

PALM SUNDAY

Children & Young People

Explore & respond with children

Do, Make, Pray and Sing activities based on Matthew 21.1-11

Choose from these ideas to help the children make connections between the Bible reading and their lives

Do

Construct the scene 15 mins E

Explore the story through a group construction activity

You will need: play figures and bricks.

- Talk about the key points of the story that the children remember.
- Arrange for individual children to make Jesus and the donkey so there is just one representation of each.
- Prompt the rest of the group to make the scene, including: the disciples, the crowds and the trees as well as buildings. Encourage them to consider the atmosphere of celebration and make it a busy scene.
- Once the construction is complete, invite everyone to imagine where they are in the scene.
- Remind the children that the festival was a turning point for some people in the crowd, as they decided to either follow Jesus or not. Say that we have the same opportunity, too.

Mime from memory 10 mins E S

Remember the story through silent movements

- Ask the children to recall the timeline of the story.
- Repeat the order and ask for one volunteer to be Jesus, some to be disciples and the rest of the group to be the crowd.
- Invite the children to mime the story. Younger children may need you to use a word to help them move through the story.

Make

Turning point 10 mins E

Make a mobile to show that this story marked a moment of decision

You will need: pens, four lolly sticks per child, ball of string or wool, scissors.

- Ask the children to write on each lolly stick. On the first, write 'Jesus' on the left-hand side and 'Jerusalem' on the right. On the second, write 'Disciples' on the left-hand side and 'Jesus' on the right. On the third, write 'Crowds' on the left-hand side and put a question mark on the right. On the fourth stick, write 'Me' on the left-hand side and add another question mark to the right (see diagram on).
- Help the children to tie the end of the string round the middle of the fourth stick, leaving a gap, and then tie the third stick above. Repeat with the second and first sticks.
- To finish, help the children to tie a loop above the sticks, so the mobile can be hung up.
- Talk about Jesus deciding to go to Jerusalem and the disciples deciding to follow him. The crowds at the Passover festival had an opportunity to think about who Jesus was, and we do too. The mobile reminds us that we need to think about which way we might turn.

Colourful praise 10 mins E S

Create an abstract picture of the Passover festival

You will need: newspaper, one sheet of A4 paper per child or one large piece, pots of different coloured paint with several brushes in each, wipes or damp flannels.

- Spread the newspaper over the surfaces. Give out paper to everyone or use one large piece of paper for the group.
- Ask the children to think about the noise and colour of the festival.
- Invite them to create an abstract image of what they can imagine using splashes of colour and shapes.

Pray

Turnaround prayers 5 mins W E

- Encourage the group to stand in a circle and invite the children to think of one thing they would like to thank God for. After everyone has said their short prayer, they all turn around on the spot and shout 'Hosanna!'
- Repeat the activity by inviting the children to think of someone they want to pray for, e.g. someone who is ill or lonely.
- Finally, invite children to pray for themselves.

[More prayers are available via the Prayers page.](#)

KEY

Spiritual styles (as defined by David Csinos)  Connect faith with everyday life

W Word **E** Emotion **S** Symbol **A** Action

[Read our Spiritual Styles articles](#)