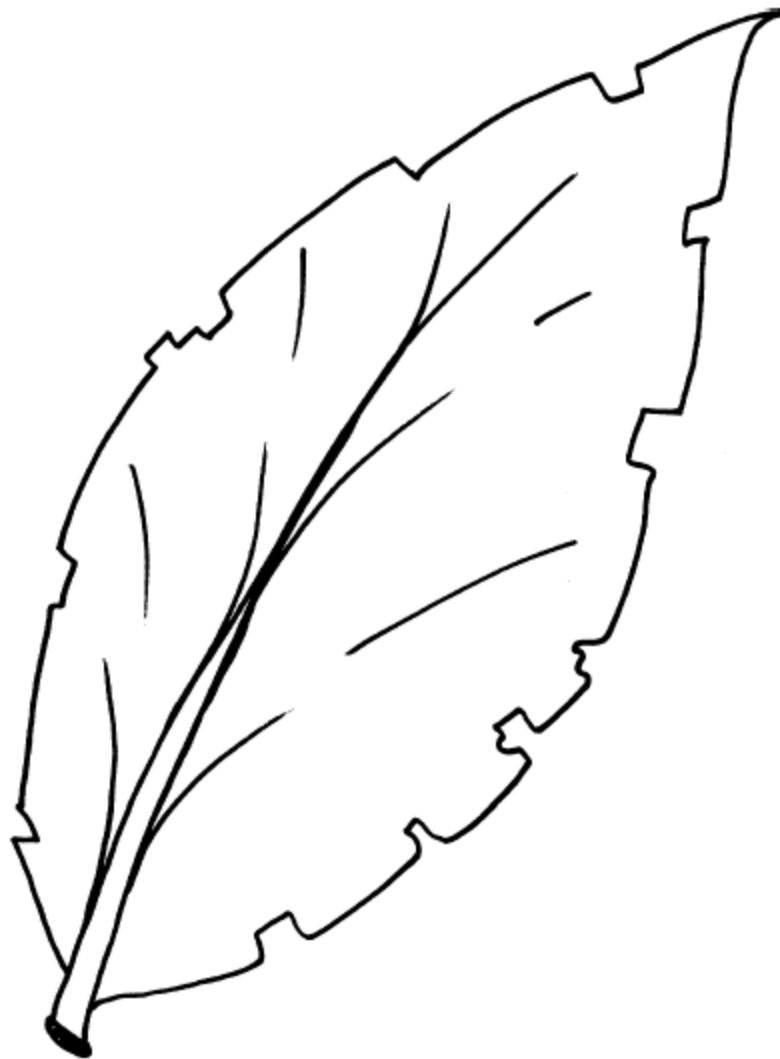
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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SYMBOL

Palm branch



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ILLUSTRATION

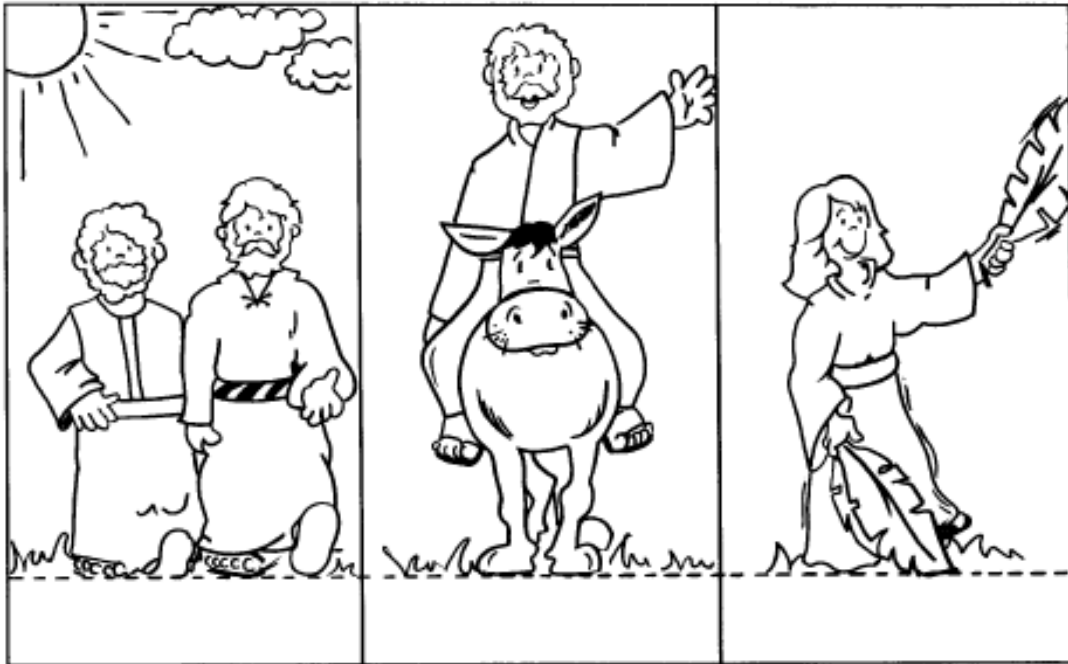
Use this illustration during the story. It would be great if you could enlarge the image and then color it. If there is time in class let the children color it. Give them a bunch of different art supplies to work with – pieces of fabric, sand, leaves, color crayons, glitter, etc.



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CRAFT

Palm Sunday



This craft is not simply a coloring page. Use real things like pieces of fabric or leaves. This take home project will remind the children of this very important event in Jesus' last week on earth.

Materials: ½ of the tube of toilet paper, pieces of leaves, pieces of fabric, card stock, scissors, glue, white paper, sand.

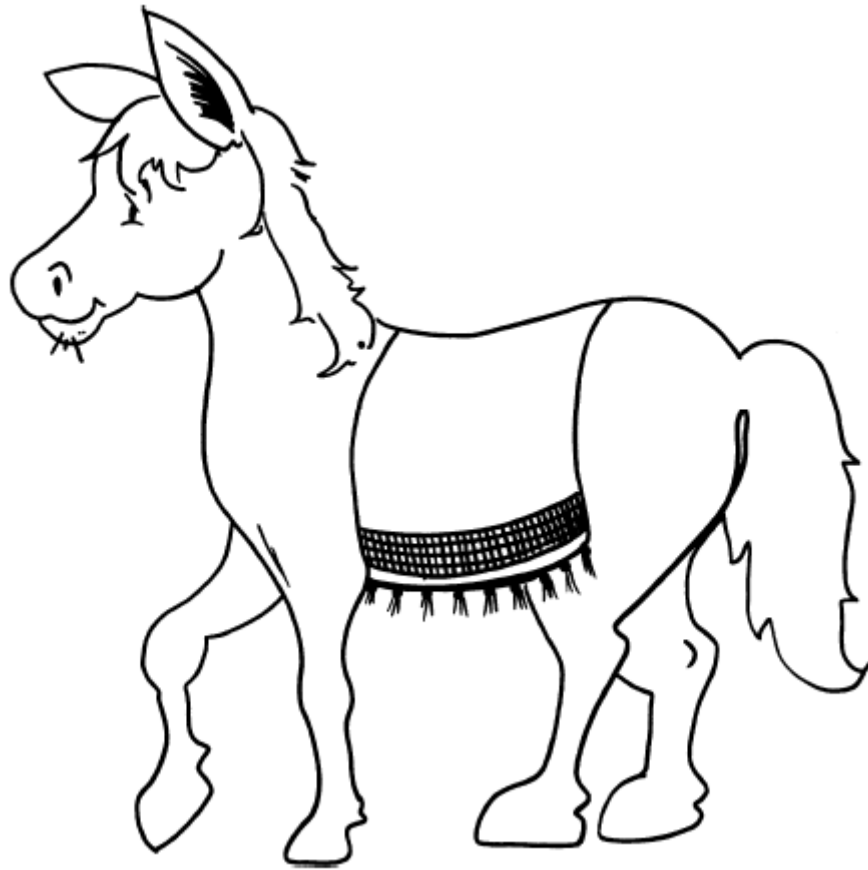
Instructions:

1. Cut the toilet paper tube in half.
2. Color the illustration and decorate it with the art supplies.
3. Glue the base of the illustration around the toilet paper tube. This will help it stand up.

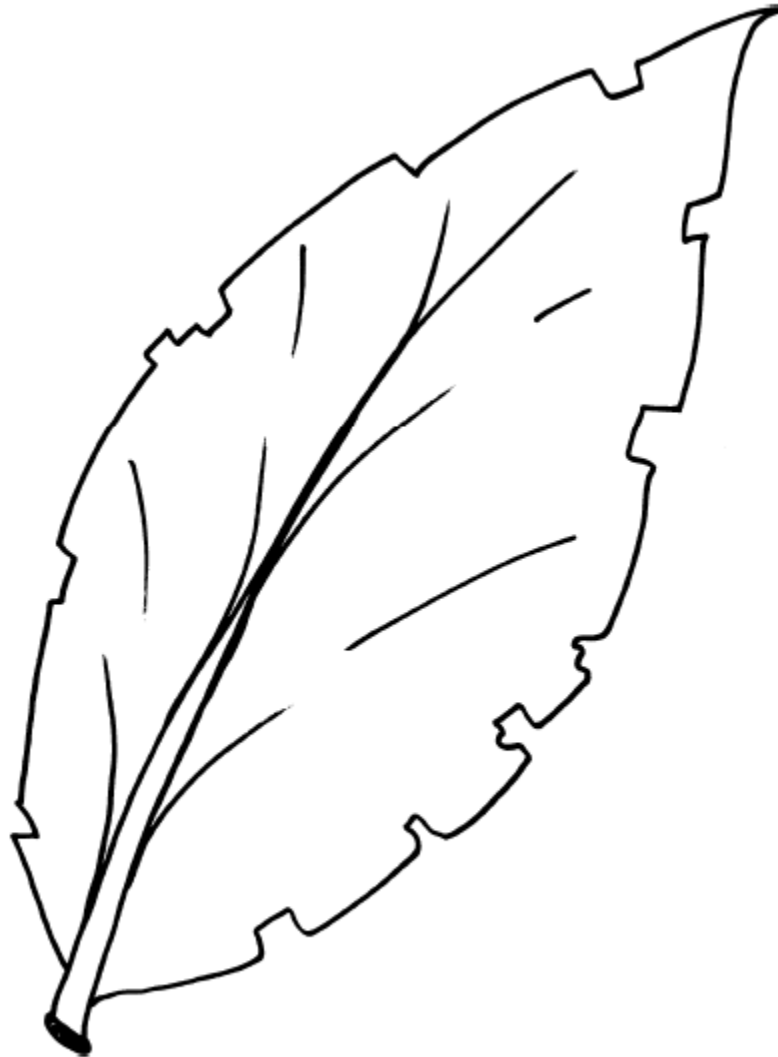
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CRAFT 2

Color the drawings in the following five pages (donkey, Jesus, palm branches, road, people). Make sure that each child has one of each of the five pages. Make a road, using the illustration, or use a larger piece of card stock or poster board. Color and cut out the other illustrations and glue them on the drawing of the road. Glue on sand for the road, pieces of fabric which represent the clothes that people laid down on the road for Jesus to travel over. Put palm branches in the people's hands and on the ground.



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