

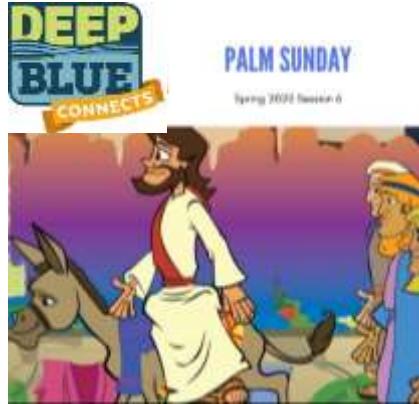
Sunday School Home Activities - Week of April 5, 2020

Check out some of the activities you and your families can do at home this week!



Watch this week's Deep Blue Sunday School Video: Amplify Media, a resource developed by the United Methodist Publishing House, is offering several free online videos and resources for churches. Click the link below to watch the Deep Blue Connects Spring 2020 videos. This week is Episode 6 (E6: Palm Sunday).

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020>



Try this Family Devotion with your family!

Read: Palm Sunday (Mark 11:1-11)

Bible Story Focus: On Palm Sunday, we celebrate that Jesus is a leader sent from God.

Wonder Together: How does your church celebrate Palm Sunday? How can we celebrate Palm Sunday together with our church, while being physically distant?

Memory Verse: *"Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"* (Mark 11:9b)

Pray Together: Share joys and concerns, and then pray, Dear God, thank you for Jesus. We are so grateful that Jesus is alive and always with us. Amen.

Ages 5–Grade 2

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

- Tell the children the story, 'People Welcome Jesus' (Read Mark 11:1-11, refer to the *Background for this Week's Bible Story at the end of the Sunday School activity list*.)
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 6 on amplify.com.

SAY: Close your eyes and see if you can imagine yourself in Jerusalem that day.

ASK: What do you see? What do you hear? What are you doing? Can you describe Jesus?

ASK: Why do you imagine Jesus chose to ride on a donkey?

What would you have shouted to Jesus if you had been part of the crowd in Jerusalem?

What do you think Jesus said to the people that day?

Family Time:

Palm Sunday Palm Craft

Print, color and cut out a palm branch for each family member.

Use this pattern or draw your own: <https://illustratedmin.s3.amazonaws.com/weekly-resources/PalmColoring.pdf>

SAY: On Palm Sunday, we remember how happy people were to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

ASK: How would you act if you were in a parade to honor Jesus?

Wave your palm branches!

Bed Time: Each night this week, sing the song "Jesus Loves Me" together as a bed time prayer.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

In our Bible story today, Jesus asked two of his disciples to get him a donkey. What a strange thing for their leader to ask! When have you been asked to do something you thought was strange?

The disciples trusted Jesus so they did what he asked them to do. They followed his instructions. Who do you trust?

Whose instructions do you follow?

"What Would You Say?" Banner Art

Place a large piece of paper on a table. Write the word "Hosanna" in the center.

SAY: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people shouted, "Hosanna!" If Jesus was coming to our town today, what would you shout when you saw him coming?

- Use markers or crayons to write your answers on the banner. Help as needed. Decorate the banner!
- Place the banner where your family can enjoy it.



Grades 3-5

Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (Mark 11:1-11).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 6 on amplify.com.

SAY: Today, we're exploring a story about Palm Sunday.

ASK: Why do you imagine Jesus chose to ride on a donkey?

What would you have shouted to Jesus if you had been part of the crowd in Jerusalem?

What do you think Jesus said to the people that day?

Follow the instructions under Ages 5 – Grade 2 to make your own palms or gather branches in your yard.

Retell the story by acting out "Palm Sunday"

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Greet Your Community

Take a walk as a family through your neighborhood, being sure to practice physical distancing. Think about how Jesus must have felt as he came into Jerusalem. Pray for your neighbors as you pass by their homes. Imagine how Jesus might have greeted people he passed as he entered Jerusalem.

Wonder Together:

What kinds of things have you done to show people that you admire them?

What would you shout out if your favorite celebrity came down your street today?

What would you have done if you had seen Jesus in the streets of Jerusalem as the people in the Bible story did?

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Older Elementary Session 6



Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool

 People Welcome Jesus! Mark 11:10

Palm Sunday Art – Follow the instructions under Ages 5 – Grade 2 to create Palm Branches.

Hear the Bible Story *Read the following Bible story to the children.*

SAY: Jesus and his friends were walking down the road together. They were going to Jerusalem. It was a special time in Jerusalem called Passover.

SAY: Many people were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. The people heard that Jesus was coming. The people loved Jesus and were happy that they would get to see him. Jesus found a donkey and rode it into Jerusalem.

SAY: The people in Jerusalem crowded around Jesus on his donkey. Some people put their coats on the ground so that the donkey could walk on them. Some people took branches from the palm trees so that they could put them on the road or wave them as Jesus rode by.

SAY: When the people saw Jesus, they waved their palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Thank you, God, for Jesus!" Hosanna! Jesus is alive!

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank you, Jesus, help us to welcome you today!



Paper Plate Flower Art

Supplies: paper plates, adult-only scissors, and crayons.

- Give each child a paper plate.
- Encourage the children to color the center circle of their plate yellow.
- Invite them to color the rim of their plate any color they would like.
- Cut slits in the rim of every plate, starting at the edge and stopping at the center circle. Cut a slit every inch all the way around to make flower petals.

SAY: Flowers remind us of spring. In the springtime, we celebrate the new life God gives us through Jesus.

Palm Parade

Gather branches or leaves from your yard or make your own palm branches.

- Give each child a palm branch.

SAY: Hosanna! Palm Sunday is a special day. Jesus rode on a donkey because he was a special, peaceful king.

- Play your favorite praise music or the worship hymns from Faith United's Palm Sunday Worship by Wire.

- Walk around your house while waving your palm branches to the music, saying Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is alive!

Adapted from Deep Blue Nursery, Spring 2020 Session 6

Background for this Week's Elementary Ages Bible Story:



Today's Bible story is the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We celebrate it each year on Palm Sunday. Although we associate palm branches with this story, not all of the Gospel accounts mention palm branches. Mark's account says the people spread, "branches cut from the fields" on the road. Regardless of whether or not palm branches actually were used, it is clear that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a time of celebration. The people needed a new leader, a savior, and they looked to Jesus to fill that role.

Mark's account of this story begins with Jesus sending two of his disciples into a town to borrow a colt. This instruction seems strange. However, at the time of Roman rule, it was not uncommon for Roman soldiers to requisition animal and human labor. The thing that distinguished Jesus' borrowing of the colt from the requisitioning the Roman soldiers did was his promise to return it. Even in the borrowing of the donkey, Jesus set himself up as a different kind of leader.

The celebration that occurred when Jesus entered Jerusalem was similar to the reception of military leaders returning victorious from battle. Some in the crowd expected Jesus to be a military ruler who would free them from the Roman emperor. Because we know the rest of the story, we are aware that Jesus is the leader of a very different kind of kingdom. Jesus came as a peaceful leader to teach people to love and to serve one another. Just as the crowd celebrated Jesus on that day long ago, we continue to celebrate Jesus today. Let today be a celebration! Jesus came to give us new life. He is our leader. Hosanna in the highest!

Suggested Family Activities:

Note: Prior to starting any activity, be sure to sanitize hands and all supplies used.



Decorate your Door - What if everyone during Holy Week beginning on Palm Sunday, puts a branch or a cross on the door of their house, or window, to celebrate Palm Sunday?

It could be any green branch you can find. Maybe make a cross from sticks in your yard. This could be a symbol, despite the physical distancing, that we are connected as we enter into the Holiest of weeks.

We may be physically apart, but we are spiritually together. We are united as the body of Christ. **We are the Church.**



Thank you to the Konowal family for sharing the picture of the palm branch they put on their door!

The Schmucker family used pine branches for their door.

- Make and send cards to nursing home residents or homebound persons, persons working to help our community, or one of you church or school friends to let them know you are thinking of them.
- Start a **JOURNAL**. Draw pictures, prayers, photography or write about your experiences during Holy Week or this pandemic. Journaling can be an inspiring spiritual practice. Emily Jacobs shared the Faith Story this past Sunday about her reflections from the book of Jeremiah. Check out her blog to see how she journals about her faith journey. <https://wholeagain.video.blog/> Learn more about Spiritual Journaling here - <https://faithumchurch.wordpress.com/2020/04/04/palm-sunday/>
- **Pray the LORD'S PRAYER** each day at noon. Know that the church staff and others are praying at the same time. Pray the Lord's Prayer with motions! Learn how from this video made by Pastor Cara and Kathy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiVlTyU6nc>. Create a video of your family praying the Lord's Prayer that we could share as encouragement for others. Let me know if you are interested!
- Use, individually or as a family, the worship resources connected with Sunday and Wednesdays Worship by Wire. Visit our website for updated resources: <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-by-wire/>
- Go on a prayer walk outdoors or in your home. Wave your palm branches as you walk! Learn more here: <https://faithumchurch.wordpress.com/2020/03/27/holy-monday-and-tuesday/>
- Share pictures or videos of some of the activities you and your family are doing while practicing physical distancing with church staff. What you share may inspire someone else!