

Hosanna

Spark Story Bible pp. 454-459

Matthew 21:1-11 / Mark 11:1-11 / Luke 19:28-40

Read the story with your child, either from the Bible or their Story Bible.

Palm Sunday is observed the Sunday before Easter. We remember this story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and the people waving palm branches, and shouting “Hosanna!” to celebrate his arrival. At the time, the people most likely expected Jesus to free them from the Roman emperor, but Jesus came with a message of loving your neighbor and serving each other instead. This story of excitement and celebration changes drastically in just a few short days. We know the events of Holy Week bring great sadness, but we also know that death is not the end of the story.

Activities*

- Take a nature walk - go outside with your family and spend time in nature. Signs of spring are everywhere! Look for new buds, green grass, birds nesting, etc. Take pictures or make sketches of what you find. Talk to your child about the new life we can see all around us and how it reminds us of Jesus’ resurrection.
- Make your own palms - have all the members of your family make handprints. Trace hands on green construction paper, or white paper and color them in. Cut out the handprints and attach them to a stick (maybe try to find one on your nature walk!). Make one or several. Recreate your own triumphal entry, or use these to decorate your front door, a window, or some other place in your home.
- Make a cross - use painter’s tape to make a cross on a piece of paper. Then use watercolor paint, crayons, markers, or whatever you have on hand to color over the entire cross. Gently remove the tape to reveal the white cross underneath. You can also do this on a larger scale outside on concrete using sidewalk chalk!
- Pray - try the finger prayer. Your thumb reminds you to pray for those closest to you, your family and friends. Your pointer finger reminds you to pray for those who point you in the right direction, your teachers, pastors, and medical professionals. Your middle finger is tallest and reminds you to pray for our leaders. Your ring finger is the weakest and reminds you to pray for those who are in need. Your pinkie is the smallest and that represents praying for your own needs.

*These activities were gathered from our purchased curriculum - Bible Story Basics, Spring 2020, Volume 1, Number 3. Published by Abingdon Press.