
PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (B)

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

Aim of this Catechesis:

To reflect with the children on the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

The Gospel text at the heart of this lesson is:

Mark 11:1-10

In this catechesis we will consider the account in St Mark's Gospel of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We will not be considering the passion narrative in Mark 14:1-15:47

- This account of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem shows the misunderstanding that existed in the minds of the people about the role of the Messiah and the nature of the Kingdom of God.
- He is a gentle and peaceful king who brings peace and salvation.
- The Kingdom of God is not the restoration of the ancient Kingdom of David as the people imagined.

We will reflect on these in our catechesis.

Equipment Needed:

A Bible or Sunday Missal

Candle & Matches

Flash Cards (See each step in the lesson)

Worksheet : ***"Recalling the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem"***



LESSON PLAN

Begin the Lesson with a prayer.

Explain to the children:

- Today is the Palm Sunday. It is the last Sunday of Lent.
- Today we begin Holy Week when we remember how Jesus died and rose again to save us.
- During Mass we have a very long Gospel. It is the story of how Jesus was arrested and eventually crucified.
- Before Mass we have a procession with palm branches.
- This reminds us of How Jesus entered Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.
- The people praised him and called him the Messiah who would restore the kingdom of David..

Step 1: A Hero's Welcome

Tell the children the following story:



The great generals of the Roman empire were famous for their leadership in battle. They led their soldiers to conquer many lands. When they returned to Rome they held a triumphal parade through the streets. Their soldiers marched in formation. The generals rode on horseback or on their chariots. In the parade they also led their captives and

hostages. These poor unfortunates were chained together and were mocked by the crowd. If the general had beaten a king or a tribal leader, then he would be paraded along with the captives.

All this was a sign of the how great the general was and how great his victories were

Ask the children:

Do we have similar parades today? (Think of victorious teams...)

Allow the children time to contribute their answers.

Step 2: Our Gospel Text Mark 11:1-10
Its special meaning for us as Christians

Tell the children:

Today's Gospel, is the story of Jesus entering into Jerusalem .



It is read during the Blessing of the Palms.

After wards the people (should) walk in processions singing hymns of praise to Jesus.

This reminds us of the shouts of the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Let us read about to what happened.

Light the candle beside the Bible.

Encourage the children to be respectful as they listen to the Gospel.

Read the Gospel text to them.

They can follow it in their workbooks.

The following is the Gospel Text:

When they were approaching Jerusalem, in sight of Bethphage and Bethany, close by the mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go off to the village facing you, and as soon as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you: "What are you doing?" say, "The Master needs it and will sent it back here directly.:" They went off and found a colt tethered near a door in the open street. As they untied it, some men, standing there said: "What are you doing untying that colt?" They gave the answer Jesus had told them, and the men let them go. Then they took the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on its back

and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, others greenery which they had cut in the fields. And those who went in front and those who followed were all shouting: "Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

(Mark 11:1-10)

If necessary read the Gospel text again.

You can also ask some of the children to read the text out loud for the others.

Now ask the children:

- What animal did Jesus ride on when he entered Jerusalem?
- What did the disciples spread on the back of the colt?
- What did the people shout?
- What did the people spread on the ground?

Explain to the children:

- Jesus did not come into Jerusalem like a conquering general.
- He came in as a gentle and peaceful king.
- The sign of this was that he was riding on a colt not a horse or in a chariot.
- Great generals rode on horses or in their chariots.
- The people recognised this and they shouted out: "Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David." This was another name for the Messiah.
- However they thought that Jesus was going to throw out the Romans and restore the ancient kingdom of King David
- They had the wrong idea about the Kingdom of God.

Step 3: What can we do? Practice & Prayer

Practice:

Tell the children:

When we walk in procession on Palm Sunday we remember what happened as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

We sing a hymn which has the words: "Hosanna to the King of Kings"

Like the people in Jerusalem we carry palm branches.

Worksheet:

Invite the children to turn to the Worksheet *“Recalling the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem”* in their workbooks.

Invite them to complete the task on the worksheet.

Allow them time for this.

Link to Sunday Mass:

Tell the children:

During Mass at the “Holy, holy, holy” we sing or say:

“Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God of hosts.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.”

Look out for this and remember we are welcoming Jesus among us.



Memory Bytes:

Invite the children to read the following in their workbooks:

Jesus is called by many names in the Bible. Some of these are together with their meanings:

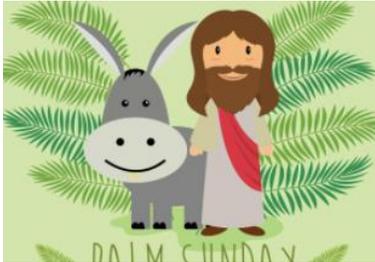
- Jesus—Saviour
- Christ the Messiah—The Anointed one of God
- Son of God
- The Lord

(From the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Prayer:

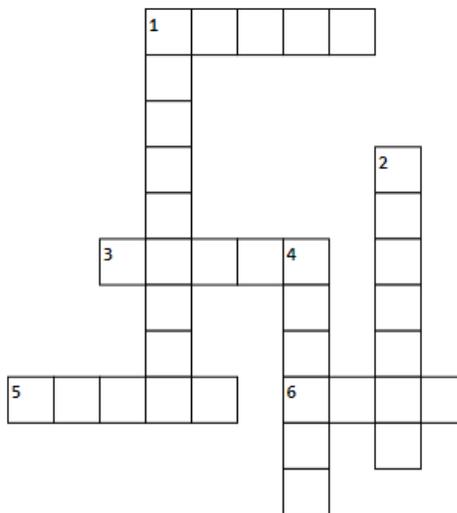
Conclude the lesson by praying the Holy, holy, holy.

WORKSHEET



Recalling the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

Solve the Crossword Puzzle.



Across

1. means saviour
3. The people called Jesus son of
5. The people waved these branches
6. Son of David means

Down

1. Jesus entered... on a donkey
2. The people shouted.
4. Jesus rode on this animal into Jerusalem.

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Blessed is he
Who comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Memory Bytes:

Learn the following:

Jesus is called by many names in the Bible. Some of these are together with their meanings:

- Jesus—Saviour
- Christ the Messiah—The Anointed one of God
- Son of God
- The Lord (From the Catechism of the Catholic Church)