

Jesus, Our Savior

LESSON #1

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-44



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Other books to use as supplements and visual aids for these lessons include:
<http://www.seedfaithbooks.com/shopdisplayproducts.asp?id=25&cat=EASTER+Books>

He Is Alive

CBA Bestseller - 40 page picture bk - by Helen Haidle

Journey to the Cross

256 page chapter bk (38 chapters) - by Helen Haidle

Journey to Victory

32 p. paperback 9"x6" - by Helen Haidle



#1 LESSON PLAN Notes — for Teacher to fill out

PALM SUNDAY

The Passover Lamb Arrives - Luke 19:28-44

Memory Verse:

"Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Power Points:

- 1.) Jesus is God's perfect Lamb, the perfect sacrifice for all people.
- 2.) Honor Jesus as King and Lord. Trust Him, even when He doesn't do what you expect.

Opening Discussion Questions:

- How would you honor a very important person who came to your town?
- When did you look forward to someone's visit and it didn't turn out like you'd planned?

This happened to the people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, hailing Him as their King and Messiah. They expected Him to overthrow the Romans and set up His kingdom.

Blackboard:

- Write down the important words for this lesson:

Palm Sunday Hosanna!

- Write out the odds of one man fulfilling 8 major prophecies of the promised Messiah:
1 in 10¹⁷ (Write a 1 with 17 zeros.)

Visuals: Palm branch (or a branch from any bush) + a wrapped present

Notes:

Eye-witness Interview at the end of class.

LESSON #1 - Palm Sunday INTERVIEW Questions

Eye-witnesses: *(wrap cloths around their shoulders or heads)*

Two Jewish leaders who were unhappy about people following Jesus.

Several women in the Palm Sunday crowd who greeted Jesus.

Two disciples who got the donkey for Jesus to ride.

Three Reporters: interview the three groups of people in Jerusalem at the scene on Palm Sunday. Cut out questions (below). Give one to each reporter.

Use a real (unplugged) microphone or make a "microphone" by wrapping a long-handled spoon with aluminum foil. (Crumple foil around the spoon to to make a microphone.)

(Xerox questions below. Cut out. Give to the three reporters.)

Questions: Interview PHARISEES (religious rulers)

Are you men some of the important leaders here in Jerusalem?

Please tell me what's happening. Who organized this parade?

Do you think people believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah?

Why or why not?

Questions: Interview two WOMEN in crowd

Did you come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover?

What do you think about this parade of Jesus and His followers?

Why is everyone cheering and singing?

Do you believe Jesus is the promised Savior? Why?

Questions: Interview two DISCIPLES

Why did you decide to become a follower of Jesus?

Why did Jesus come to Jerusalem? Do you think He'll fight the Roman army?

Does Jesus want to overthrow King Herod and make Himself King?

Who do you believe Jesus is? Why?

LESSON #1

PALM SUNDAY

The Passover Lamb Arrives - Luke 19:29-44

MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

These are words John the Baptizer spoke when he saw Jesus at the Jordan River. It's the first statement of WHO Jesus was before He began His public ministry.

People only brought flawless perfect lambs for Passover sacrifice at the temple and for sin offerings. God now provides the perfect sacrificial Lamb for the whole world.

POWER POINTS:

- 1.) Jesus, triumphant King, is God's perfect, sacrificial Lamb.
- 2.) Honor Jesus as King and Lord.

OPENING Discussion Questions:

- 1.) How would you honor someone important who came to your town? Would you go out to see them, watch it on TV, send a gift, make a welcome sign, etc.?
- 2.) Did you ever look forward to someone's visit and it didn't turn out like you planned? Or the person was different than you imagined? That happened on Palm Sunday.

INTRODUCE these 8 new lessons:

We are on a journey. This journey began before Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It began before Jesus was born. **(Open your Bible to Genesis as you talk.)**

It began before the dawn of time and was placed in motion when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. It is a journey of prophecy fulfilled---even the first promise of a Savior in the Garden of Eden when satan, the enemy of God, deceived Adam and Eve, and they disobeyed God's command.

Even though Adam & Eve disobeyed, God gave them a promise of a Savior who would one day defeat satan.

Read Text: Luke 19:29-44

NOTE: If there is enough time, you can begin with a review of Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11) and the reaction of the Pharisees:

"From that day on, they plotted to put Jesus to death" (John 11:53).

1.) Why did Jesus come to Jerusalem at this time?

(Passover week was the time when thousands of Jewish people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate God's deliverance out of the land of Egypt long ago. They came to eat the Passover feast and offer sacrifices at the temple.)

2.) What PROPHECY was fulfilled on Palm Sunday? Zechariah 9:9-11 *"Your king shall come to you . . . he is humble and rides on a donkey, on a colt of a donkey."*

3.) The Passover Lamb was selected on this day and brought into the house to live there during the four days before Passover (Read Exodus 12:3).

What kind of a lamb did the 'Passover Lamb' have to be?

A one-year-old male, perfect in every way. The best lamb was to be offered to God. In that day, wealth was measured by animals. If you had a perfect animal, you would view it as a blessing to have something to sacrifice.

It **COST** time and money to celebrate Passover, to remember how the Passover lamb's blood saved the first-born sons of Israel. Now it also **COST** Jesus something more: it **COST** Him His life. He became the perfect Lamb to be sacrificed for all people.

Read JOURNEY TO THE CROSS, page 27 about Passover Lambs.)

4.) Jesus, the LAMB OF GOD, rides into the city on a donkey.
How did the people receive Him?

a.) What did the people shout? (shouts of praise and honor)

"Hosanna" - (This means "Please save us", but it is most often used as a shout of praise, like our HOORAY!) Matthew 21:9

"Son of David" was a name for the promised Messiah. God had promised David that one of his sons would be king forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" This means the people believed Jesus was someone who came from God.

b.) What did the people do?

Laid down palm branches & cloaks on the road to proclaim him as King.

(Read JOURNEY TO THE CROSS, page 28 about palms.)

c.) WHAT did the crowds expect Jesus to do? *(To be a miracle-worker, a Messiah to lead their nation in victory over the Romans who ruled Israel with heavy taxes and rules.)*

d.) Did Jesus meet their expectations? *(No.)* Why not?

What is their reaction on Friday when Pilate asked what he should do with Jesus?
("Crucify him!")

3.) How did the Jewish leaders react to the Palm Sunday crowd?

(Read Luke 19:39) "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

They were jealous of the praises given to Jesus. They didn't consider Him worthy of being called a "Son of David". They wouldn't believe Jesus was the Messiah.

4.) What was Jesus' reaction to the Pharisees who told Him to stop the children from crying out their praises to Him? (Read Luke 19:40)

"I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

OBJECT LESSON - Hold up Wrapped Gift Box

• **How many of you have ever “expected” to receive a certain present, and then found something different when you opened the box?**

• **WHAT did the crowds at Jerusalem "expect" Jesus to do?**

Everyone knew about Jesus and the miracles he had done. They were all probably anticipating what He would do next. Do you think anyone suspected He would die on a cross in a few days? *(They thought and hoped He would deliver them from Roman rule.)*

5.) SHOW PICTURE of JESUS overlooking Jerusalem

What was Jesus' reaction when He looked across the valley at the city of Jerusalem? (Read Luke 19:41-44)

The word used here for “wept” means to cry out loudly in grief and anguish. Why was Jesus so upset? *(because of the destruction that would happen to the city and its people. These words of Jesus were fulfilled about 30 years later (Read JOURNEY, page 33)*

6.) QUESTIONS for discussion: (Pick & choose according to your age group).

a. What if you knew some bullies hated you and were waiting down the street from your house? How would you feel? What would you do?

(Face it, avoid it, run, go tell, get help?)

Just imagine: Jesus KNEW He would be rejected, beaten, and killed, but He still chose to do the Father's will!

b. Was Jesus' arrest, trial, suffering, and death on the cross a surprise to Him? *(NO! This was the culmination of WHY He had come. Jesus announced His arrest and suffering to the disciples before they ever entered Jerusalem.)*

He said, *“We are now on our way to Jerusalem. Everything the prophets wrote about the Son of Man will happen there. He will be handed over to foreigners, who will make fun of him, insult him, and spit on him. They will beat him and kill him, but three days later he will rise to life.” The apostles did not understand what Jesus was talking about. . . because the meaning of what he said was hidden from them”* (Luke 18:31-34).

In Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples: *“Two days from now will be Passover. That is when the Son of Man will be handed over to his enemies and nailed to a cross.”* Matthew 26:1-5

c. How would you feel about these words if you were one of Jesus' disciples?

Why do you think Jesus kept telling His disciples this “BAD” news?

(He knew they'd understand later that He willingly GAVE His life for them.)



APPLICATION

1.) How does Jesus come to us today?

(In His Word, the BIBLE, also through Baptism, Holy Communion, worship services, in times of fellowship with other Christians, in those who are in need.)

- Are there times today when we are like the Pharisees who were too busy, too biased, and too blind to recognize Jesus? Why didn't they receive Jesus as their Messiah when He rode into Jerusalem on Psalm Sunday?

They were full of pride, hatred and jealousy. They refused to repent when they were wrong. Hung onto their own ideas. Wouldn't receive Jesus' teachings and claim to be the Son of God.

- How are we sometimes like the Pharisees? *(Set in our ways, judgmental of others, don't want to be told we are doing wrong, don't want to admit when we are wrong, etc.)*

- How will you welcome Jesus into your day? He loves you and wants to share your daily life. When you do wrong, admit it, and ask His forgiveness. Take time with Jesus each day.

2.) Has Jesus ever DISAPPOINTED you?

Have you prayed about something and Jesus didn't seem to answer? Maybe you prayed for someone and they didn't get well, or maybe someone kept hurting you. Maybe you didn't make the team, couldn't go on vacation, didn't pass the test, your parents divorced, etc.

Jesus doesn't always do all we want or expect. Sometimes He answers NO to our prayers. Are you still willing to praise Him, read His Word, love Him, and live for Him?

3.) What are some reasons people REJECT Jesus today?

Too busy with own ideas, plans, and activities. Too tired to take time to come to church, to read His Word. Too interested in other things that are only temporary.

Do we expect Jesus to work miracles for us . . . but then do we forget that He is most interested in our "sitting at His feet" and listening to Him like Mary did?

4.) Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord?

Give children an opportunity to do this.

For those who are Christians, this can be a time to rededicate their life to Jesus.

Give them an opportunity to renew their commitment to live for their Lord.

Close with Prayer.

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