

Activity: Palm Sunday Lent/Easter Season



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: Learning the story of Palm Sunday through acting it out.

Scriptures: Matthew 21: 1-9

Materials: Cardboard tubes from rolls of paper towels or wrapping paper (wood dowels or rolled up construction paper will also work)
Green crepe paper streamers
Tape
Towels or sheets for simple robe costumes for the kids

Donkey Option 1: Adult or large child plays donkey

A simple costume is gray sweats, a tail made of gray yarn with a ball of black yarn at the bottom, and a baseball hat with eyes taped to the front and a black mane made of yarn taped to the back of the hat.

Gray sweats

Black and gray yarn

Baseball cap with paper eyes taped to it

Donkey Option 2: Large cardboard box

This option allows the kids to continue to act out this event in the days to come even if a parent is not available to serve as the donkey.

Large cardboard box

Broom handle or similar pole (approximately 4 feet long)

Gray spray paint (gray primer is cheap and works great)

White, gray and black construction paper

In Advance: If you are making the donkey out of the cardboard box tape the ends shut to make the box sturdy. Spray paint the box with the gray spray paint and allow it to dry. Cut a hole in the center of the top of the box large enough for the children to stand in.

To make the head/neck portion of the donkey cut a hole in the front of the top of the box large enough to slide the broom handle down. Make two head/neck portraits of a donkey out of construction paper. Tape the two portraits together except along the bottom edge of the neck. Slide this over the portion of the broom handle, which protrudes, from the box. **KEEP DONKEY HIDDEN UNTIL IT IS TIME TO USE IT!!!**

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

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✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. Tell the story of Palm Sunday, then tell the kids that you are going to act out the story.

B. **ACTIVITY:** Have each of the children make a palm branch out of an empty paper towel roll or wrapping paper roll. Tape pieces of cut up green crepe paper streamers to the stem. (If you don't have any empty rolls, roll up pieces of construction paper into tubes).

(If using option 1, the person playing the donkey should get ready while the children are making the branches and then wait until the "disciples" come.)

C. After the palm branches are made, pick one child to be Jesus. The other children will be the Disciples for part of the skit and residents of Jerusalem for the other part. If you have put together costumes for the kids have them put them on now. (A sheet or towel draped around the child with a rope or belt around their waist makes a simple, great costume. Head coverings and walking sticks can be added to embellish the costumes).

D. After the parts are assigned begin the role-play by explaining that Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Jerusalem. Have Jesus send the disciples off to find the donkey. When the disciples find the donkey, have them bring it to Jesus so he can ride it to Jerusalem.

E. After they have delivered the donkey to Jesus the disciples now become the crowd waiting for Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem. Have children pick up their palm branches and their cloaks to lay before Jesus (a towel works great) and go to another area of the house representing the entrance to Jerusalem. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem riding the donkey (if the donkey is a box, have one of the parents push it to Jerusalem) have the "crowd" throw down their coats, wave their palm branches and shout "Hosanna in the highest".

F. The skit can be repeated allowing the children to take turns playing Jesus.

G. **OPTIONAL:** When the kids have had their fill of changing parts and acting out the skit you can switch to "donkey races". Either two adults or an older child and an adult can be the multiple donkeys for the race or you could pull out a second box, which you had made into a donkey.

V. Memorize:

**Hosanna we sing
To Jesus our King!**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.