

Parade with Palms

By Paige Evers



Begin Holy Week and prepare for Easter by marching in a Palm Sunday parade with your family. Help family members of all ages to experience the joy and anticipation of Jesus coming as the Savior—in Bible times and today.

For

Young Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, leafy branches cut from your yard or Palm Branch worksheets (see last page) and scissors, crayons or markers; Internet-connected device for viewing [God's Story: Palm Sunday](#).



by [Kate B Dixon](#)

Prepare in Advance

- Cut a leafy branch for each family member from a shrub or tree. If this is not possible, make a copy of Palm Branch worksheet (see next page) for each family member and gather scissors and crayons or markers.
- Mark your Bible at Mark 11:1-11.
- Preview the video at [God's Story: Palm Sunday](#).
- If you will be going outdoors, have shoes and jackets ready.

Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and pray aloud to begin:

Dear God, we are ready to listen to your Word. As we hear this Bible story, help us learn more about Jesus and being his disciples. Amen.

2. Ask: What is a parade? Talk about parades you've attended, marched in, or watched on television. Discuss: What feelings do you have when you're in a parade or watching a parade? What do you think are the best things about a parade?
3. Explain that you're going to hear a Bible story about a time when Jesus was in a parade. Encourage family members to listen for what the people in the crowd shouted when they saw Jesus.
4. Read aloud Mark 11:1-11 from your Bible or use the text at the end of this activity.
5. View [God's Story: Palm Sunday](#).
6. Discuss the story:
 - How was Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem like a parade?
 - What did the people in the crowd say when they saw Jesus? (Explain that *hosanna* is a translation of a Hebrew term that means "O save!" In Jesus' day, it was a shout of joy.)
 - Do you think Jesus was the kind of king that the people hoped he was? Why or why not? (Point out that many people hoped Jesus would push all the bad rulers aside and take charge of everything. Jesus wasn't that kind of king, though. Jesus was going to die on the cross and God was going to raise him to new life on Easter to give us God's love and forgiveness that never ends. But the crowd didn't know that yet. They were excited that the king they had hoped for was coming into the city, so they shouted, "Hosanna!")



7. If you have leafy branches, give each person a branch to wave. If you are making palm branches, have family members color the palm branch on Palm Branch worksheet and cut it out.
8. Go outside, if possible. Form a line with an adult as the leader. Ask everyone to imagine they are standing and waiting for the Jesus parade to begin. You see Jesus coming, riding on a donkey. Tell your children that when you say, "Go," you will all shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is our king!" and wave your branches.
9. March in front of your home, in your yard, along the sidewalk, or wherever it is safe to walk. Have everyone wave their branches and loudly shout: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is our king!" Make the parade as long as you like. Switch leaders if you wish.
10. To end your parade, gather in a circle and pray aloud:

Loving God, we are looking forward to the joy of Easter. Thank you for giving us time to praise Jesus and learn about him in the Bible. Please keep speaking to us through your Word. Amen.
11. Variation: If the weather prevents you from holding your parade outdoors, march around the inside of your home and wave your branches. Spread towels or blankets on the floor to mark your parade route.

Mark 11:1-11

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'"

⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.

⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.



Palm Branch

