

Faith Adventures Youth Resource



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

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home 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/How-To-FAYR

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

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

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=4hSOQh8FuUh1_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

This link takes you to Luke 19: 28 – 40 in the New English Translation

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

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com

Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

The Triumphal Entry

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.²⁹ Now when he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ telling them, “Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent ahead found it exactly as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?” ³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt, and had Jesus get on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen: ³⁸ ***Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!*** ³⁹ But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the very stones will cry out!”

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Watch The Triumphal Entry from *The Chosen*, by Redmanbjb

<https://youtu.be/KKtyXIMPuWA?si=liquRSn8vIFb2rrW>

Questions for discussion

- Consider what it must have been like that day, to see the prophecy you have sung about each Passover coming true in front of you.

Listen to I will not stay Silent by KXC

<https://youtu.be/5qgpEH6YYzg?si=1b810yMQwcG5YkDn>

Questions for discussion

- What are the reasons you sometimes stay silent instead of giving God praise?
- How could you praise God this week?

Explore

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

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

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



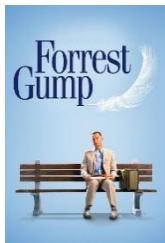
Give groups a short period of time to find the objects, and offer regular time updates to build tension.

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

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use

as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



Forrest Gump (1994) 12 rating.

This clip is of when Forrest started running. People joined him and ran with him.

Forrest Gump runs by box office movie scenes

<https://youtu.be/187trX0mo1o?si=oUpc89HY8m1OFsxw>

- I wonder if Jesus thought about all the people who joined him on his journeys.
- I wonder if we are still joining the journey today.

Group discussion

- What social justice issues do you want to shout about?
- Do you think our Church/ group family celebrate and gets excited the way they did in the Bible?

Personal reflection

- I wonder if there is a cause you want to get more involved in.
- Does our faith always make sense?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayers Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

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 prayers

Jesus, you rode into the city as a different kind of king – not powerful or loud, but humble, peaceful, and full of love. We praise you, but we also want to really see you and understand what your kingdom is about.

Open our eyes to the things that break your heart: injustice, poverty, loneliness, and people being pushed aside. Give us the courage to speak up, to stand with those who are hurting, and to choose compassion even when it costs us something.

Help us not just to cheer for you on Sunday, but to follow you on Monday – in our choices, our friendships, and how we treat the world. Make us part of the peace you came to bring.

Amen.

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

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.

To help you with your banner you could research Peace crane project or Red line for Gaza.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts and insights together. **I wonder when you have felt passionate about injustice and spoken up about it.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources (jpit.uk) or *Commitment for Life* (cforl.co.uk)

- How can you find out about injustice in your community? Are there things you can do to help stop it?

Thank you for exploring the **Palm Sunday** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_Fb



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



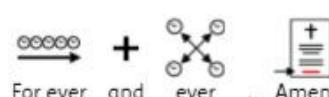
and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us



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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