**Sunday School from Home!**

**Week of April 5**

**Palm Sunday**

There are two Bible stories from Matthew this week; one is the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem that is remembered on Palm Sunday, the other is the story of the crucifixion. These activities will focus more on the Palm Sunday story because focusing on happier stories seems wise right now with so many adults and kids feeling stress. However, I do not intend to minimize the story of the crucifixion. Please discuss these events with your children as appropriate for their ages and state of mind. As parents, you know your children and their needs better than anyone.

* Read the story from any Bible you have at home or online: Matthew 21:1-11
* Look around the house for costumes and props that will make the story come alive: bathrobes and old sheets and blankets for clothing, real or fake plants to wave in the air and lay on the road for the donkey to walk on. Read the story again and take turns pretending to be the different characters.
* Make palm leaves from construction paper using this tutorial or one similar: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalm.htm?fbclid=IwAR2bLBomMZt5ZBt_2Nzxk3z8JTOdLU5DfftVlcbk_g2iY_V532-zfqf7zaE> If you don’t have green paper, use any color and then decorate with paint, markers, etc. This can be done before or after cutting. Try using a stick from outside instead of a chenille stem. Be creative and look around the house for inspiration – or better still, send the kids on a scavenger hunt!
* Try making a leaf print collage. Take a walk outside and pick up a variety of green leaves – try to find different shapes and sizes. If you can, find the names of each plant or tree. Place the leaves on a piece of white paper and pound with a mallet. The green color will transfer to the paper. Try filling up the entire paper, and experiment to see what happens if you overlap leaves. Frame your artwork if you can and hang it in the house as a reminder of God’s beautiful world and the renewing promise of spring!
* Learn why leaves are green! Depending on your child’s age, here are some videos to watch to get you started learning about photosynthesis and why chlorophyll is green: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAQYpra4aUs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68b1HAIfX08>

* If you haven’t already done so, try planting seeds or small plants in a pot or in your yard. Talk about what plants need to grow and observe them each day. Talk about God’s plan for plants and animals – how do we depend on each other?
* Make a Jerusalem road snack. Give each child a graham cracker, piece of celery, or other snack to spread with peanut butter, cream cheese, etc. Decorate with nuts, dried fruits, candies. Pretend that the base is the road, the spread is the cloaks the people put down, and the fruit is the palm leaves. Give older kids a toothpick to write the word HOSANNA on their snack.
* Sing Hallelujah! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmYQ_irS5Y8>

This is a simple song to learn, and is great for playing games. Try standing every time you sing Hallelujah, and sitting every time you sing Praise Ye The Lord. Or try silly dancing during one phrase and freezing on the other. Let each family member suggest an action to do with each phrase. Or, play with dynamics by singing one part softly and one part loudly. Or, try playing a toss game – one person tosses balls into a laundry basket during the first phrase, and the other tosses balls during the second. At the end of the song see who made more baskets! Go outside and sing while running a race, but you have to RUN while singing Praise Ye the Lord and HOP while singing Hallelujah.

* Our story includes a donkey for Jesus to ride – here are some craft ideas for making a donkey: <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/palm-sunday-bible-crafts-sunday-school.html>