



Mark 11:1-19

Aim: To hear how the crowds recognised that Jesus was God's special Saviour



Many people in Jerusalem were desperate for a new king. They had heard so much about Jesus and believed he could be the one they had been longing and waiting for. It may have been puzzling to see the sight of Jesus, riding on a young donkey, entering the city from the long road down from the Mount of Olives, that day, but the crowds were whooped up and excited as they waved, cheered and threw down their palm branches in front of the colt to give Jesus the 'red (green) carpet treatment. Their high spirits may have been temporary, but, whilst it lasted the crowds had got it right. This was their Saviour, the one foretold of long ago. He wasn't a proud strutting king entering on a horse with an army behind him. He was the humble servant king, riding on a colt. This servant king, the Lord Jesus, was entering the city for the last time before facing his darkest hour, his mission: to vanquish death's sting and redeem the world from sin.



Use coconut halves (or similar) to make a gentle 'clip clop' sound to get the attention of the group. Lead them into the story area with your 'donkey.'

Pretend to stroke the invisible donkey and give it an imaginary carrot.

What a crowd you are. We must sit really still and quietly so that we don't frighten the donkey! He's really tired because he has had such a busy day! In fact. Our story will tell you all about what he has been up to.



Give out paper leaves or small cloths before the start of the story. Practice waving them as you cheer together then lay them down in front of them. Read the story 'Palm Sunday' (p199).

After the story ask the children to give words that describe how they felt when the crowd cheered.

Give me a happy face. How about a surprised face? What does a shocked face look like? I think there were lots of faces like those in the crowd!



*I wonder how Jesus felt when everyone was waving and cheering
I wonder if Jesus would have noticed us, in the crowd
I wonder what the donkey thought of all the attention
I wonder what Jesus's friends talked about together that day*



Use our [Palm Sunday All Age Worship resources](#) including a donkey keeper drama script!

Use 'A Very Happy Easter' by Tim Thornborough. This book focuses on the emotions of the whole Easter story and encourages toddlers to copy the emotions with their faces, too.

Read 'How are You Peeling' by Saxton Freymann, to explore a wide array of emotions, including ones in this story



- Offer small play characters and animals for little fingers to reenact the scene of Jesus procession into Jerusalem.
- Use green card or paper to make paper palm leaves, e.g. this one from [Twinkle resources](#). Decorate with colours, gems, finger prints etc. You could encourage families to bring these to church to be part of your Palm Sunday celebrations
- Make a clothes-peg donkey similar to the one shown. For template visit: [CCBKids-Online-Street-Celebration.pdf](#)
- Play a game of musical statues using palm leaves and scarves to wave about as you dance



Ask the children to pick up their palm branches (If they have made them), or cloths.

Today we are going to say a praise prayer. We will say thank you to Jesus.

Every time I leave a gap , please wave your branches/cloths in the air and cheer

Dear Lord Jesus,

You are amazing! Cheer

We give you our thanks! Cheer

You are our King! Cheer

Lord of everything! Cheer

Amen! Big long cheer!



- We're going to clap our hands
- Who's the king of the jungle
- Bananaman



Give every family a copy of the palm leaf outline (below) and ask them to write or draw something they are thankful for each day on each frond of the leaf until it is full of thankfulness

Watch a short clip of the story:

<https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE>

Get the paints out and make hand print palm branch painting.

