

5th and Up Sunday School – Palm Sunday!

Object: Understand more about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; understand some of the differences between earthly kings (leaders) and Jesus the king of peace.

Discussion before you read the story:

- What was the biggest crowd in which you have ever found yourself?
- Was it a joy-filled crowd?
- Why is it easy to be swept up in the excitement of a large crowd?
- Is being in an excited crowd comfortable or uncomfortable? Why?

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Discussion Questions:

1. What Old Testament passage is quoted in verse 5? (Zechariah 9:9. If you have time, have your child read this verse.)
2. What Old Testament passage is quoted in verse 9? (Psalm 118:26. If you have time, have your child read this verse.)
3. To a Jewish person, who knew these prophecies by heart, what would it mean to see Jesus fulfilling them? (It would have been overwhelming and inspiring.)
4. Who did the crowd say Jesus was, according to verse 11? (The Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.)

Jesus made quite an entrance! People were trying to figure out who he was. Remember, there was no television back then. People had heard about him, but they had never seen him before. Notice – they didn't say that he was the Son of God. They called him a prophet. It was difficult for some of the people of Jesus' time to realize who Jesus was. Even his disciples would be confused and abandon Jesus later that same week. It's also clear that Jesus wasn't rich like a normal king. He didn't have a big fancy horse or a big fancy army to go with him in this parade. Jesus wasn't a normal king; he was a king of peace? What do you think a king of peace might look like?

Activity: On one side of a piece of paper, draw what you think an earthly king looks like. Don't forget the fancy crown, fancy clothes, maybe a throne, an army, lots of feasting, whatever comes to mind. On the other side of the paper (or another piece) draw what you think a king of peace might look like – think about how Jesus might have looked (Bonus: do you remember what kind of crown Jesus wore in the end?).

Activity: What can we do to spread peace right now? Brainstorm some ways you can spread peace even during this unusual time. Who most needs to feel God's peace right now? If you didn't make a card for one of our older parish members who is living alone, it would be great to make an Easter card. Ask Mary for some names/addresses as needed.

Activity: Holy Week Trivia: Stump the Parents!!

See how many of these questions you can answer without doing any research. Then ask your parents.

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated when Jesus went to Jerusalem?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphant Entry, what animal was He riding on?
3. Why is the Sunday before Easter called Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?

5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?
6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?
7. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?
8. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
9. Who was released by Pontius Pilate because the crowd demanded it?
10. Who helped carry Jesus' cross?
11. What was the inscription above the cross?
12. What happened in the Temple when Jesus died?
13. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
14. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask a question. Who were these men?
15. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

Read one of the Passion Narratives together to find the answers (or look on the next page 😊)

according to Matthew: Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 or Matthew 27.11–54

according to Mark: Mark 14.1 – 15.47 or Mark 15.1–39 [40–47]

according to Luke: Luke 22.14 – 23.56 or Luke 23.1–49

according to John: John 18.1 – 19.42

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus, the king of peace. Give us courage to follow him by spreading God's peace to one another. Amen.

Answers:

1. Passover (Luke 22:1)
2. A young donkey (Matthew 21:1-7; Mark 11:1-7; Luke 19:28-35; John 12:12-15). In eastern tradition it was customary for a king going to war to ride a horse. Yet when the king was at peace he would ride a donkey. The symbolism is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, was coming for purposes of peace between God and man.
3. When Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of the Passion week [3], the people welcomed Him as king and Messiah. They covered the road with their garments and palm fronds as a symbol of their worship and acceptance of Him as king (Matthew 21:8; Mark 11:8; Luke 19:35, 36; John 12:12, 13).
4. Peter (John 18:10)
5. Malchus (John 18:10)
6. Three times (Luke 22:54-57; Mark 14:69, 70; Matthew 26:73-75; John 18:13-27)
7. 30 (Matthew 26:15)
8. By giving Him a kiss (Matthew 26:47-49).
9. 11. Barabbas (Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:18; John 18:40)
10. 14. "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (Luke 19:19). It was written in three different languages according to John 19:20; Hebrew, Greek and Latin.
11. 16. "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). Slightly different statements, but the same idea are found in Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47.
12. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51).
13. Three hours (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45). From noon to 3 pm.
14. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (John 19:38-42). Interestingly, these two men did not follow Jesus as He traveled through the region, but they were there when all the outspoken disciples had abandoned the Lord.
15. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9)