



Hosanna

(based on Mark 11:1-10)

Jesus and his friends were going to the great city of Jerusalem. It was almost time for Passover. The roads were filled with excited people. They were all headed to Jerusalem for the special festival.

When they got close to the city, Jesus sent two friends to a nearby village to get him a small donkey.

They followed Jesus' instructions and came back with a donkey. The disciples spread their cloaks over the animal to make a saddle. Jesus got on and set out for the city.

The crowds of people became larger and larger. Everyone talked and sang as they made their way to Jerusalem for the celebration.

Soon Jesus was riding through the gates of Jerusalem on the donkey. When the people saw him coming they began to cheer.

"Hosanna! Hosanna!" they shouted. "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!"

Some people began to spread clothes on the road in front of Jesus. Others cut branches from trees and placed the leaves on the ground to make a path for the donkey.

All the while the people continued to shout, "Hosanna! Save us! Hosanna! Save us, Jesus!"

Soon there was such a noise that it seemed as though everyone in Jerusalem had come out to welcome Jesus. It was a wonderful day, but Jesus knew that trouble was coming. Still for now, it was time to celebrate Passover with his friends.



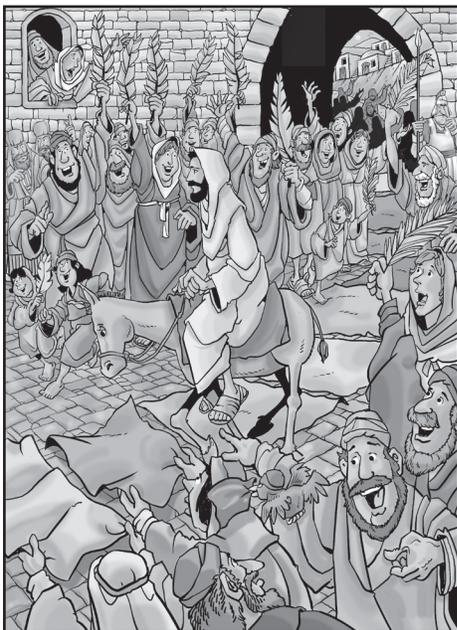
Hosanna

(based on Mark 11:1-10)

Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- When Jesus was crucified, the soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head to mock him for claiming to be the king of the Jews. Make a crown of thorns to use as a centerpiece this week. Make a large ring of playdough on a piece of waxed paper. Stick toothpicks into the playdough at different angles to make thorns. If you like, break the toothpicks in half and stick the broken end into the playdough.
- The crowd honored Jesus as a coming king by waving palms, and by spreading branches and clothing on the road. Talk with your children about ways we honor those in authority.



Responding to God's Grace

- Encourage your church to use an environmentally friendly source for palm branches for Palm Sunday.
- Neither our civil government nor our church has a king. We elect people to serve as leaders. Find out the contact information for your mayor, governor, or executive presbyter, and send them a letter thanking them for their service to your community or presbytery.
- Get a potted palm plant. With care, it will grow between now and next year's Palm Sunday. Will you grow, too?

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Use a donkey cookie cutter to cut out cookies.
- Stage an indoor parade with stuffed animals or action figures. Act out scenes from this week's story.
- Pray:
*Lord Jesus, we welcome you into our lives.
We pray that we will sing your praises all our days. Amen.*