

Palm Sunday Story Circle

This is an interactive way of telling a story.

Ask the children to stand in one large circle. Divide the group into four groups (or into two if numbers are smaller then give each group 2 parts). A leader reads the story and group one listens and responds by doing the actions. Everyone else watches. Then group 2 take over and so on. Ensure that your leaders join in and do the actions enthusiastically so that they encourage the children to participate. You can give a prize to the best group if you like.

Group 1

Jesus and his disciples were walking to Jerusalem. It was hot and the road was stony and dusty. They wiped the sweat from their foreheads and shook stones out of their sandals as they went.

Suddenly Jesus stopped and pointing into the distance, said to two of his disciples "Go to that village over there and as soon as you enter it you will find a young donkey tied up. Untie it and bring it to me."

The disciples were worried about taking the donkey, but Jesus said "if anyone asks say the master needs it!"

The disciples set off walking quickly towards the village but as it was still very hot they soon slowed their pace. They trudged along feeling very thirsty. At last they reached the entrance of the village and stopped at a well. They pulled their water jars from their belts and tied the rope around them and then threw them into the well. They listened for a.....[pause] SPLASHHHH! They pulled the rope and pulled and pulled until they had pulled the water jars back up. The two disciples took a long drink of water and wiped their mouths with their sleeves.

Group 2

Just in front of them tied up was a young donkey, just like Jesus said. They disciples tiptoed over to the donkey and carefully untied the rope from the wooden post. They clicked their tongues and pulled the rope "Come on boy" they said, but the donkey wouldn't move. The disciples pulled at the rope, they pulled and heaved and pulled some more, but the little donkey was stubborn and wouldn't budge. All of a sudden it gave the disciples a great big kick in the shins with its back leg. WHACK!!

“OUCH, OUCH, OUCH” The disciples cried in pain and rubbed their poor sore legs. Just then the owner of the donkey came running over. He looked really cross and was wagging his finger at the two disciples. “What do you think you are doing untying my donkey!” he shouted. He snatched the rope away from the disciples.

Group 3

The two disciples took a couple of steps back. They were a bit afraid of this fierce looking man. “Eh, the master needs it” they said.

“The owner started to smile. “Oh that’s ok then, why didn’t you say. Of course the master must have him. It would be an honour.” He bowed down low before them. He handed them the rope and gave the donkey a slap on the bum. Off you go then. The little donkey trotted happily away with the disciples.

Group 4

When they got back to Jesus, the disciples put their coats on the donkey’s back and helped Jesus to climb on. They led the donkey and Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. Everyone came running out of their houses and crowded around Jesus. Some pulled palm branches off the trees and waved them in the air as Jesus rode past. Some put their coats on the ground so that Jesus could ride on them.

They shouted “Hosanna to King Jesus, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” The Pharisees were angry because they hated Jesus and wanted rid of him. They muttered to each other and tried to stop people from praising Jesus, but Jesus said to them “If the people kept quiet, the stones themselves would cry out praises”

