Preschool–Grade 6

Palm Sunday

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is the King! We praise Him.
Bible passage: Matthew 21:1–16. Read it and John 12:12–19 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Hosanna to the Son of David" *Matthew 21:9 (KJV)*. **Hosanna** is a happy word of praise to God. **Son of David** means Jesus, the King God promised.
You need: a Bible, a paper branch for each child (fold a sheet of green paper in half the long way and snip cuts from the open edges toward the fold, a finger apart), an old towel or blanket, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: make the paper branches. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 21.

1. Opening game: Wave High, Wave Low (5 minutes)

Give each child a paper branch. Say, "Wave it high!" (wave over your head) "Wave it low!" (wave near the floor) "Wave it slow!" "Wave it fast!" "Freeze!" Play a few rounds. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about people who held branches and praised Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 21. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus was going to the big city, Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1). *(Walk in place.)*
Jesus sent two helpers. "Loose him, and bring him" (Mark 11:1–2). *(Hold up two fingers.)*
The helpers did what Jesus said (21:6). **Say it with me: "They obeyed Jesus!"**
Jesus sat on the colt (Mark 11:7). *(Pat your knees: clip, clop, clip, clop.)*
People spread their clothes on the road (Matthew 21:8). *(Lay the towel on the floor.)*
People cut branches from the trees (21:8). *(Pretend to cut a branch.)*
People took palm branches and went to meet Jesus (John 12:13). *(Hold up your paper branch.)*
Everyone shouted, "Hosanna!" (Matthew 21:9). **Say it with me: "Hosanna!"** *(Wave your branch.)*
The people asked, "Who is this?" (21:10). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
"This is Jesus!" (21:11). **Say it with me: "This is Jesus!"**
Children praised Jesus too (21:15). *(Wave your branch again.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus is the King!"

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who sat on the colt? *(Jesus, Mark 11:7)*
2. What did people put on the road? *(Their clothes and branches, Matthew 21:8)*
3. What did the people shout? *("Hosanna!" 21:9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The people said, 'Hosanna to the Son of David.' Hosanna is a happy word to praise God." Teach the motion: wave your paper branch up high on "Hosanna," then point up on "Son of David." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 21:9" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus is the King, and God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Branches on the Road (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a road with green branches on it. While they color, ask: "What did the people shout? Who is the King?" Then each child lays a paper branch on the towel "road" and says, "Hosanna!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Jesus, our King.
Hosanna! I love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child wave a branch. If they get wiggly, do the clip-clop and the waving again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

About the animal: the King James Bible calls it "an ass" and "a colt" (Matthew 21:2). If a child calls it a donkey, that is the same animal.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post