



Rocks & Pebbles worship session 05/04/2020

Welcome to Junior Church! we pray the following helps you to worship as a family at home, on a regular basis.

These sessions will follow a similar pattern to that the children experience on a Sunday morning. Maybe different members of the family can lead your service? (All words in bold, we encourage you to say together).

Palm Sunday 05/4/2020

Matthew 21.1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem as a Passover pilgrim for the last time, demonstrating how he brings in God's kingdom and setting the stage for the showdown with those he sees as God's real enemies.

An active way to begin your session. Encourage everyone to stand up and think of one thing they would like to thank God for. After everyone has said their short prayer, they all turn around on the spot and shout 'Hosanna!'

Repeat the activity by inviting everyone to think of someone they want to pray for, e.g. someone who is ill or lonely. Finally, invite everyone to pray for themselves.

GATHERING PRAYER

Jesus the Messiah, welcome!

We have come together to hear from you,
we have come together to learn from you,
we have come together to offer you our praise.

Welcome, Jesus, welcome!

Amen.

The lord be with you
And also with you.

Lord you want us to be with you,
Thank you for inviting us

Lord you chose each one of us to be your friend,
Thank you for inviting us

Lord we love being with you
Thank you for inviting us
Amen

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD *(can you remember the actions?)*

We're happy when we're close to God, since that's where we belong, *(hug yourself)*

But sometimes we go far from God and everything feels wrong.
(turn away and hands by your sides)

But if we say we're sorry then, God's love is sure and strong,
And he will draw us back to him and that's where we belong.
(turn back around and hug yourself again).

Dear God, we want to follow you
When we let you down,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

When we are selfish,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

When we are greedy,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

When we want to do things our way instead of yours,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

Dear God, we want to follow you,
Forgive us and fill us with your love.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in His image. To the praise and glory of His name. Amen

SONG *My God is so Big*

My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! Repeat

The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handywork too!

My God is so big so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he can not do! For me, and you and you.

STORY

First of all you need to prepare the scene. You could find some dolls, teddies or soft toys and a donkey (or substitute). Choose one of the figures to be Jesus. The rest will be the crowd.

Or you may want to act it out. Decide who will be the storyteller, Jesus, the crowd members. I'm sure you can work out what to use for a donkey (a dining chair the wrong way round or a stool?)

- Some small pieces of cloth to put down on the pathway.
- A4 piece of paper, sellotape and a pair of scissors to make a palm.

To make the palm:- Hold your paper in the landscape orientation and roll it up fairly tight.



Secure it with two pieces of sellotape- one at the bottom and the other halfway up.



Make cuts .5cm apart down from top of scroll to middle piece of sellotape.



Fold the Branches out to make it look like a tree.



Now you are ready for the story!

Everyone was getting ready to celebrate the Passover. They had made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were excited (a bit like you would be for Christmas). They were out in the streets gathering for worship.

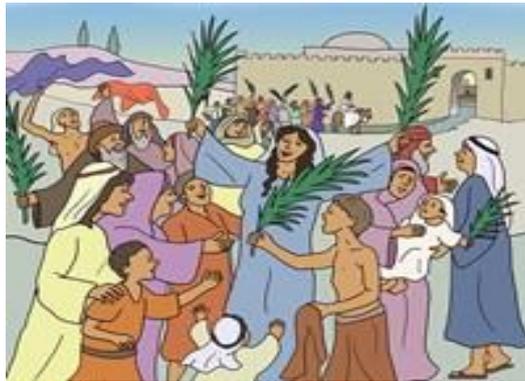
"Hosanna! Hosanna!" the crowds were shouting. They were singing too. They were so happy. Some threw their coats on the floor. They were making way for a king.

You might ask, "A king... on a donkey? That doesn't sound right." Well they were people who read the Old Testament and knew the prophesy. The prophet Zechariah had written, "Shout for joy, Jerusalem! Your king comes to you, riding humbly on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." Jesus knew the prophecy too. That is why he had sent his disciples ahead of him to Bethphage to find the colt in the first place. "If anyone tries to stop you," he said, "just say, The Lord needs it." So the disciples had done as Jesus asked and found the colt, threw their coats over it for Jesus to sit on and took it to Jesus.

And so, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. "Hosanna! Hosanna!" the crowds were shouting. They were singing too. They were so happy. Some threw their coats on the floor. They were making way for a king. "Hosanna to the son of David!" Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

With all the singing and shouting going on it is not surprising that the crowd was happy and excited when Jesus passed by them is it? What would you think? What would you shout? Some people were asking who it was on the colt and those who knew told them "This is the prophet, Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

How do you think you would feel after? What do you think you would tell friends and family who had not been there?



Glossary

Hosanna! a Hebrew word usually used to mean 'Praise', but it actually means 'Save us, please!';

prophet someone who receives messages from God to pass on to the people.

Talk together (Connect faith with everyday life)

- What was the most surprising part of the story and why?
- Have you ever been part of a big crowd watching an event?
- If you saw Jesus on the street, what word might you shout and why?

Activities - Where's Jesus?

Show the children the 'Where's Jesus?' picture (see link below) and ask them to find Jesus in the turmoil. Ask what else they notice in the picture.

Jesus was on a journey into Jerusalem through the turmoil of a city during festival season. How do we walk together through busy lives and times of turmoil?

Note - the picture contains several rats/mice among the people. Counting these could form an additional activity as could colouring the picture in.

https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20221/wheres_jesus.pdf

SONG

Little donkey (To the tune of: Little Donkey)

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

See branches waving near, Jesus is here, Jesus is here! See faces full of cheer, Jesus is here, Jesus is here!

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

Leaders are frowning there, they do not care, they do not care. Jesus brings love to share, to everywhere, to everywhere!

Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road, Little donkey, carry Jesus to Jerusalem.

PRAYERS

Loving God,
we pray for all who get left behind
and all the people rejected by the crowd.
We pray they will see the humble king
riding his donkey beside them.

Amen.

Jesus, our King,
we offer you the praise of our hands,
(wave hands)
we offer you the praise of our voices,
(shout 'Hosanna!')
we offer you the praise of our feet,
(stamp feet)
we offer you the praise of
our minds and our hearts.
(place hands on hearts)
Hosanna to the Son of David!
Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

JUNIOR CHURCH PRAYER

Thank you for each other.

Thank you that we can learn together, play, laugh and pray together. Bless us Lord, as we remember how much you love us.
Amen

For older children - Mind-map prayers Place a large sheet of paper in the middle of the room. Create a mind-map as a family, using the following questions. What do we want God to change in the next year? What turning points would I like to see in my life? Pray together silently, asking God to be present in change and turning points, as each element of the mind-map is written down.

LIVE YOUR FAITH Encourage the children put their faith into action. Make Some Easter cards for friends or family you are not able to be with now.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20322/29-mar-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20334/29-mar-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf>

