

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 19:28-40, The Triumphal Entry

MEMORY VERSE:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 (NIV)

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

John 3:16 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

News travels fast in our time, thanks to Wi-Fi and social media, but in Jesus’ time it traveled by word of mouth. Even so, a huge crowd went out to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday we remember that Jesus came to Earth and to Jerusalem to die for our sins.

OBJECT LESSON:**Newspaper**

Not too long ago, papers like the one in my hand were the primary way many people got their news. The newspapers compiled stories from around the world and around your community. They worked late into the night to get the most up to date news, weather, sports scores, and more. Then they printed the papers and delivered them first thing so people could stay informed. Newspapers aren’t as popular as they used to be, and when they hit your box in the morning, they’re already out of date. Now people can get the latest news as it happens, not only from TV and radio, but right on their phones.

News traveled even slower than modern newspapers in Jesus’ day, and that made what happened on Palm Sunday even more remarkable. People came from all over town to line the streets. They laid down palm branches and their cloaks to welcome Jesus

as he rode in on a donkey. They sang songs of praises, shouting, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” They had no idea why he was coming into town, but they were thrilled to see him.

Today we remember Palm Sunday because we do know why Jesus came. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. It starts with the Triumphal Entry, and it ends with Jesus rising from the grave. It’s a day to celebrate, and a day to remember that we need to share this story with others.

Don’t keep the news of Easter to yourself. Tell a friend, and invite them to church. Bring them so they can hear the Good News we celebrate next Sunday. Jesus is alive! Hosanna indeed!

READ MATTHEW Luke 19:28-40

MAIN POINT:

Jesus did everything he could to keep his arrival a secret. He arranged for the donkey without telling anyone, not even his disciples, until it was necessary. But by the time Jesus arrived, a crowd of people had already gathered. They sang his praises and waved palm branches, welcoming the one who came to save them.

No one knew why Jesus had come. No one knew the secret mission that was about to unfold. Jesus would be arrested, tried, and put to death. The same people shouting, “Hosanna!” would later shout, “Crucify him!” It was all part of God’s plan to save us from sin and give us new life.

Word of mouth news let everyone in Jerusalem know Jesus had arrived on Palm Sunday. This week we want you to spread the news of Jesus’ resurrection - the story we celebrate next week.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The Easter story probably won’t be told on the news this week. That’s mostly because it’s not news. Yes, Sunday is Easter, but the historic moment we celebrate on Easter is now two thousand

years in the past. If we want the world - and by the world, I mean our friends - to know what Jesus did on Easter, it's up to us to share that news the old fashioned way.

We all have friends who do not go to church. We all know someone who needs to hear about Jesus' plan of salvation. That's why Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28 to go into all the world and share the good news. God doesn't want us to wait for a news story to tell our friends about God; it's not going to happen. He wants us to do the talking.

This week, I want all of you to pray for your friends. Start talking to them tomorrow, and let them know Sunday is Easter Sunday.

With your parents' okay, invite a friend or two to come to church next week. Let them know about the fun things we'll do. Let them know about the music and games and all the excitement. But don't forget the most important thing. Let them know what we celebrate on Easter.

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' coming. We celebrate the amazing way he gave himself up to save us. Let's pack this place next Sunday. Let's bring our friends to hear the end of the Jesus story. Let's start with our friends in telling the world that Jesus came to save them!

MEMORY VERSE:

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SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right.

Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

CRAFT IDEA:

Have the kids create a “newspaper” announcing Easter and Easter Sunday that they can give to a friend as an invitation to church. You can let them create these from scratch, or make up a template that they can then fill in the service time they attend and draw a picture showing the Easter story.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)**ICEBREAKER:**

How often do you watch the news because you want to?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Luke 19:28-40

What did Jesus send the disciples into town to get?

Who was waiting for Jesus when he arrived in town?

What were the people singing to Jesus?

What special day do we celebrate next week?

Do you have a friend or two you can invite to {watch} church next week?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH)**ICEBREAKER:**

How often do you watch the news because you want to?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Luke 19:28-40

Why were the people waiting to welcome Jesus when he arrived in Jerusalem?

How do you think those people were able to gather so quickly?

What did Jesus go to Jerusalem to do?

Do you have a friend or two you can invite to {watch}. church next week?

How else can we share the Good News of Easter this week?

<https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE>