

JESUS - A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING

BIG IDEA

Jesus is God's promised king. His name is special and all the earth should praise Him!

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a packet of sweets or mini party biscuits

Buy 6 eggs or water balloons

Find some praise music for the game

Get a sheet of A4 paper per person, and pencils or felt pens

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start (except eggs / water balloons)

INTRO

TAKE YOUR PACKET OF EGGS or water balloons and the children outside onto the lawn. Put everyone in pairs. (Use a parent if necessary.)



Stand one metre apart and one person from each pair toss the egg to their partner.

If they do this without breaking the egg, take a step backwards and try again!

When all the eggs or water balloons are broken, head back inside to talk.

How did you need to treat the eggs?

Precious things need to be treated with care.

There are some things in this world that we have to always remember to treat with respect and care because they are so important. The name of our God is one of those things.

God is holy, special and amazing, and we must always be respectful and honouring – especially with his name. We

*Jesus turns life right
side up and heaven
outside in.*
- Carl Henry*

may hear others use the name of Jesus and God in ways that are not full of respect, or even as a swear word. But God wants us to show we love him by the way we talk, as well as the way we behave.

Today we are going to think about some special names that God gave Jesus and why we should praise Jesus and honour his name.

Around March/April, we celebrate Palm Sunday which is the beginning of Holy Week. It's a time to remember the things that happened just before Jesus died, how people recognized who Jesus was, and what special names he had.

Palm Sunday is like a celebration or a big parade for Jesus. We celebrate that he brought God's kingdom to earth. It is a different kingdom that will never end and people who love Jesus can experience it now.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday the crowds burst out in enthusiastic praise and cheering.

Today it would be like a sports hero or king or queen coming to town and everyone waving flags or letting balloons fly into the sky. The people wanted everyone to know that Jesus was the promised King.

READ

HAND OUT THE PAPER AND PENCILS. While you are reading, everyone draws around their hand that is fanned-out so that it looks like a palm leaf. (Small children can be helped by a parent.)

☞ Jesus left Bethany to go to Jerusalem. On the way, he sent two of his disciples to a nearby village. As they left, Jesus told them, "You'll see a donkey tied with her young colt, which has never been ridden. Untie the colt, and bring it to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say that the Lord needs it." The disciples found the young donkey just as Jesus had said. And while they were untying it the owners asked, "What are you doing?" "The Lord needs it," the disciples said. Then the owners let the two men have the donkey for Jesus to ride on. The disciples brought the young animal to Jesus and threw their coats across its back. Jesus rode the donkey along the road to Jerusalem. As he did, many people in the crowd spread their coats on the road in front of him. Others cut down branches from the trees. They made a green carpet of palm branches for him to ride over. That is what people did when a king rode through their streets. The crowd around him began shouting, "Praise God for sending us a king" ☞

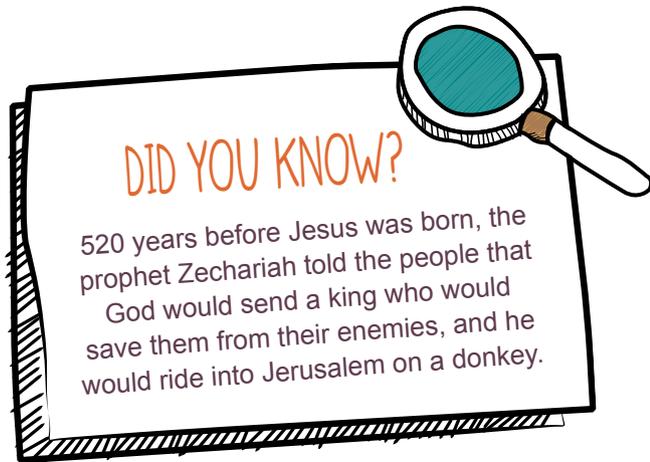
*Luke 19:28-40; **Classic Bible Story Book**, Kenneth N. Taylor, pages 215-216, Tyndale House © 2009*

Some of the religious leaders told Jesus to tell his disciples to be quiet. But Jesus said, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out in praise."

Palm branches symbolised victory and triumph and were used to honour someone. They weren't easy to get, and that made them special. On really important occasions the people might cover a dirt road with them to create a carpet of palms.

*TAKE YOUR HAND OUTLINE, and write on each finger (branch) a name for Jesus or something that we can praise him for; words that celebrate who he is and what he has done. Give some hints! **Creator, miracle worker, healer, saviour, God's son, Messiah, shepherd, king of kings, Emmanuel, light of the world, mighty God, died for us, friend.***

Each person read out the names they have written down. Now put the palm leaves face-down in the middle of the table and try to remember what yours said.



GAME

*(This game is similar to musical chairs)
PUT A CHAIR AT ONE END OF THE ROOM.
Put on some praise music.*

When the music plays everyone must dance around moving past the chair to the other end of the room and back again. When the music stops the person nearest the chair has to sit on it and call out one of the reasons we praise Jesus.

*Each person has to say a different name, (if you get it right you get a party sweet).
If the person on the chair can't think of a name, they don't get a sweet but they stay in the game.*

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

Why did Jesus come into Jerusalem on a donkey even though he was a king?

Why did the leaders not like the people praising Jesus and calling him King?

Jesus said that if we don't praise him, then the stones will praise him! What do you think he meant by that?

PRAY

Choose the person who is wearing the brightest clothes and ask them to pray a praise prayer using the words that are on their palm. Everyone else then takes a turn to pray.

LIVE

Cut around your 'palms' and put them into a vase or jar to use as a centerpiece on your dining table this week. At each evening meal someone takes a palm from the vase and uses one of the names for Jesus as a part of saying grace.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 Palm Game: Divide into two teams. One team has to carry items on the back of their hand (such as an egg, bouncy ball, stick of celery, etc.) while the other team cups the same objects in the palm of their hand. Talk about how it is much easier to carry objects in the palms of our hands rather than on the back of our hands. Explain how God carries us in the palm of his hand and that he will always protect us.

2 Stone Activity: On Palm Sunday Jesus told the people that if he silenced the crowd, the stones on the roadside would start praising him. Gather stones for everyone. Write or draw something on each stone which represents a blessing you would like to praise Jesus for. Keep the stones in a dish on the table this week.

3 Show the children how each one of their fingers is a reminder of how God loves us and is faithful to us.

Thumb: God made me (Creator)

Pointer: God knows me (Omniscience)

Tall man: God loves me (Faithfulness)

Ring man: God protects me (Sustainer)

Pinkie: God rescues me (Saviour)

Point your finger to touch the middle of your palm and explain that God holds us in the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:2) NIV

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- A washable marker pen
- Marbles (or packet of small objects)
- Jelly snakes or similar for awards