

# The Connection

**Weekly Bible Verse:** "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Matthew 21:9 NIV

## The King is Coming!

Every year the Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember the time God protected them from death during the tenth plague on Egypt - freeing all the Israelites from slavery. Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. On the way Jesus sent 2 disciples to get Him a donkey and a colt. If there were any problems... they were just supposed to say that "the Lord needs them". This is just what the Bible had promised for hundreds of years. The real king would ride into the city on a donkey ... a donkey he had to borrow. **Read Matthew 21:4-5**. Jesus wasn't a normal king trying to show he was important and force everyone to serve him. Jesus was the opposite: He came to show love and serve the people. The disciples did what they were told to do. They went and got the donkey and the colt. A big crowd was already showing up and covering the street with their coats and branches

from the trees. They cheered for Jesus shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" **Read Matthew 21:10-11** "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." Some men named Pharisees heard the crowd praising God and said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God? The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention. They wanted to be the most important but everyone was listening to Jesus instead. Jesus replied "If they were quiet, even the stones would cry out!". It was difficult for some of the people of Jesus' time to realize that He was God and



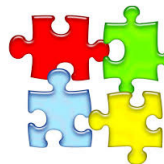
that He was going to save them. Even his disciples would be confused and abandon Jesus later that same week. Jesus will come again, but not in a parade on a donkey but in the clouds in full glory. **Talk about what that might look like.** You can read about Palm Sunday in all 4 Gospels:

- Matthew 21:1-11 (includes palms, but doesn't mention the stones),
- Mark 11:1-10 (no mention of Zechariah's prophecy),
- Luke 19:28-44 (includes Pharisee telling them to be quiet and Jesus' reply that stones will shout- doesn't use the word "Hosanna"),
- and John 12:12-19 (mentions people greeting Jesus with palms before he gets on the donkey).



▶ March 29, 2020

## Together



Though right now we are not gathering on a regular basis, we want to continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

### Special points of interest:

Watch YOUTUBE stories of Holy Week from Saddleback Kids:

- The Story of Easter: The Triumphal Entry
- The Story of Easter: The Last Supper
- The Story of Easter: Jesus Washes His Disciples' feet
- The Story of Easter: Jesus Prays
- The Story of Easter: Jesus' Sacrifice

Hosanna  
"save us now"



### Additional Pages:

Coloring Page  
Word Search—Easter  
Journaling Page  
Lord's Prayer  
5 Finger Prayer  
Bible Search  
Craft Activities for Palm Sunday



- Set aside a time and place for prayer. When life returns to 'normal', many things can become a deterrent to "seeking God first". Make prayer a priority everyday - now.
- Spontaneous prayer times are wonderful moments as a family. We are called to pray without ceasing. Live a life of continual little prayers all day long.

- Allow the voices of the kids to be heard. Prayers do not have to be perfect. Children need to learn that there are a variety of ways to present their prayers and requests to God.
- Start a practice of journaling your prayers and the answers you receive.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer together as a family.
- Review the 5-finger prayer. (page attached).



## Reflections

Life can be tough, confusing, joyful, sad or any range of emotions. Kids need a way of releasing how they are feeling to God.. Let's encourage them to journal their thoughts and talk about those feelings with God on a daily basis. God understands. He cares about us and wants us to bring our fears, hopes and experiences to Him. A journaling page is provided as an additional page (OR any piece of paper will do) Younger children can draw pictures.

## Holy Week Words

- Holy Week - This is the week between the day we call Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- Palm Sunday - Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. People lined the highway, praising God and waving palm branches. Hosanna means 'save us now'.
- Maundy Thursday - The word Maundy comes from a word that means "commandment". On the night Jesus was arrested he said to his disciples: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)
- Good Friday - The Friday that Jesus was killed was a very bad, sad day. But it was a good day! It was a day when God showed that God's love was stronger than death. It is a day to remember how much Jesus suffered for the world that God loved so much. If Jesus had only suffered and died, then that would have been really sad. There wouldn't have been anything good about Good Friday. But Jesus didn't just die. He also rose from the dead on Easter, and that is very good. If Jesus had not died for us on Good Friday, he could not have risen on Easter Sunday. That's what makes this Friday a Good News Friday.
- Easter - Resurrection Sunday – This is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. He rose from the dead – and with this comes the promise (covenant) with all people that if we believe in him we will have eternal life.
- Passover - Passover was a Jewish holiday celebrating the time when the angel of the Lord, who was killing all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians, "passed over" the homes of Israelites and did not kill their sons. Passover also references the Ten Plagues.
- Blasphemy - making fun of God or claiming to be God.
- Betray - to help the enemy
- Shofar – (**shoh-fu/r**) a ram's horn blown as a wind instrument
- Patibulum – (pa-tib-u-lum) Latin for the shorter, horizontal piece of the cross
- Golgotha/Calvary - (gol'-go-tha) The place of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

- Crucifixion - The Romans used execution by crucifixion as a penalty for rebellion against the government. They used it only on people who were not Roman citizens. It involved nailing the prisoner's ankles to a wooden pole and his wrists to a cross beam.
- Sanhedrin – Jewish ruling council, made up of 71 religious leaders, including chief priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees (religious leaders)
- Caiaphas – chief priest and president of the Sanhedrin
- Pontius Pilate – Roman governor of Judea
- Herod (Antipas) – ruler of Galilee region
- Caesar – supreme ruler over all of Roman Empire
- Joseph of Arimathea – member of the Sanhedrin who supported Jesus, gave his tomb for Jesus' burial
- Sin - doing wrong things; what separates us from God.



## Holy Week Activities for Families

### Palm Sunday

- Cut palms from green construction paper. Cut slits down both sides of the leaf to create a fringe in the leaf. Have a parade, waving your branches shouting the Bible Verse.
- If you have a 'real' palm branch, try folding the palm into a cross.

### Maundy (Holy) Thursday

This day recalls the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. It reminds us that we are called to serve one another.

- Help someone: Do something special

for someone in need. Write a letter, send a text, make a phone call to stay in touch with family and friends and neighbors.

### Good Friday

This day commemorates the crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus.

- Encourage family members to imitate Jesus by forgiving someone who has hurt them.
- Spend time in prayer and reflection.
- **Talk about it:** It is OK to feel sad on Good Friday. Jesus' death on the cross is a sacrifice like no other; he died to

teach us about everlasting life. Talk about friends and family who may have died. Talk about God's promise of eternal life because of Jesus.

### Additional Activities

- Color eggs: Decorated eggs are a symbol of new life that comes with the Resurrection. Make it more meaningful by helping your children write "Christ is Risen," "Alleluia" or "Jesus loves us" on the eggs in crayon before coloring them.
- Pray for the people around the world especially those living in parts of the world where it can be dangerous to be a Christian
- Make Easter Story Cookies or Empty Tomb Rolls (Google search).

Be as QUICK  
to PRAY  
as YOU are  
to TEXT!



The Lord's prayer is what we call the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray. Recently we have been learning about that prayer in Sunday School. Please continue encouraging your child to memorize this prayer and pray it together as a family. An additional page is included with the words that they have been learning. The Lord's Prayer is found in two of the Gospels: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4.



The  
5-finger  
prayer

Upper grade Sunday School classes have also been using the 5 finger model as a reminder to pray. A copy of the handout sent home previously is included as an extra page. What is important is that they know that prayer is talking to God and listening for God to talk to us. It is opening our hearts – our fears, desires, joys and sadness – and letting God know how we feel.