

# Palm Sunday Story for Young Children

## PROPS



Props required: A king's gown, a crown, a toy horse, donkey ears (and tail), a sword (and shield), a crown of thorns (brown pipe cleaners or twigs twined together), branches, spare plain t-shirts.

## SCRIPT (follows on from the story in Book 1 of Who is God? The Big Bible Series for Kids: "God's People want a King.")

- Last week we read that Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.
  - Let's dress up "*Child's name*" as a king. A king needs:
    - a crown (*put on the crown*)
    - some fancy clothes (*put on the gown +/- jewels*)
    - a big fancy horse to ride on (*child to mount the hobby horse*)
    - a sword and shield to fight their enemies (*pick up toy sword +/- shield*)
  - King Saul looked very impressive – but just like the kings who came after him, he didn't love all the people in his kingdom as he should have, and he disobeyed God.
  - But God did not forget his promise to bless his people.
  - He had a plan to provide them with a gentle king who was full of love, forgiveness and compassion.
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- At Christmas time we remember that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
  - He grew up and did some amazing things.
    - He made sick people well
    - He calmed big storms
    - And he taught people about God.
    - He was God's anointed King of Kings.
  - But Jesus wasn't a king as we would expect.
  - He was quite different.
  - Let's see how different he was.
    - He never fought anyone, so he wouldn't have needed the sword and shield (*discard sword and shield*)
    - He didn't have royal clothes or live in a palace (*discard gown – put a plain t-shirt or a calico tunic on the child*)

- He didn't have a crown made of gold or jewels – in fact, as he was being led to the cross, people laughed at him and gave him a pretend crown made from thorns (*put on the thorny crown*).
- And on the Sunday before he died, as he was coming into the big city of Jerusalem for the last time, he didn't ride in on a big, fancy horse but on a little donkey (*stick donkey ears on the horse and put donkey tail on*).
- Jesus was a peaceful and gentle king, riding on a donkey.
- And as he came into town, the crowd of people that had gathered welcomed him.
  - They took off their cloaks and spread these on the road (*put t-shirts on the ground*)
  - They cut down branches from the trees and spread these also on the road (*put branches on the ground*).
  - The crowd shouted "Hosanna – blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
  - They did this as Jesus, sitting on the little donkey, rode into Jerusalem where he was to be handed over to those who were accusing him (*child to ride the donkey over t-shirts and branches*).
- This day is called Palm Sunday and is named after the branches the crowd had cut down and placed on the road in honour of Jesus.