



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: Luke 19: 28-40

Theme: A whole crowd of disciples.

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

This week's session can be used as part of a small group gathering or form the basis for intergenerational worship. As always, feel free to use the suggested activities that work best for you and your group.

The reading takes place in Jerusalem, as Jesus and his friends are preparing to celebrate Passover; Jesus gives his friends very specific instructions. While the passage is very well-known, it may be helpful to check in with people about the language that is used. "Colt" is used regularly in different translations of this passage but it may be useful to check whether all are aware that it refers specifically to a young donkey.

Luke's version of the Palm Sunday events mentions specifically that there were many enthusiastic followers of Jesus in the crowd, worshipping him loudly. Acknowledging that it is their worship that cannot be silenced, the session encourages groups to consider the social justice issues they want to shout about!

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend,

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

as we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

and get to know you better

(point up with one hand)

as children together in your family.

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

Amen

Active game – Human Buckaroo relay

Arrange the group into teams and select someone to be the donkey who stands at the other end of the room.

The team works in relays, adding hops, cones, clothes and anything else you can think of to the "Donkey".

A team leader will randomly set off an alarm when the donkey has to jump and shake off the items.

I wonder which team will get all their items on the donkey before it bucks.

https://youtu.be/muGThXqn7Z8?si=4hSOQh8FuUhul_XV Here is a link to an explanation of the game.

Quieter game – Find me a...

Pick a few people to change things around in the church before the game starts. Then, in small groups, look for something which has changed. Each person who puts their hand up and points out a change wins a point. Keep going until all changes have been spotted. Tally up the points to see who is the winner.

Intergenerational game

Bring me...

One person (either the group leader or a designated person) says “Bring me a...” and names an object that will be (without much difficulty) found in the area you are in. It could be a coloured scarf, a stone, a cross, a book, a flag, something that looks like a donkey, a musical instrument, or similar.

Working in small groups, the children run to find a suitable object and bring it back to the group leader.

Variations: See if you could find items of every colour of the rainbow; or objects to do with the Easter story.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the New English Translation

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2019%3A28-40&version=NET>

Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: The Story of Easter, by Saddleback Kids

<https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE?si=4oUnKTNY1GJklknI>

Five-to-elevens: Jesus and Palm Sunday, by Crossroads Kids' Club

https://youtu.be/lTmbTuutBgg?si=ODJY-hwoRyzp_ba8

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: Hosanna Rock, by YancynotNancy

<https://youtu.be/iVwhdqDrfz8?si=OZhdg6J1gL8YWMeB>

Five-to-elevens: Every Praise, by Father's Heart Kidz

<https://youtu.be/SZTTfKWiKio?si=FNUPclUsAApxdual>

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

Scavenger Hunt and Palm Sunday Garden

Firstly, decide whether you plan to create a living Palm Sunday garden, or a craft-based model; this will help you to decide the categories of objects to hide around the room. Groups, or individuals, will be collecting items as part of the scavenger hunt that will help them to re-create a Palm Sunday scene. You might instruct participants to find a plant, or a leaf-shaped object; sand, or lollipop sticks. All variations will require groups to find stones that can be used for the creative prayer activity later in the session.

Bring a pre-prepared garden base into a central position in the room; you could use a large tray filled with compost, or a shallow cardboard box. Give the groups a verbal or written lists of the objects that they need to find (younger groups may need picture prompts to help them remember). For example:

Find me...

- something green
- something brown
- something leaf-shaped
- stones
- a plant
- some sand
- sticks

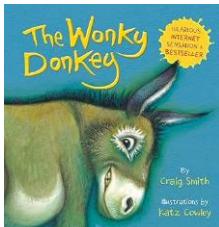


Give groups a short period of time to find the objects, and offer regular time updates to build tension.

When groups have all the required objects, work together to build a Palm Sunday scene, remembering the story as you build. Create a path through the garden scene with your chosen material, and fill the edges with leaves or plants. Leave space at the edges of the path for the prayer stones.

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



The Wonky Donkey by Craig Smith (2019: Scholastic)

The Wonky Donkey, by Read Aloud Children's Books

<https://youtu.be/8U9HeuD7Irg?si=ruvo6odUN63Ya9ew>

Today's Bible passage tells the story of a journey when someone met a donkey. Today, in the story, the disciples were sent to find a donkey. I wonder if it was the wonky donkey.

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- I wonder why/ if it was important that the donkey had never been ridden.
- I wonder how the disciples felt about being asked that unusual request.
- I wonder what the crowd thought.
- I wonder if you have been ever told off for making too much noise.
- I wonder who you follow.

Wondering reflect on the theme

- I wonder what you want to protest about.
- I wonder how you respond when you see something wonderful.
- I wonder what an unexpected way might be for a leader to travel today.
- I wonder what things we do together as disciples.

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- A donkey – talk to the children about the story and that Jesus chose to ride on a donkey.
- Some fabric – the people all laid down clothes and fabric on the ground and on the donkey to celebrate Jesus riding into Jerusalem.
- Rocks – in the story Jesus said that the stones would shout out. That was a funny thing to say – I wonder what it meant. Have you seen any painted rocks that tell you things.
- A crowd of people – people followed Jesus into Jerusalem and celebrated him. I wonder if you have ever cheered on someone as part of a crowd.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity

Even the stones will shout out...

You will need:

- stones
- paint markers
- varnish (or pva glue)



Make sure each participant has a stone and offer some quiet space for them to reflect on an issue that they feel really passionately about; something that they think followers of Jesus should be outspoken about. Use paint markers to decorate the stones with images or words, as prayers about these chosen issues. When everyone has decorated their stone, encourage the group to come and place them prayerfully at the edge of the path in the Palm Sunday garden. Close the time with a short prayer. You could use the spoken prayer that is included with this resource.

Remember! If you would like to be able to place your stones outside, varnish them once the paint markers have had a chance to dry.

Spoken prayer

Under-fives

Jesus, we shout **“Hooray!”** (*raise hands and cheer*)
 We wave our branches for you. (*wave arms side to side*)
 You are our king. (*make a crown on your head*)

Thank you for loving us so much. (*give yourself a hug*)
 Help us to follow you every day. (*march gently on the spot*)

Amen (*big smile and hands together*)

Five-to-elevens

Jesus, we praise you like the crowds did,
 with happy voices and thankful hearts.
 Thank you for coming as our gentle king,
 bringing peace, love, and hope.

Help us to welcome you into our lives,
not just with our words, but with how we live.
Teach us to follow your ways at school, at home,
and wherever we go.

When we forget or turn away,
help us to notice you and choose what is right.
Thank you that you love us deeply and care for our world.

Amen

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage the children to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Protest/Celebration banners

You will need:

- long strips of fabric or paper
- some paints, fabric pens or permanent markers – depending on which size you are making them
- a pole or small sticks
- string or rope



What you do:

You can make these banners as a whole church activity in an intergenerational service or as an individual activity with a small group or in a café church.

On the fabric write, draw or paint something you want to celebrate or say to others about an issue. This could simply be Easter or a church anniversary, or it could be something which you feel needs to be said to the world, like some of an issue raised by Christian Aid or an environmental issue you feel passionate about.

To make a banner, cut your fabric to the desired width and length, adding 3cm to the length for the top sticks and another inch for the bottom stick (optional). Ensure all sides are square for a straight banner that hangs well.

Trim your sticks to be about 3 cm longer than the banner's width. A bottom stick is optional but helps with weight and straightness. Fold down the top edge about an inch to create a sleeve for the top stick, ensuring the stick fits easily through the sleeve. Spread a line of fabric glue or hot glue along the top edge and glue it in place. You could do the same at the bottom to weigh the banner down, but this is optional.

If you're not confident in writing a slogan by hand, you can use pre-cut letters or even words from newspapers and magazines to add words to your banner. You can even trace the stencil letters with marker, fill them in with glitter glue or paint marker, or glue on fabric letters.

Attach the rope or string to either end of the stick and hang your banner on a door, wall or outside depending on the size of it, to share the message with others.

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you when they have felt passionately about injustice and spoken up about it.
- Commit to asking God, daily if you can, to help people who are treated unfairly and badly.

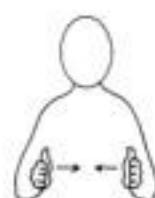
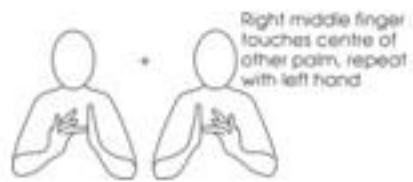
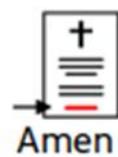
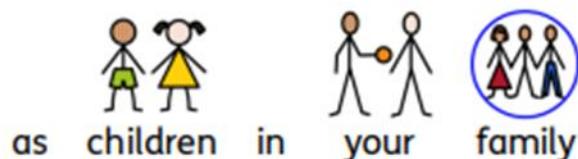
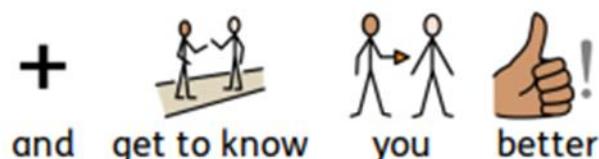
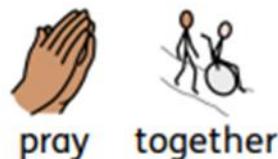
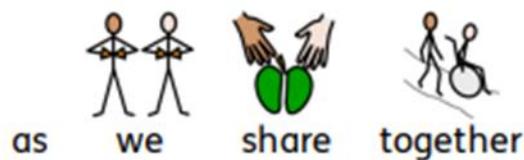
We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **Palm Sunday** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing
sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group **bit.ly/FACT_FB**

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Easter**








The Lord's Prayer




Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.





Thy kingdom come, thy will be done






on earth as it is in heaven.






Give us this day our daily bread






and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us





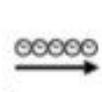

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil







For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory





For ever and ever. Amen

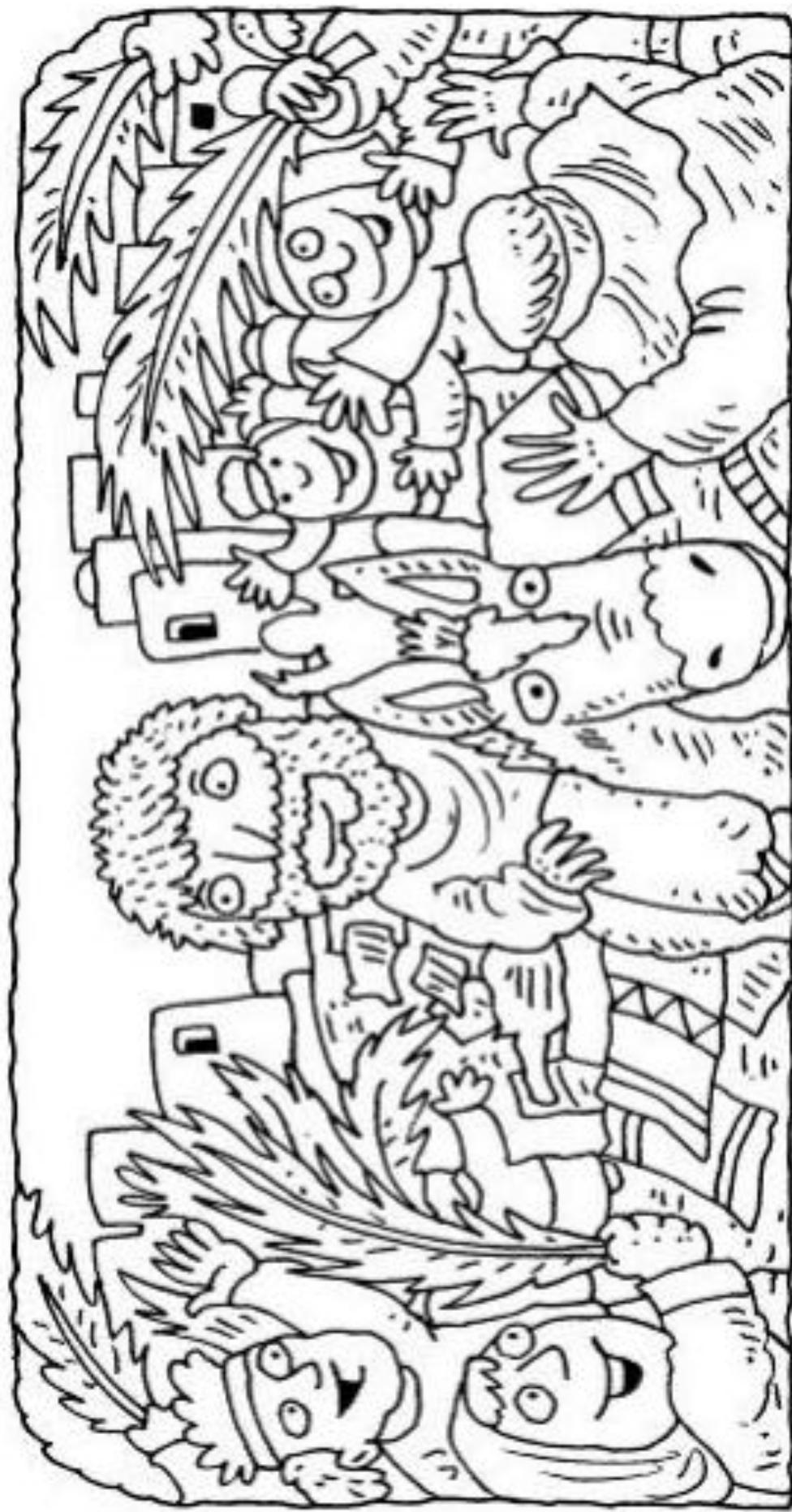




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