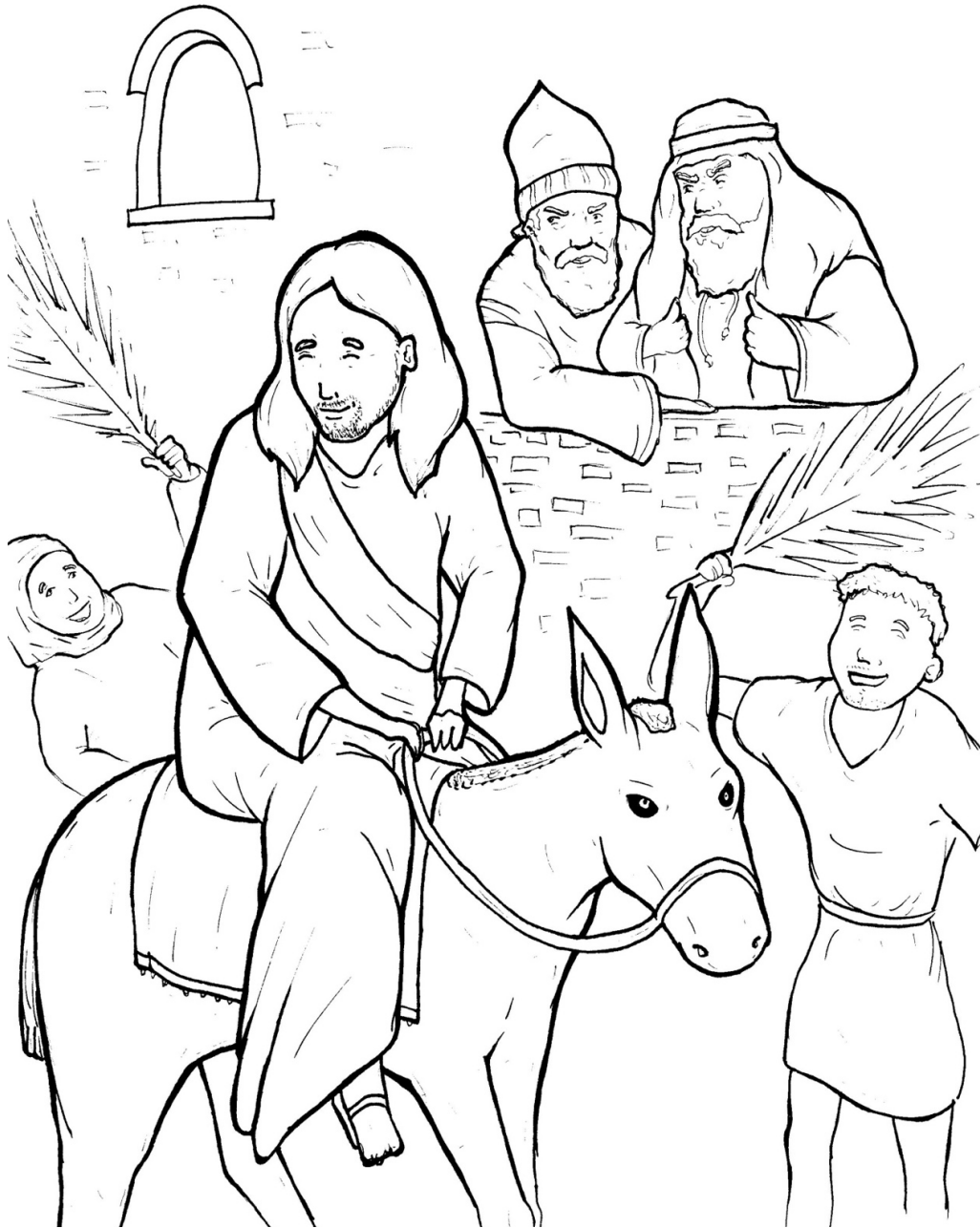


Bible Stories

34. Children Praise Jesus

Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12



The leaders growled, "See! The whole world has gone after him!"

John 12:18

Children Praise Jesus

Jesus went around Galilee and nearby lands. He healed the sick. He told stories about heaven. He showed the people that he was God.

Some believed. Some did not. The leaders got mad. "A man cannot be God!" they yelled.

Jesus knew that his time to die would soon come. He told his disciples, "Go near the city of Jerusalem. You will find a little donkey. Bring it to me. The owner will let you."

The disciples obeyed. Jesus sat on the donkey. The children ran to him. They clapped their hands with joy. They shouted, "Hosanna!" This is a praise word.

People laid their cloaks on the road. Jesus rode along their path. They cut leaves from palm trees. They waved the palm leaves. "Blessed is the King!" the crowd shouted. "He comes in the name of the Lord!"

The leaders growled, "We must stop this."

Jesus said, "If the people keep quiet, the stones will cry out. Even the rocks will praise me."

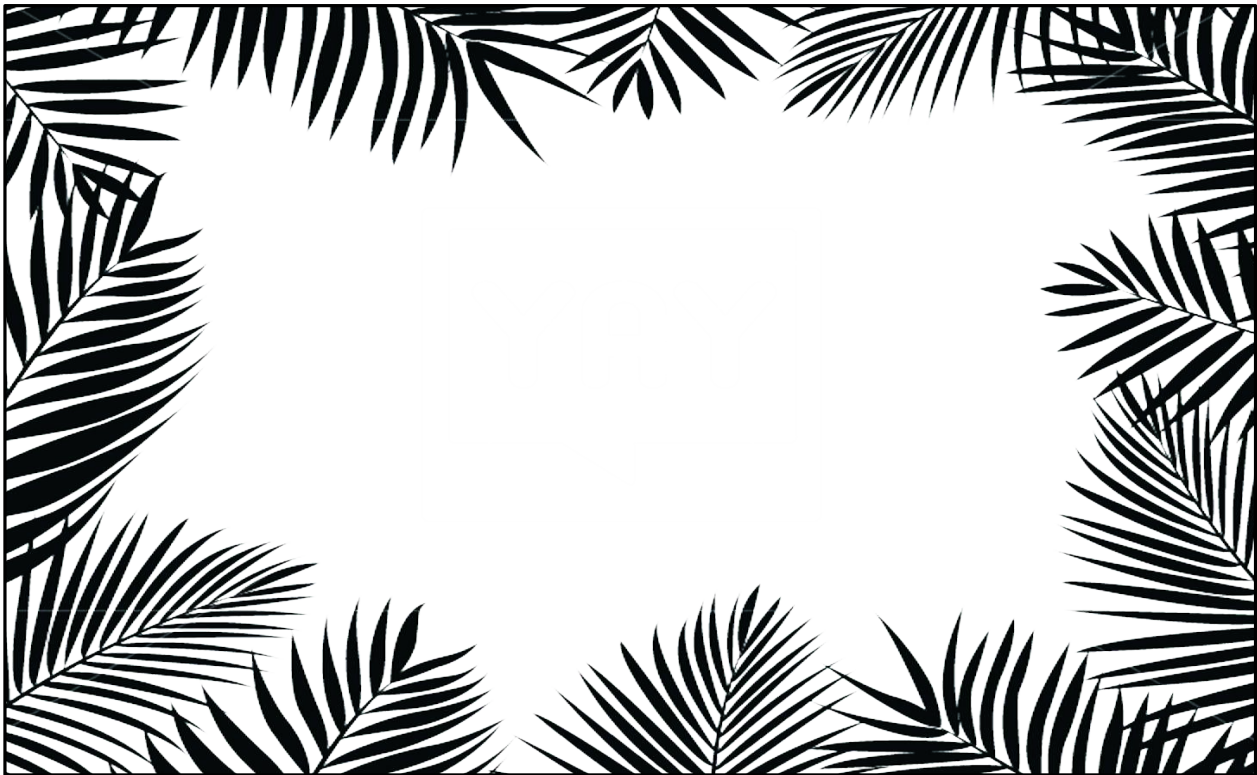
The leaders said to themselves, "See! The whole world has gone after him, and not after us. We will stop it."

Questions

1. What did the children understand that even some of the adults did not?
2. Jesus was always kind and good. Why were the leaders mad?
3. Some believed; some did not. Some praised Jesus; some did not. Will you praise Jesus? For what?

Write a Prayer:

Write your own prayer of praise in the palm leaves.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

34. Children Praise Jesus

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) When is the last time someone said something nice about you?
- b) What did they say? How did you feel?
- c) When the children praised Jesus, what do you think they said?

After you read:

What is Praise?

Praise means to express approval or admiration; to offer grateful respect and honor. Praise is a little different than just expressing thanks. It is basically offering a compliment. Praise each other and use the word as you say, "Kylie, can you praise Keon for his artwork?" The praise might be something like, "Your artwork is creative, colorful, and makes me happy to look at." Even better, have the students pass around a large palm leaf cut from green construction paper. The students can write their compliments on the leaf to keep forever. Ask them how it felt to get praise and how God feels about our praise. Now pass around the palm leaves and see if you can praise God with any of the same lines... "God, I see your magnificent artwork in your colorful sunsets. You are the grand artist."

Make a Rock Band

Jesus said that if the people keep quiet that the stones will cry out and even the rocks will praise him. Make a rock band. Go outside and let the kids collect rocks and pebbles. They might get them from a creek bed or along a trail. Wash and dry them and place them in a variety of containers with lids: mini chip cylinders, jars that hold bullion cubes, etc. Once all the kids have a musical instrument to shake, learn a praise song. Start with this song with lyrics, "My God is so Great."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da2GzIDjsQ8>

Play "Agnus Dei" (Latin for "The Lamb") by a young Brazilian wonder named Jotta. Explain why Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XN2UydzUOQU>

Raise the Roof Praise

Have the kids identify the praise actions of the children in the Bible story: They ran, clapped their hands, shouted, laid their cloaks on the road, and waved palm leaves. Praise is active. Let your kids each come up with their own individual actions. Like an orchestra leader, point to them each while they joyfully spin, tap, bounce to praise music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tGyWEyxihc>

Praising God for Miracles

We read in Luke 19:37b: "The whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen." You can't praise God for who he is if you don't know what he did. Have the kids look up the passages about Jesus' miracles and fill in the chart, like the sample. Then, they can write their praise on a piece of paper towel, as though it is a cloak, lay it down, and praise Jesus in a loud voice.

What Jesus did...	shows who Jesus is...	So I will praise him.
Mark 1: 23-27 Jesus told an evil spirit to come out of a man and it obeyed him.	Jesus is the Holy One of God. He has authority over unseen evil spirits.	Jesus, you are the Holy One of God. I praise you for your authority over all spirits.
Mark 1:29-34		
Mark 1:40-42		
Mark 2: 1-12		
Mark 4:35-41		
Mark 5:35-43		
Mark 6:47-51		
Mark 7:31-37		
Mark 8:22-26		

Whole World has Gone after Him

Finish the drawing and in word bubbles, write the praises found in John 12:13; Luke 19:38; and Mark 11:9-10. Write in what the leaders said in John 12:19.

EXTRA – This famous Bible story can be found in a variety of illustrated formats:

<http://freebibleimages.org/stories/?search=palm+sunday>

Also, kids can make a booklet out of it at this link (thanks to Lambsong.co.nz)

<http://www.lambsongs.co.nz/Easter%20Booklet/Palm%20Sunday%20small%20B+W.pdf>

