

## Children's Resources

### Palm Sunday



## Unveiling the Kingdom

Palm Sunday is a great opportunity for a family-focused service, building on the feeling of celebration and community associated with Palm Sunday and the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We have supplied an Interactive Message, three activities that could be used during Kids Church or any children's program that is held at your Corps during the week as well as three Home and Beyond activities. This year's theme is based on the power of the name of Jesus. Philippians 2:9-11 says, 'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.' (NIV)

### INTERACTIVE MESSAGE:

For this message you will need:

- Print outs on large sheets of paper of different names of Jesus
- Bluetak
- Palm branches (available from most nurseries)

Some names that you could use are:

- ❖ Lamb of God
- ❖ Redeemer
- ❖ Morning star
- ❖ Messiah
- ❖ Son of God
- ❖ Lord
- ❖ Prince of Peace
- ❖ Lord of lords
- ❖ King of kings
- ❖ Lily of the Valley
- ❖ Emmanuel
- ❖ Saviour
- ❖ The Good Shepherd

*Say: Today is a very significant day in the Christian Calendar.*

- Who can tell me what today is?
- Yes today is Palm Sunday and I wonder what is so special about Palm Sunday.

*Say: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the crowds were going wild. They loved Jesus and they all wanted to be part of the special day when Jesus made an appearance.*

- I wonder if you have ever been to a parade and saw one of our favourite singers or actors.
- Did you scream and shout out their names?

(Acknowledge a time where you may have done this.)

*Say: There is no doubt that the crowd would have been shouting out his name 'Jesus' and there would have been a sense of excitement and hysteria. Could you just imagine this? The crowd jostling and pushing their way forward to get a glimpse of Jesus who they had heard so much about. People would have been trying to push themselves to the front and waving palm branches and throwing their coats onto the ground to pave the way for Jesus. They would have been shouting his name and the Bible says that they were shouting:*

*'Hosanna to the Son of David!'*

*'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'*

*'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'*

(At this stage you may wish to give out palm branches and sing the chorus, 'Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest' and ask some children to come out and wave the palm branches around as the song is being sung.)

- Did you notice that the Bible says that they called Jesus 'Son of David'?

*Say: Jesus is known as many names and today we are going to look at some of these names.*

(Ask for volunteers, children to come up the front. Give them each a print out of a different name for Jesus and ask them to stand in a line and hold up their signs.)

(Go through these names and ask the children to bluetak the signs around the walls in your space.)

- I wonder how do you use the name of Jesus.
- Do you use it in prayer?
- Do you use it as a curse word? Point out that the third commandment is 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord, your God.' This includes using the name of Jesus as a swear word and saying 'OMG' which actually stands for Oh My God. That is misusing the name of God.
- Do you call out to him in need?
- Do you sing about his name?
- I am curious who do you think named Jesus? (Answer: God, not his parents. God sent an angel to Mary and told her the name will be Jesus.)

*Say: There is power in the name of Jesus. The name Jesus means Salvation – 'The Lord is Salvation.' It is not a name used for magic tricks, it is a name used because it has the power of God behind it.*

*Not only in the Bible does the name of Jesus heal people but today many people have called on the name of Jesus for help, for healing, for helping them give up an alcohol or drug addiction, for freedom from their sins, people transformed, the name of Jesus can melt away hatred and bitterness, the name of Jesus can change people, any person no matter who forever.*

*It says in the Bible in Philippians 2:9-11 says, 'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.' (NIV)*

*The name of Jesus gives us access to God. By believing in his name, we can be saved from the things that we do wrong – our sins. All we have to do is call on the name of Jesus and ask him to be our friend and we can experience freedom. The name of Jesus is good news.*

*There is a very old song that was written about 50 years ago and the words go like this,*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
There's just something about that name,  
Master, Saviour, Jesus,  
Like the fragrance after the rain.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
Let all heaven and earth proclaim,  
Kings and Kingdoms,  
Will all pass away,  
But there's something about that name.*

*This song mentions that Kings and Kingdoms will all pass away. That is true all the famous kings and queens in our history have all passed away but Jesus who is the King of all kings lives forever. His name will continue to live forever.*

*Just like the people of Jerusalem worshipped Jesus that day many years ago and shouted out his name, we are free to worship Jesus and his name and to remember that not only is there power in Jesus **BUT** Jesus is so powerful that just the mention of his name holds great authority to change the lives of people.*

(Finish this segment by choosing a song/chorus about the name of Jesus.)

e.g.

- Name above all name above all names.
- There's just something about that name (Jesus, Jesus, Jesus)
- He is the King of kings.
- Any song in the new song book from 73 – 97 and songs 56 – 71 in the old song book are all about the name of Jesus.

*At this point you might like to get the children to go out to Kids Church/Sunday School.*

### **ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:**

These activities can be used in a variety of settings as you explore the theme with your kids, e.g. kid's church, kids club during the week.

#### **Jesus Memory Game:**

For this activity you will need:

- Enough copies of the print outs of the attached game cards on card stock, you will need two copies for each game (laminates if you wish).

Play the traditional game of memory using the cards to teach the children about the different names that Jesus is known as.

#### **Jesus – Scarecrow:**

Nominate a child who is 'It.' The 'It' child needs to chase the other kids around and when one is caught the child who has been caught has to stand like a scarecrow. The only way they can be released from being a scarecrow is by saying out loud a different name of Jesus and then have another child crawl under their legs to release them and continue in the game. If they repeat a name that has already been used during the game they are out of the game.

#### **Jesus Poster:**

For this activity you will need:

- Large pieces of poster cardboard
- Coloured textas

Place the kids in teams of 3 or 4 and each team create a poster of all the names of Jesus. Encourage them to be clever by making it look like a scrabble board or by linking all the names together.

Encourage them to use different size and types of writing and colours to make it as creative as possible. Display these in your area when you are finished.

After you have finished some of these activities explain to the children the meanings of some of the names. Allow the children to try and answer what they think the names mean.

**Prayer time:**

Using the cards from the Memory Game, have each child hold a card and start their prayer off with that particular name for Jesus. Encourage the children to thank God for the power in Jesus name and to always remember that the name of Jesus holds great authority and can help them when they need.

**HOME AND BEYOND:**

It is vitally important, as leaders within our churches that we help equip parents with suggestions, activities and language as they help their children to navigate their spiritual journey. A 'Home & Beyond' card given to each child is a great way to help them take the key message home and continue the conversation in the rhythm of their daily lives.

**HOME AND BEYOND**

- If you have a game of scrabble at home, use one of the tile stands and the letters to display the name 'Jesus.' Place it somewhere prominent in your home. Every day as a family, change the name from Jesus to another name that Jesus is known as, for example, Redeemer, Son of God etc.
- When you are saying grace at family meal times, acknowledge the different names of Jesus during your prayer.
- Remember this week to call on the name of Jesus, if you need some help or just during your private prayer time.

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## ***Jesus Name Game***

|                          |                                   |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Saviour</b>           | <b>Lamb<br/>of God</b>            | <b>Redeemer</b>          |
| <b>Morning<br/>Star</b>  | <b>Messiah</b>                    | <b>Son of<br/>God</b>    |
| <b>Lord</b>              | <b>Prince<br/>of<br/>Peace</b>    | <b>Lord of<br/>lords</b> |
| <b>King of<br/>kings</b> | <b>Lily of<br/>the<br/>Valley</b> | <b>Emmanuel</b>          |

|                                  |                                |                             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>The<br/>Good<br/>Shepherd</b> | <b>Bread of<br/>Life</b>       | <b>Jesus</b>                |
| <b>Rose of<br/>Sharon</b>        | <b>Son of<br/>Man</b>          | <b>King of the<br/>Jews</b> |
| <b>The Word</b>                  | <b>The<br/>Alpha<br/>Omega</b> | <b>Lion of<br/>Judea</b>    |
| <b>Light of<br/>the World</b>    | <b>The<br/>Bride<br/>Groom</b> | <b>The<br/>Cornerstone</b>  |