



A Palm Sunday Parade

(based on Matthew 21:1-11)

The donkey was waiting for them.

“Look,” said Jesus’ disciples. “This must be the donkey we are looking for.”

Jesus had sent two of his friends to a village to find a particular donkey. Now they had found it. The disciples untied the animal and brought it back to Jesus. They laid some clothes over its back.

Jesus climbed onto the donkey and started down the road to Jerusalem. *Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop* went the donkey’s hooves. Jesus’ friends walked behind.

As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem, a crowd began to gather. As he got closer and closer to the city gate, more people joined them.

There were mothers and fathers, girls and boys. Grandmothers and grandfathers who were there remembered reading about the prophet Zechariah, who had written that one day a humble king would come who would ride on a donkey. When they saw Jesus, they remembered Zechariah’s words.

“Jesus is coming!” some of them yelled.

“Look, he is on a donkey,” others cried.

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Hooray for Jesus!” they shouted.

Soon, lots of people were following Jesus. Some people spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and laid them down to make a path for the donkey to walk on.

Crowds ran ahead. Crowds marched behind. It was quite a parade.

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Hooray for Jesus!” the people shouted again and again.

When Jesus came in through the gate, the whole city could hear the crowd shouting.

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Hooray for Jesus!”

“What’s going on? Who is this man?” some people asked.

“It’s Jesus,” the crowd replied. “Hosanna! Hosanna!”

Then Jesus rode up to the temple, and the crowd followed him.



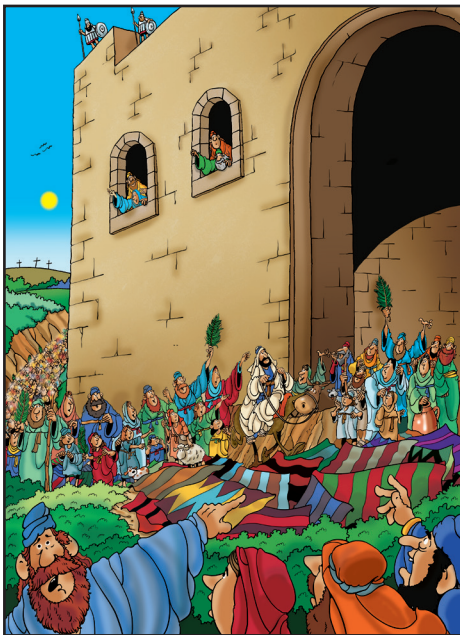
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your family members—imagine and wonder.
- Jesus and the disciples usually walked wherever they went. Wonder together what it means that Jesus asked the disciples to go get the donkey.
- A cloak is like an outer garment, a coat or long vest. Wonder together why the crowd spread their cloaks on the road for the donkey carrying Jesus to walk on. Wonder together why they cut branches from the trees.



Responding to God's Grace

- What do you do when you're glad someone has arrived? Imagine that the people in the story used your ideas to show their excitement.
- Hosanna* means "save us" or "help us." What are some words you use when you want to express "help us"?
- Invite your family members to tell about a special celebration in their lives.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- If your church has palms today in worship, be ready to wave the palms and remember how glad people were to see Jesus.
- Save a palm branch and make a cross from a frond. Do an internet search for "Making a cross from a palm branch."
- This is the beginning of Holy Week. Attend a Holy Week service at your church or in your community: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Saturday Easter Vigil.
- Make a Holy Week box (bit.ly/HolyWeekBox) for your family to remember the events of Holy Week.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:

*Ride on, King Jesus! No one can hinder you.
Ride on! Amen.*