

WEEK 1: Palm Sunday

Big Idea: Jesus is a humble king.

HANGOUT

1. Ask the kids what they think it means to be humble. Explain that people who are humble think more of others than themselves. They put other people first! Discuss:
 - Can you think of a character in a movie or a book who is humble?
 - What is it about them, or what do they do, that makes them humble?
2. Read the following scenarios, pausing after each one to ask the kids whether they think it's an example of being humble:
 - Letting someone else go first in line (humble)
 - Congratulating the winning team after losing a game (humble)
 - Bragging about something you did (not humble)
 - Listening when other people speak (humble)
 - Giving up your seat for someone else (humble)
 - Making fun of someone who made a mistake (not humble)
 - Taking turns and sharing with others (humble)
 - Saying sorry for hurting someone's feelings (humble)
 - Only talking to the popular kids in your school (not humble)
 - Playing a game with a younger child (humble)
3. Invite everyone to share their ideas for other situations in which we have the choice to respond in a humble way.
4. Introduce this week's Big Idea: **Jesus is a humble king.**

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

5. Discuss: Imagine a powerful king arriving in a city. What do you think that might look like? What would the people there do? Would it be loud or quiet? What kind of clothes might the king wear? What kind of animal or vehicle would he ride on or in?
6. Let the kids know that in today's God Story, Jesus comes into the city of Jerusalem as a humble king. Encourage everyone to listen carefully to find out what the celebration for Jesus was like.
7. Look up and read about Palm Sunday in Matthew 21:1-11. If you have confident readers in your group, encourage some of the kids to read.
8. Discuss:
 - What did Jesus ask his disciples to do in preparation for his entry into the city? (get a donkey and its colt)
 - What did Jesus tell the disciples to say if anybody asked why? (the Lord needs them)

9. Review verses 4-5 together. Ask if anyone knows what a prophesy is. Explain that it's an accurate predication of what will happen in the future. In this case, 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Zechariah foretold that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey as a king (see Zechariah 9:9). Discuss:
 - What does Zechariah's prophesy say about what Jesus is like? (Jesus is humble)
 - What did the people do to welcome Jesus? (put their coats on the ground and waved branches)
 - How does Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as king show us that he is humble?
 - How was Jesus' arrival the same or different from the one we pictured before reading this story?

HUDDLE

10. Introduce this month's Key Verse: "The Lord is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me. My God is my rock." Psalm 18:2a (NIRV)
11. Discuss:
 - What sticks out to you from this verse?
 - How is God like a rock?
 - Are there any challenging situations in your life in which you'd really like to feel that God is your place of safety?
12. Pray, "Dear Jesus, thank you that you're with each of us and that you're our rock and our place of safety. I pray that [name each person in your group if possible] would know that you are always with them. [Refer to the situations the kids just shared]. We love you! Amen."

Codebreaker

Use the code to find the secret message!

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Y	J	A	H	X	C	D	M	B	W	Z	T	F

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
U	S	E	P	L	R	G	N	K	V	O	Q	I

1	15	14	13	14

25	14

2

3	13	7	8	17	15

21	25	20	19