Jesus enters Jerusalem

**Aim:** To learn about Palm Sunday and its significance

**Occasion:** Palm Sunday

**Scripture:** Luke 19:28 -40

**Story:** Jesus enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:28 -40)

Here’s something a little different for this week’s lesson. It’s a play version of Jesus entering Jerusalem. I wrote it for a chapel assembly, but it can easily be used in a Children’s Ministry Context. I recommend that the teacher takes the role of the narrator, but the rest of the parts can be divided up between the children.

**Palm Sunday**

**Characters:**

Jesus (one younger boy)                                    Donkey (two older boys)

Crowd (palm wavers, clothing placers)          Religious Leaders (three)

Disciples (two)                                                   Narrator (me)

**Props:**

Donkey mask and brown blanket                  palm branches

Clothes                                                              party poppers

Tea towels x2                                                    white robe (Jesus)

Big books of law

**Script:**

**Narrator:**Our story starts with Jesus and his disciples entering Jerusalem.

(Get three volunteers. 1 to be Jesus, and 2 to be disciples. Get them to start ‘journeying’)

As they were getting closer to Jerusalem, Jesus stopped and turned to the disciples and said: Go to the next village

**Jesus:**Go to the next village

**Narrator:**and there you will find a donkey

**Jesus:**And there you will find a donkey

**Narrator:**Untie it and bring it to me!

**Jesus:**Untie it and bring it to me!

**Narrator:**The disciples replied: Sure thing Jesus!

**Disciples:**Sure thing Jesus!

**Narrator:**So the disciples ran ahead of Jesus and found the donkey just as Jesus had said.

(Get 2 volunteers to be the donkey. Give them their costumes. They have to say ‘Eeh-orrr!’ make them practice)

**Narrator:**Did you know that in biblical times, Kings would ride donkeys in times of peace instead of horses because horses were associated with war. Also, when Jesus chose to ride a donkey into Jerusalem, he was fulfilling a Prophesy made in the Old Testament book of Zechariah which said that the new king would come riding on a donkey!

The disciples untied the donkey and brought it back to Jesus.

Then Jesus got on the donkey and rode it towards Jerusalem.

(Help ‘Jesus’ to get on the donkey. Get them to go on a short walk.)

**Narrator:**As Jesus entered Jerusalem, a crowd had gathered. They were throwing down clothes for Jesus to walk over, and waving Palms and calling out to him.

Palm leaves were a symbol of grace and victory. The people were waving them because they thought Jesus was coming to be their new King.

(Get the children to make a path down the middle. Hand out clothes for them to lie down, and palms to wave. Teach the left hand side to say ‘hosanna!’, and the right side to say ‘Blessed be the King!’ Get them to have a competition. Hand out party poppers.

Give instructions for Jesus, and the donkey, followed by the disciples to walk down the middle and stop when they get to the end. Get the crowd to lay down the clothes and wave the palms and pop the poppers and call out.

**Narrator:**There were some Pharisees in the crowd and they didn’t like all the attention that Jesus was getting.

(Choose 3 volunteers to be Pharisees. Give them each a big book. Have them stand in the middle of the path facing Jesus.)

**Narrator:**The Pharisees said to Jesus: Tell the people to stop shouting!

**Pharisees:**Tell the people to stop shouting!

(Get the crowd to shout again!)

**Narrator:**But Jesus said: Even if they stop shouting,

**Jesus:**Even if they stop shouting,

**Narrator:**the stones will shout instead!

**Jesus:**the stones will shout instead!

(Get the crowd to do a final Mexican wave. Invite all the volunteers to come to the front and bow. Give them each something and tell them to go back to their seats.)

**Quick quiz**

1. In biblical times, why did kings ride on donkeys?
2. What did the Palms symbolize?
3. Who asked Jesus to stop the crowd from shouting?

**Activity:**If you want a craft activity, try giving the children outlines of clothing, just like the ones that the crowd in the story were putting down for Jesus. Get them to decorate them on one side, and on the other side get them to write a short prayer to God about the things they want to offer to Jesus for his use. E.g. talent for music, sporting ability, etc

Or have the children make their own Palm leaves with green paper.