

Palm Sunday

LESSON OBJECTIVES

This Easter Sunday school lesson covers the events of Palm Sunday from all four Gospels. The youth will discover how the past differing viewpoints about Jesus still relate to us today.

Goals

1. To study the scriptures about the events of Passion Week and Jesus arriving Jerusalem on Palm Sunday
2. To challenge the youth regarding how they receive Jesus day by day
3. To inspire the youth to give unbridled praise to Jesus

Topics

Celebration, Easter, Palm Sunday, Praise

Scripture Memorization

Matthew 21:9

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GETTING STARTED (5 minutes)

General Discussion:

- What was the biggest crowd in which you have ever found yourself?
- Was it a joy-filled crowd?
- Why is it easy to be swept up in the excitement of a large crowd?
- Is being in an excited crowd comfortable or uncomfortable? Why?

Today, we will discuss a large crowd who gathered. The people were swept away by everything that happened before their eyes.

DIGGING DEEP (30 minutes)

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Discussion Questions:

1. What Old Testament passage is quoted in verse 5? (*Zechariah 9:9. If you have time, have the students read this verse.*)
2. What Old Testament passage is quoted in verse 9? (*Psalms 118:26. If you have time, have the students read this verse.*)
3. To a Jewish person, who knew these prophecies by heart, what would it mean to see Jesus fulfilling them? (*It would have been overwhelming and inspiring.*)
4. Who did the crowd say Jesus was, according to verse 11? (*The Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.*)

Read Mark 11:1-11

Discussion Question:

1. What does the gesture of laying robes and palm branches seem to indicate? (*The crowds were treating Jesus like royalty.*)

Read Luke 19:28-40

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the Pharisees ask Jesus to do in verse 39? (*To rebuke His followers.*)
2. Does Jesus agree to do it? Why or why not? (*No. Jesus said, "If they [meaning His followers] kept quiet, the stone will cry out."*)

Read John 12:12-19

Discussion Questions:

1. How many people are present at Jesus' arrival? *(A large crowd, they were gathered for the Passover feast.)*
2. From verse 13, do you get the sense that the people expected Jesus to be crowned king? *(Yes, however, they had no idea that he was really coming to give His life.)*
3. What do the Pharisees say about the attitude of the people towards Jesus in verse 19? *(That the whole world has gone after Him.)*

As we covered these four accounts, we got a very clear picture of the details of the events. This happened on the first day of the week, a Sunday. The reason we call this day "Palm Sunday" is from the palm branches that people laid down on the ground in front of Jesus.

MAKING IT REAL (15 minutes)

We can get much more from these four accounts than historic detail. We can also get a glimpse of how people approached Jesus then, and how people approach Him now. When Jesus entered the city, there were many groups of people, and everyone had a different viewpoint about Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the disciples feeling when Jesus entered the city? *(They were overwhelmed with joy and excitement.)*
2. What were the crowds feeling then? *(They were swept away by all that went on.)*
3. What did the Pharisees discern? *(They seemed jealous, concerned, and a little indignant.)*

It was really an amazing scene. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead. The masses gathered in preparation for the Passover feast. Jesus was experiencing peak popularity. There was hysteria, lots of shouting, singing, and anticipation. No one, except Jesus, knew what was going to happen next.

Today is not much different. Many groups of people approach Jesus every day, and there are still many different viewpoints about Jesus.

Discussion Questions: *(Allow for responses.)*

1. Do you think anyone still feels overwhelmed with joy over Jesus? Who?
2. Do you think anyone misunderstands Jesus? Who?
3. What do you personally think of Jesus?
4. If a similar scene were to take place today, with Jesus coming to town, how do you think the crowd would react?
5. How would you react?
6. Would an outside observer look at your life and say what the Pharisees said, that you have gone after Jesus wholeheartedly?

The most revered week of the Church calendar begins today with Palm Sunday. One week after this event comes Resurrection Sunday. Our views about Jesus today influence how we worship Him on Easter.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Pray for your youth to be swept away by Jesus every day, starting today.

ACTIVITIES

1. Word Search
2. Crossword Puzzle
3. Coloring Page

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
Luke 19:38 (NIV)



S P R E A D O D E A E E Q R X
Y K I D D Y E R S S Y D K C S
H U M W Y S K E I H V V T G M
L N O U S T L A L D I O H A V
X R Z E F P R N O E L I M X F
C E L T I P M X R D L C U U Y
C B L C N P P R D N A E B R C
H O S L X A V E L V G S O P L
C I O U Z F M R A P E L F E O
D U G R O A D E N C G W I O A
S X I H H E A V E N E H E P K
B S Y D E J E S U S M H U L S
X U D Z C S C Y V A H N I E V
B F A V Y J T K C R O Z H L P
N Y B M I R A C L E S T C K L

BLESSED
SPREAD
DISCIPLES
NAME

MIRACLES
GLORY
CLOAKS
ROAD

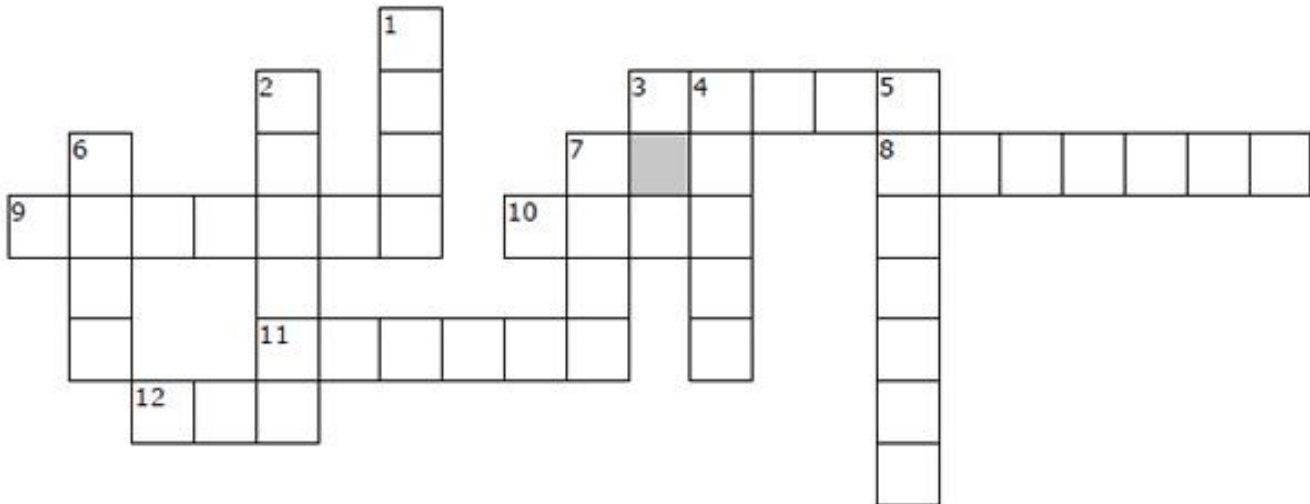
HIGHEST
PRAISE
VOICES
JESUS

HEAVEN
VILLAGE
LORD
HILL

CROWD
PEOPLE
PEACE
COLT

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
 Luke 19:38 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. The Son of God
8. A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"
9. A small town
10. A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year
11. To stretch out over a large area
12. To secure with a piece of rope

DOWN

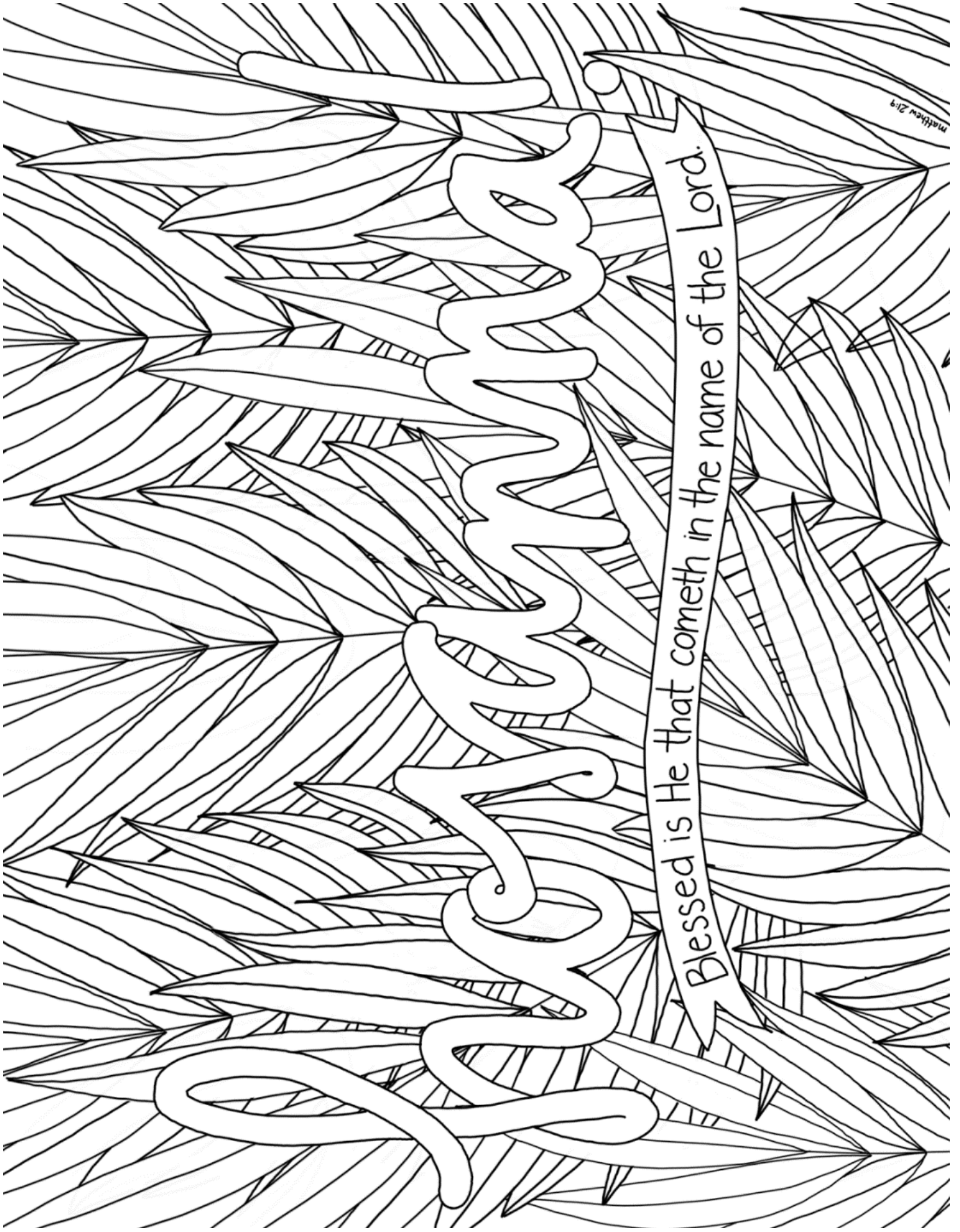
1. What a person is called
2. To express admiration or approval of something or someone
4. To go into a place
5. Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled
6. A male ruler of a country
7. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE
 COLT
 TIE

JESUS
 SPREAD
 ROAD

SHOUTED
 PRAISE
 HOSANNA

ENTER
 NAME
 KING



Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.