

# Virtual Sunday School Lesson

## *Palm Sunday (Matthew 21)*



### **Bible Verses (NIV):**

#### **Matthew 21: 1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

### **Activity: Palm Sunday**

**Theme:** Jesus rides into Jerusalem to cheering crowds.

**Supplies:** some palm branches (optional, see craft)

#### **Lesson:**

What does a normal king look like? What is his job?

What do you imagine a parade would look like for a king that everyone loved? *(let children respond)*

The waiting was over – the promised King was finally coming into Jerusalem and the people crowded the streets to cheer his arrival.

*(Read Matthew 21: 1-11, direct from a bible)*

Wow, this was a big parade – and Jesus deserved it. Remember how he had traveled all over Israel helping people, doing miracles, and telling them about God's love. Now he was coming to the capitol, the most important city. This was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years. It was all finally coming together, and the people were going crazy.

Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem when Jesus stops them. He sends 2 disciples to get Him 2 donkeys. But He doesn't say anything about paying for them. They are to go to the village and get a donkey and her colt. If there are any problems...they are just supposed to say that "the Lord needs them" and it will all be fine.

But this wasn't an accident. This was just what the Bible had promised for hundreds of years. The real king wasn't going to be fancy, but ride into the city on a donkey ... a donkey he had to borrow.

The disciples did what they were told to do. They went and got the donkey and the colt. A big crowd was already showing up and covering the street with their coats and branches from the trees. Remember that they didn't have paved roads back then – the roads were dirt. They were showing their respect to Jesus by covering the road so that He wouldn't get dirty.

They cheered for Jesus with words from the Bible. This was a big victory celebration, and everyone was excited to see what would happen next.

*(Optional: Lead the children in rounds of cheering Hosanna and the other words from the passage, waving palm branches. Divide the group and see who can cheer the best. Then to settle things down see who can cheer the softest.)*

That was a big commotion! I bet the people in the city were wondering what was happening.

Jesus made quite an entrance! People were trying to figure out who He was. Remember, there was no television back then. People had heard about Him, but they had never seen Him before. Notice – they didn't say that He was the Son of God. They called Him a prophet. It was difficult for some of the people of Jesus' time to realize that He was God and that He was going to save them. Even his disciples would be confused and abandon Jesus later that same week.

**Optional for older children:**

- Have the children brainstorm about ways that they could worship Jesus. Write them on the whiteboard.
- Have the children write the Bible Verse on their palm branch that resonates with them. As the children finish writing, have them tell a neighbor, or the class, what the Bible Verse is

**Closing Prayer:**

Jesus, Blessed Jesus, today we choose to make you King and Lord of our life. Help us to be strong, and to follow you, even when all others have forsaken you. Amen.

Thanks to [www.ministry-to-children.com](http://www.ministry-to-children.com)

## **Video: B&H Publishing Group: The Triumphal Entry**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7r2jaciG0g&list=PLUtSdUwXCOX0vJD63EXTHCAC5J5DJyYKP&index=3>

Covering the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the cleansing of the temple.

Duration: 3:25

## **Craft: Hand Palms (Preschool)**

Supplies: Green construction paper, large craft sticks, glue

Directions: Have children place both hands on a green sheet of construction paper, trace their hands, then have the children, or a volunteer, cut out the hands. Glue hands onto a large craft stick.

Optional: Have a volunteer use a glue gun for faster adhesion.



## **Craft: Palm Sunday Children**

Supplies: Scissors, glue

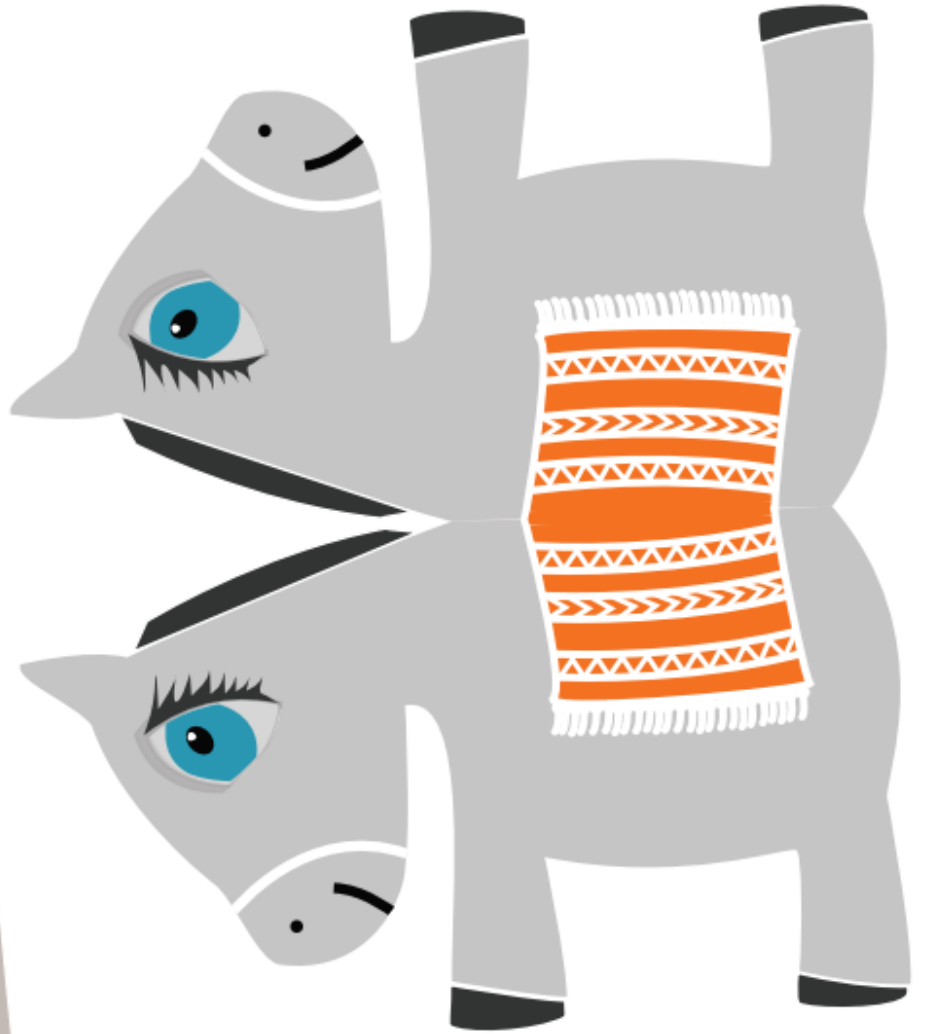
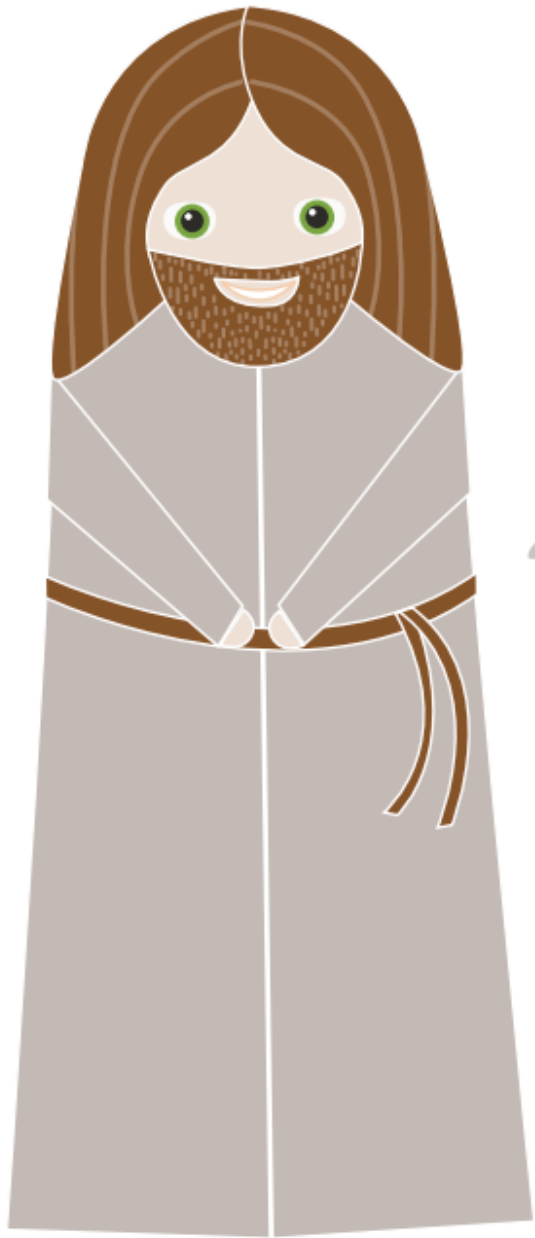
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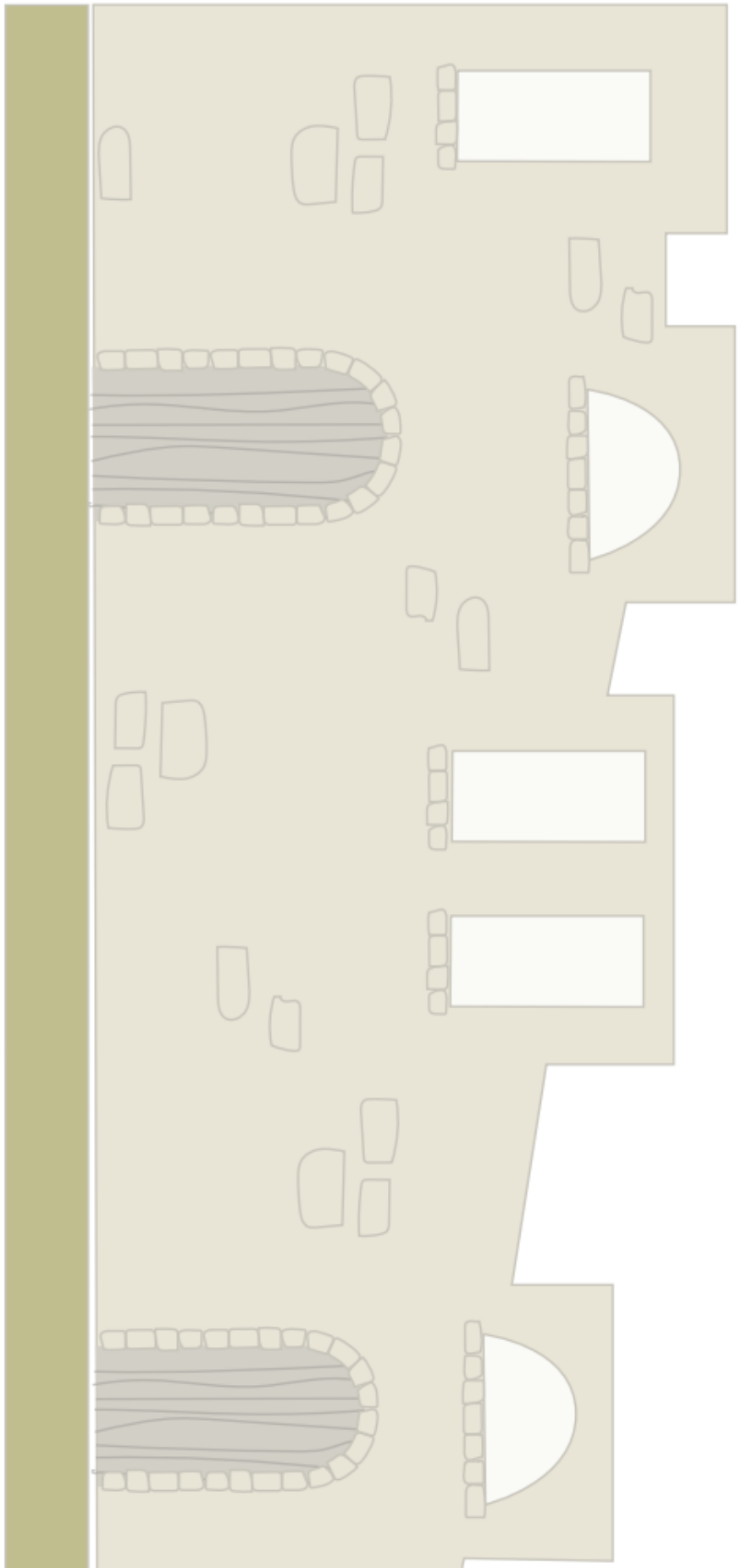
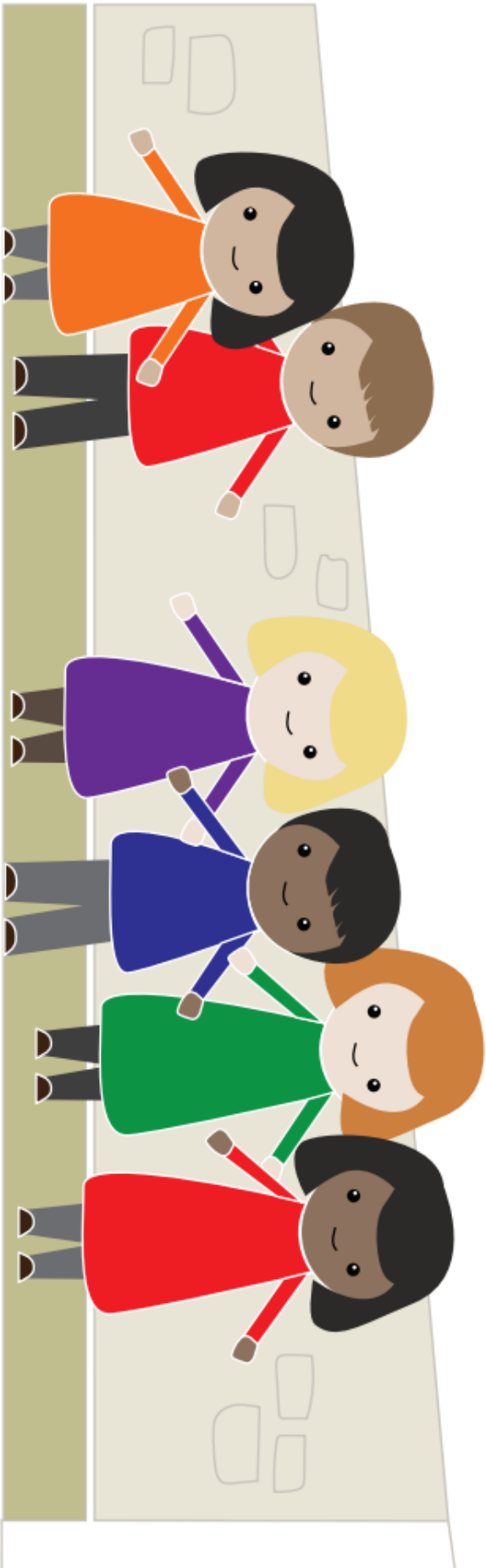
Cut out the palm branches, fold each in half, and cut slits for the leaves. You also may wish to cut out the donkey ahead of time, depending on the age of your children. Cut a slit in a hand on each child.

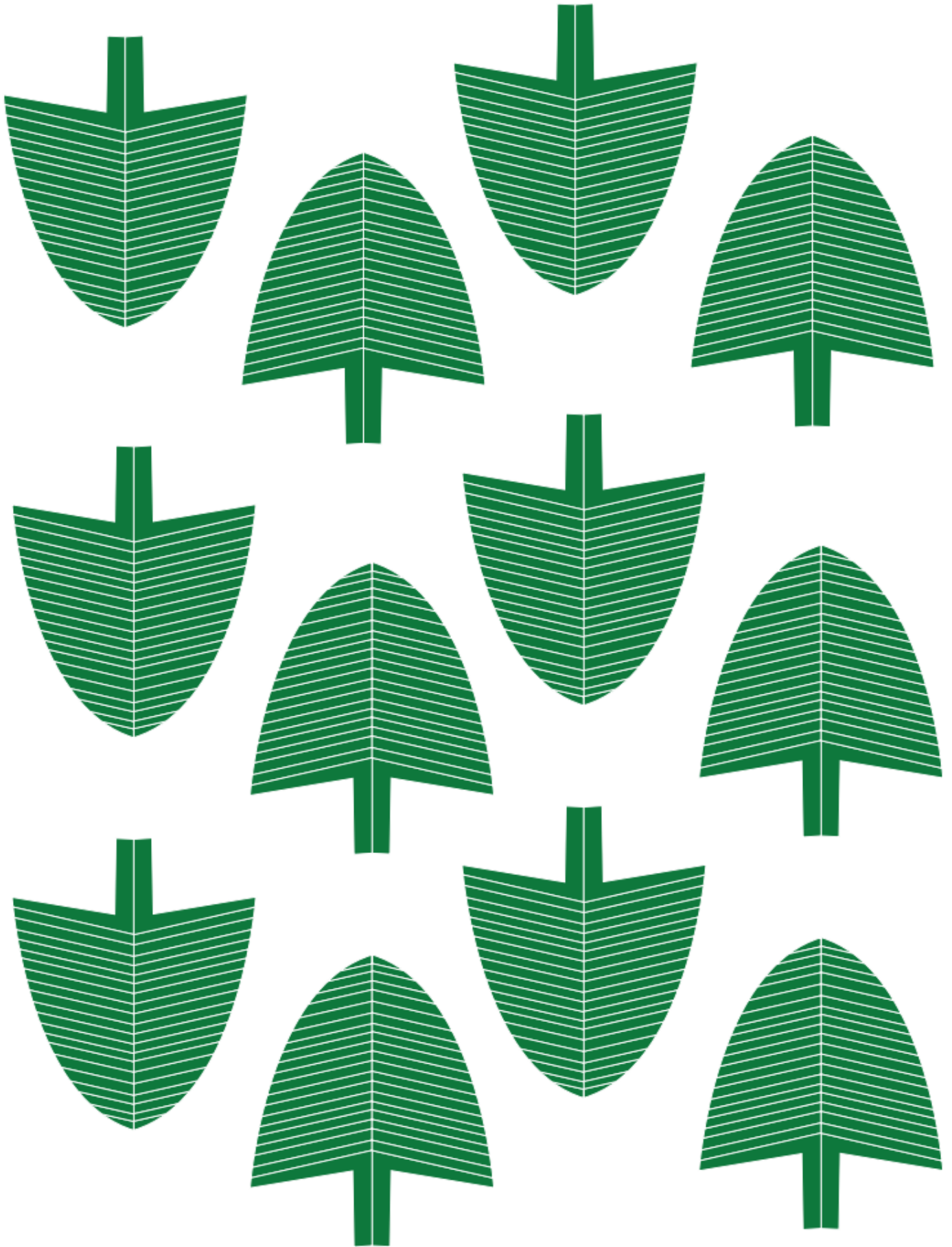
Cut out the Jesus figure and the two backgrounds. Fold back the tab on the children section and glue to the wall background. Fold the Jesus figure in the middle to help it to stand and fold the donkey in half. Slide a palm branch into the slit cut in the children's hands, laying the extras on the ground in front of Jesus.

Thanks to [www.paperloving.com](http://www.paperloving.com)







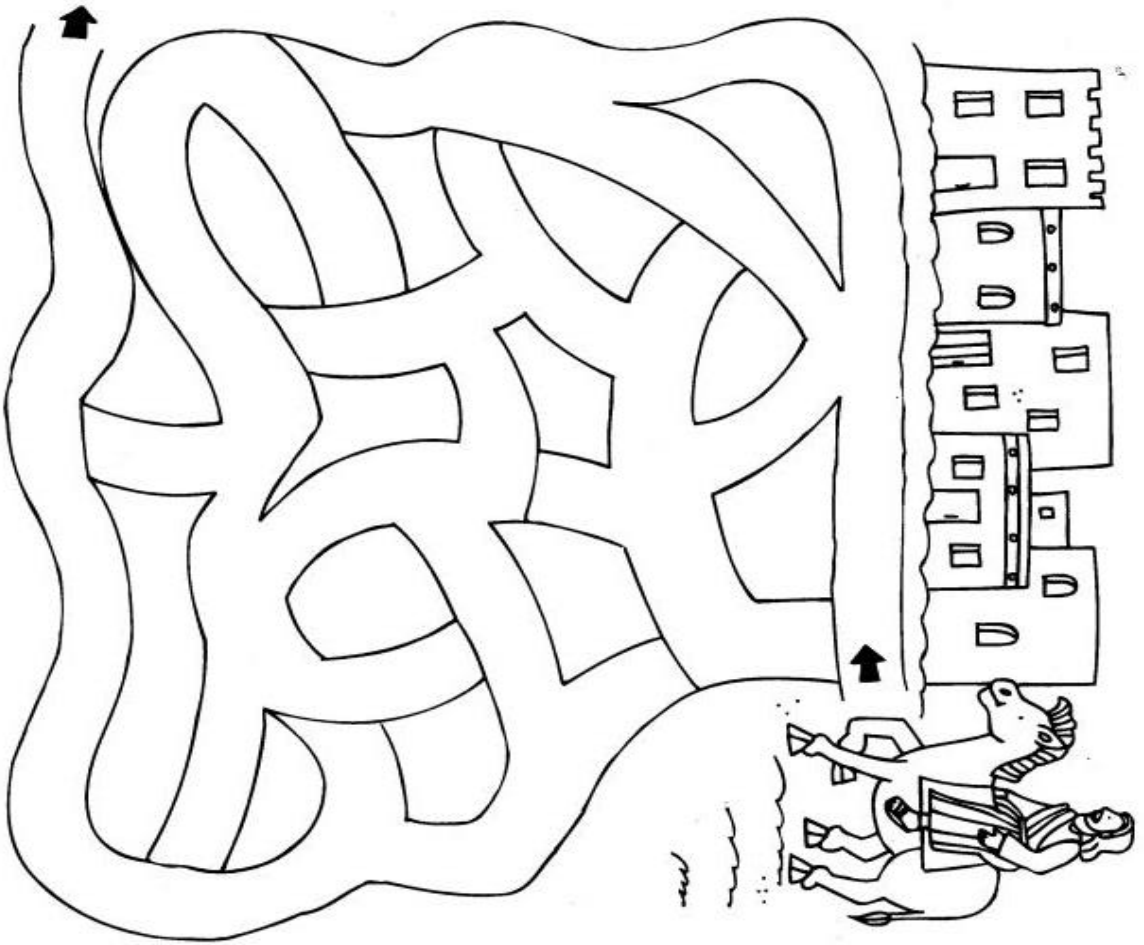






The triumphal entry

As Jesus rode the donkey through Jerusalem, people shouted, "Hosanna."  
 Help Jesus finish His ride through the city.



## The Triumphal Entry

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



Y	Z	A	F	B	G	L	S	D	H	I	M	R	N	V	K	E	T	J	O	W	X	Q	C	U	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 5-13-3-14-24-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-20-14-16-17-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-11-7-7-3-6-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-20-3-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-10-20-25-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-20-7-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-7-20-3-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-13-20-21-9 \_\_\_\_\_

DONKEY	VILLAGE	ROAD	BRANCH
SHOUT	CROWD	CLOAK	COLT