

## Sunday Challenge for Children's Groups Week 6 (28<sup>th</sup> March)

challenge

### Palm Sunday.

- Ask the children if they have ever been really excited about something that was going to happen, but when it happened it wasn't what they thought it would be like.
- Read/tell the Bible story to the children, maybe using toy figures and farmyard animals

#### Palm Sunday and The Passion

Jesus' friends were puzzled. Jesus had asked them to fetch a donkey – a young donkey – that no-one had ever ridden before. They were to tell the owner, "Our Master needs it". They were just a few miles from Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. Jesus climbed onto the little donkey and began to ride down towards Jerusalem. Suddenly everyone realised what was happening. They remembered what it said in their Holy Book about God sending a King to save his people. This king would not ride into Jerusalem on a war horse, but on a young donkey. The people began to throw down their coats and palm branches in front of Jesus. They waved palm leaves and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in God's name!" All the children shouted and sang. Everyone thought Jesus would be the great king who would save them from their Roman rulers and make the country great again.

But over the next days Jesus didn't do the things the people expected him to do, the things they thought God's great king should do. The religious leaders got even crosser about the things Jesus said and plotted to have him killed. On the Thursday, Jesus had supper with his friends – his last supper. He shared bread and wine with them and asked them to carry on sharing bread and wine after he had gone, to remember him and what he was about to do for them. His friends were puzzled. They did not understand what he meant. Later that night, when they were praying in the garden, Jesus was arrested and all his friends ran away. He didn't get a proper trial, and lots of people said he should die.

On the Friday, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. Even on the cross Jesus thought about other people. At about three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus said, "Father, I put myself into your hands." And then he died. Many of his friends were standing at a distance watching everything.

## Wonder/discuss

- How people felt when they saw Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey
- Why Jesus wanted to be a different kind of king to the one people expected
- How his friends may have felt when Jesus said he was going away
- How his friends felt when Jesus was arrested
- How the people who shouted “Hosanna” may have felt when they saw their king on the cross
- How Jesus’ friends may have felt when he died

## Prayer

Sit in a circle holding the palm crosses the children have made. Invite the children to think of how excited the people were on the first Palm Sunday, and then how disappointed they must have been when Jesus was killed. How the people did not understand what Jesus was doing or what sort of king he really was.

Father God, sometimes we are disappointed  
when things are not what we expected them to be.

Often it is because we have not understood something important.

Help us to understand how much Jesus loves us

and to trust what he tells us. **Amen**

## Activity

Find a picture of a donkey and look to see if you can see the cross on its back. If you can get hold of the small toy donkeys made by Schleich they have the cross on the back to show the children (available through Amazon or from [www.toysdirect.com](http://www.toysdirect.com) as well as some toy shops). Make palm crosses from palm leaves or craft paper. You can find instructions on this website: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com)

