

Palm Sunday Story for Young Children

PROPS



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

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

- Last week we read that Samuel anointed Saul as the very first king of Israel.
 - Let's dress up "*Child's name*" as King Saul.
A king needs:
 - a crown (*put on the crown*)
 - some fancy clothes (*put on the gown*)
 - 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*)
 - King Saul looked very impressive – but just like the kings who came after him, 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.
 - In the Bible we read that Jesus was God's promised king.
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- 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*)
 - 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*).
 - 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.