

# Hosanna! A Palm Sunday Devotional for Kids

Welcome to five days of exploring the most exciting week in the whole Bible – Holy Week! It all begins with a parade, a King, and a crowd of people who couldn't stop shouting for joy. Each day this week, we'll dig deeper into what happened when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and what it means for us today. Grab your Bible, find a cozy spot, and let's celebrate together!

5-DAY KIDS' DEVOTIONAL

PALM SUNDAY SERIES



# The King Is Coming!

## Key Verse

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" — Luke 19:38

## Today's Story

Imagine you just heard that the most famous, most wonderful person in the whole world was coming down your street — today! What would you do? Would you run inside and hide? No way! You'd run outside as fast as your legs could carry you!

That's exactly what happened on the very first Palm Sunday. People all over Jerusalem had been hearing amazing stories about Jesus. They heard He had made blind people see. They heard He had made sick people well. They even heard He had brought a man named Lazarus back to life! So when word spread that Jesus was coming into the city, the people couldn't just stand still and watch. They ran to the sides of the road, and because they wanted to treat Him like the greatest King who ever lived, they grabbed big palm branches and waved them high in the air. Some people even took off their coats and laid them on the road like a royal carpet, just for Jesus to walk on.

And what did they shout? "Hosanna!" That word is a very special one. It means "Save us!" and "Hooray!" all at the same time. It was their way of saying, "We believe in You, Jesus! You are our King!" Even the little children in the temple were shouting it out loud. Jesus heard every single voice, and He smiled.

## Reflection Questions

- If Jesus came riding down your street today, what would you do to welcome Him?
- Why do you think the people were so excited to see Jesus?
- What is something amazing Jesus has done that makes you want to shout "Hosanna"?

## Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for being a King who comes to us with love. Help me to welcome You into my heart every single day, just like the crowd welcomed You into Jerusalem. Hosanna! You are my King! Amen.

# A Different Kind of King

## Key Verse

"See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey."  
— Matthew 21:5

## Reflection Questions

- What is the difference between a king who wants to be served and a king who wants to serve others?
- Can you think of a time when you chose to be humble instead of showing off?
- How can you be more like Jesus — a gentle, kind servant — to someone in your family or school this week?

## Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, You could have come as the most powerful, flashy king in the world, but You chose to come with gentleness. Help me to be humble and kind like You. Teach me to serve others and put them first. Amen.

## Today's Story

Think about what a powerful king might look like in a parade. You might imagine a giant white horse, shiny armor, and soldiers marching everywhere. Kings in Jesus's day loved to show off their power. They wanted everyone to feel a little bit afraid of them, a little bit dazzled. But Jesus? Jesus did something completely unexpected.

Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. A donkey! Not a great war horse, not a golden chariot — a humble, clip-clopping donkey. But here's the secret: this wasn't an accident. Hundreds of years before Jesus was even born, a prophet named Zechariah wrote that the true King would come exactly like this — gentle, and riding on a donkey. Jesus was sending a message to everyone watching: "I am not a king who comes to conquer with weapons. I am a king who comes to serve with love."

That's what makes Jesus so unlike any other king or leader the world has ever seen. He was the most powerful person who ever lived, and He used that power to wash His friends' feet, to heal the hurting, to welcome children, and to give His own life for us. Real greatness, Jesus showed us, looks like giving — not grabbing. It looks like kneeling down to help someone, not standing tall to impress them.

When we wave our palm branches, we're not just celebrating a hero on a horse. We're celebrating a King who chose love over power, every single time.

# What Does "Hosanna" Really Mean?

The crowd on Palm Sunday shouted one word over and over again – Hosanna! Let's find out why that one word carries so much meaning, and what it means for us to say it today.

## Key Verse

"The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'" – Matthew 21:9

## Today's Story

Have you ever needed help so badly that you called out as loud as you could? Maybe you were stuck somewhere, or scared, or just really needed someone to come quickly. That feeling – that deep, urgent "please come and help me!" – is exactly what the word "Hosanna" originally meant. In Hebrew, it literally means "Save us, we pray!" or "Please save!"

But by the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the word had grown to mean something even bigger. It had become a shout of joy and praise, a way of saying "You are the one who saves! Hooray for You!" The people calling out that day were doing both things at once – they were praising Jesus for all He had already done, and they were crying out, "We need You. Save us. Be our King!"

Isn't that beautiful? When we say "Hosanna," we are doing something very honest. We're admitting that we need a Savior, and at the same time we're celebrating that we have one. It's like saying "Thank You, Jesus, for coming – because we really, truly needed You." And we did. We all do. Every single day, not just on Palm Sunday, we can say Hosanna – because every day, Jesus is still our saving King.

### Question 1

What does "Hosanna" mean, and why does it have two meanings at once?

### Question 2

Is there something in your life right now where you need Jesus to "save" or help you?

### Question 3

How does it feel to know you can cry out to Jesus anytime, just like the crowd did?

## Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, Hosanna! I praise You because You are my King, and I need You because You are my Savior. Thank You for hearing me when I call out to You. Help me never to forget how much I need You and how glad I am that You came. Amen.

# When the Celebration Gets Hard

## Key Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

## Today's Story

Palm Sunday is full of joy and celebration — but if we keep reading the story, we know that the week doesn't stay easy. By Friday, the same crowd that was shouting "Hosanna!" had grown quiet. Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and crucified on a cross. It can feel confusing, even a little sad, to think about how quickly things changed.

But here's what we need to know: Jesus knew exactly what was coming when He rode into Jerusalem that day. He wasn't surprised. He wasn't afraid. He rode in on that donkey with His eyes wide open, because He loved us so much that He was willing to go through the very hardest thing imaginable for our sake.

Think about the bravest thing you've ever done for someone you love. Maybe you stood up for a friend who was being teased, even though you were scared. Maybe you gave up something you really wanted so that someone else could have it. That took courage and love, didn't it? Now imagine doing something a million times harder — and doing it for the whole world. That's what Jesus did for us during Holy Week.

The celebration of Palm Sunday and the sorrow of Good Friday are not opposites — they are two parts of the same great love story. Jesus came as a King, not to wear a golden crown, but to wear a crown of thorns, so that one day we could share in His glory forever. The palm branches we wave today are seeds of the joy that Easter Sunday brings.

## Reflection Questions

- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus knew what was coming and still chose to come?
- Has there ever been a time you did something hard because you loved someone? What happened?
- Why do you think we need both Palm Sunday AND Good Friday to understand the Easter story?

## Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for being brave enough to love us all the way to the cross. When life gets hard and confusing, help me to remember that Your love for me never, ever stopped — not even for a moment. Help me to trust You, even when I don't understand everything. Amen.

# We Are Part of the Story!

Today is the final day of our Palm Sunday devotional – and the most exciting truth of all. You are not just reading about something that happened long ago. You are invited to be part of this story right now!

## Key Verse

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." – 1 Peter 2:9

## Today's Story

On the very first Palm Sunday, children in the temple shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David!" so loudly that the religious leaders told Jesus to make them stop. Jesus said that if the people were silent, the very stones would cry out – that's how worthy He is of our praise!

You are chosen to be a praise-giver. You have a voice, a story, and a life that can point people to the King. Every day is an opportunity to throw down your palm branches before the King of Kings and say, "I believe in You. I love You. Hosanna!"

Every time you choose kindness, every time you tell a friend about Jesus, every time you pray – you are waving your own palm branch for the King. We don't have to wait for one special Sunday to celebrate Jesus. We can welcome Him as our King every single morning when we wake up and say, "Jesus, You are in charge of my day today!"

### Reflection Question 1

How has this week's devotional changed the way you think about Palm Sunday?

### Reflection Question 2

What is one way you can "wave your palm branch" for Jesus this week at home or school?

### Reflection Question 3

Who is one person you can share the Palm Sunday story with before Easter Sunday?

## This Week's Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the gift of Your Son Jesus – our King, our Savior, our very best Friend. Thank You for letting us be part of this incredible story. As we move through Holy Week and toward Easter Sunday, keep our hearts full of "Hosanna." Help us to welcome You every day, to love others like You loved us, and to share Your story with everyone around us. We love You, Jesus. Hosanna – forever and always! In Jesus's name, Amen.