

# Sunday School at Home

Sunday School at Home Resources for the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (2021) prepared collaboratively by Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg and Crossroads United Pastoral Charge (St. Andrew's United Church in Elm Creek and Carman United Church)

**Note: This resource packet is designed for children ages 2 – young teen. The first page, Come as a Child, is designed with young children in mind. The rest of the pages are intended for school aged children. We encourage the grown-ups to read through the resources and decide which are best suited for the children in your household.**

**Come as a little child ... a learning resource for young children**  
**March 28, 2021**

Choose a place and a time where you and your child/children can sit together quietly to listen to the story and then talk about it

OR

Find whatever time is possible, expect distractions, and invite your child/children to join you in taking three deep breaths before you start.

**Story:** Riding into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday

*[See the paraphrased story on the next page]*



**Reflection and Action:** *(Grown-ups, please read through the questions and choose the ones that you think are most suitable for your child/ren.)*

This story is paraphrased from the Bible story. Jesus riding in on a donkey was unexpected. The word about Jesus teaching and healing was becoming known around Jerusalem. A crowd gathered because people were excited to see and meet him because of what they had heard of him. The people expected him to ride into the city in a more royal fashion on a majestic horse. The choice to ride in on a donkey conveys the message that Jesus is not a typical king - rather, he is the prince of peace. Read (or tell) the story above.

Has an unexpected surprise happened to you like someone coming to visit? How did you feel when they came over? (Were you happy, excited, surprised or scared?)

Do you know what a parade is? (A parade is a gathering of people who are excited to celebrate an event)

Have you ever been to a parade?

Have you ever gone somewhere that people were excited to see you?

Have you ever been excited to see someone else?

How do people act when they are excited (smile, hug, wave, jump up and down)?

Choose one or more of the following activities:

- Make a donkey. Use a paper towel roll or wrapping paper roll as a neck. Trace the child's feet (or a grown-up's) to make the shape of a donkey's head - the heel is the donkey's nose. Draw ears and add facial features (nostrils, eyes) on each foot. Cut out the feet shapes to form both sides of the donkey's head. The child can do as much of the cutting, drawing, and colouring as they are able. Place the paper towel tube as the neck between the two sides of the donkey's head and tape them to it.
- Make a leaf of a palm tree on paper. Colour it. (Copy the palm branch below or make your own)
- Act out the story of Jesus coming into the city on a donkey with people excitedly waving palm branches or laying down clothing (or blankets) for the donkey to walk on. [We recognize in these Covid times that it will be a very small parade - but it could still be loud]

**Story:**

In the Bible there is a story about when Jesus decided that he needed to go to Jerusalem - which was a long way away. There weren't any airplanes or trains or cars or motorcycles or even tricycles. If people wanted to go to a far away place, they usually walked. Sometimes they rode on the back of an animal - like a horse or a camel or a donkey. Usually when a king rode into a city they rode on a fancy animal like a beautiful horse. Jesus didn't want people to think he was a king or a ruler with power over them.

Jesus wanted to walk with the people showing them God's love and peace for the world. The people in Jerusalem were having a celebration called Passover, a special holiday with good food, to remember Moses and the Exodus story. Jesus asked some of his friends to find a simple donkey he could borrow to ride into Jerusalem. The people were excited to meet Jesus because they heard stories about him and his work of healing and teaching of God's love for everyone. Many people gathered and excitedly formed a parade. Some people laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to walk on and some people waved branches from palm trees yelling, "Hosanna."

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