

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND STUDY GUIDE

Date: Sunday, April 2nd

Series: Holy Week

Lesson Title: Palm Sunday and Holy Week Timeline

Palm Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before Easter each year and marks the start of **Holy Week**. But what is the actual significance of this Holy Day, and how does it play a part in the greater story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PALM SUNDAY

The story of the triumphal entry is one of the few incidents in the life of Jesus which appears in all four Gospel accounts (**Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19**). Thus, it becomes clear that the triumphal entry was a significant event, not only to the people of Jesus' day, but to Christians throughout history. We celebrate Palm Sunday to remember and commemorate that momentous occasion.

Assignment:

- When we celebrate Palm Sunday, what significant event are we commemorating?
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JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem with His disciples to celebrate Passover and to fulfill His mission. When they reached the Mount of Olives, He sent two of the disciples to retrieve a donkey (colt) for Him to ride. He instructed them to untie it, and if anyone asked them why they were doing so, to tell them that the

Lord has need of it (**Luke 19:31**). The disciples did as He instructed, and brought the colt to Him, laying their cloaks over it for Him to sit on it.

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY OF JESUS

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the young donkey (colt) that the disciples brought to Him. This is described as fulfilling the prophecy of **Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)**: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Jesus' arrival during this time of Passover week led to much attention in the city. **Matthew 21:10-11** notes, "And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

Assignment:

- What scripture prophesies about the king of Jerusalem riding on a donkey?
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A CROWD GATHERS

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, crowds gathered in the streets laying their coats on the road and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road, to honor, celebrate and treat Jesus like royalty. The site attracted the attention of those in the city, and many wondered who He was. (**John 12:12-16 NIV**)

For three years Jesus had been talking about the kingdom of God and how he was the prophesied "Son of Man" from **Daniel 7**, and it was well known that he was a prophet and a miracle-worker and even called the Son of God. To the crowds, Jesus was the Messiah – the promised king who would establish God's kingdom, destroy the Roman Empire and allow the Jews to rule the world in prosperity and harmony with God forever! The people of Jerusalem also sang praises of Him. **Matthew 21:9** explains, "And the crowds that went before him

and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' Hosanna means: Lord save us – A shout of joy.

What Do Palm Leaves Symbolize on Palm Sunday?

On Palm Sunday, palm leaves are a symbol of triumph, victory and royalty.

Assignment:

- Why did people lay their coats and branches on the road as Jesus made His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem?

- When the crowds called Jesus, “Messiah”, what did it mean to them?

- What does the word, “Hosanna” mean?

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY?

Unfortunately, the praise the people lavished on Jesus was not because they recognized Him as their Savior from sin. They welcomed Him out of their desire for a messianic deliverer, someone who would lead them in a revolt against Rome. There were many who, though they did not believe in Christ as Savior, nevertheless hoped that perhaps He would be to them a great temporal deliverer. These are the ones who hailed Him as King with their many hosannas, recognizing Him as the Son of David who came in the name of the Lord. But when He failed in their expectations, when He refused to lead them in a massive revolt against the Roman occupiers, the crowds quickly turned on Him. Within just a few days, their **hosannas** would change to cries of “**Crucify Him!**” (Luke 23:20-21). Those who hailed Him as a hero would soon reject and abandon Him.

Assignment:

- What was the real motive for many of the people's praise of Jesus?

- **(Fill in the blanks)**

When Jesus failed to meet the people's expectations of Him as Messiah, many of those who cried out , "Hosanna" were crying out " _____" just a few days later.

HOLY WEEK TIMELINE

SUNDAY

- Palm Sunday – Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

MONDAY

- Jesus clears the Temple

TUESDAY

- Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives

THURSDAY

- Passover and Last Supper

This was the last time He would meet formally with His disciples – (The Last Supper and Passover Feast). That's where Jesus mentions that Judas would betray Him and Peter would deny Him three times. **(Luke 22: 7-38)**

GOOD FRIDAY

- Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Judas betrays Jesus and Roman soldiers take Jesus into custody
- Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial on Good Friday

EASTER SUNDAY / RESURRECTION SUNDAY

- **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!**