

Holy Week Ideas for Families at Home

Holy Week Activities: Palm Sunday

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Celebrate Holy Week with family devotions, service projects, easy crafts, yummy snacks, fun games, Seder meal plans, and more—just for Easter! Every idea you're looking for is here!

Palm Sunday marks the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a colt. The people waved palms to honor Jesus. In Jesus' day, people waved palms to welcome royalty. From the earliest days, Christians kicked off Holy Week by carrying palm branches to church to remember how Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. The tradition continues to this day.

1. Clothing Collection and Palm Sunday Parade

When Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a colt, the people threw their coats on the ground before him as a sign of respect. Your family can relive that same event by giving to others who are less fortunate in a quarantine-friendly way.

Before Palm Sunday, spend time going through your closets. Set aside clothing that's in good condition but is too small or no longer worn.

On Palm Sunday, read John 12:9-13.

Spread the clothing you've chosen to give away on the floor to create a Palm Sunday pathway.

Explain what the first Palm Sunday might've been like. People shouted praise and flung their palm branches and coats on the ground before Jesus. There was probably more excitement than at a Super Bowl game!

Re-enact that excitement and praise to help children understand how worthy Jesus is of all our praise.

Then have a parade! Walk in socks only over the clothing path. Have kids go last and gather the clothing as they go, then place the clothes in a pile at the front in your living area as a visible symbol of your family's outreach to others. (Later, you'll bag the clothing and set it aside to donate to your community once donation locations are open.)

2. Palm Sunday Decorations

- **Palm Leaves:** Cut palm-shaped leaves from green construction paper. Cut slits down both sides of the palm leaf to create a fringe in the leaf. Wave these in a Palm Sunday celebration or use them to decorate your home.
- **Palm Bundles:** Create palm bundles from live palm leaves, if you live where they're available outside. Gather leaves and tie them in the center with raffia or ribbon. Make bundles to decorate your home, or place them on neighbors' doorsteps with a note that says, "Celebrating Palm Sunday and Jesus' love for you!"

3. Palm Sunday Snack

- **Celery Palms:** Wash and prepare celery stalks, leaving the leaves of the stalks intact. Provide different kinds of fillings for the stalks such as flavored cream cheeses and peanut butter.