

## SESSION 7

### Unit 2: Seeds of Faith

**Faith Focus:** Jesus helps us grow in our faith.

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)*

## GROW IN FAITH

### Grow Through Praise—Matthew 21:1-11

Today's story is a familiar one—Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which we celebrate each year on Palm Sunday. We often wave palm branches and shout, "Hosanna!" But regardless of how you honor or celebrate this day, it is clear that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was unique and full of excitement and praise.

Prior to Jesus' entry into the city, he sent two of his disciples into a village to borrow a donkey and a colt for him to ride. This instruction was making a powerful statement that Jesus was different. In those times a Roman commander would ride a powerful horse. But Jesus is the leader of a quite distinct kind of kingdom. Jesus came as a peaceful leader to teach people to love and serve one another. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding humbly on a donkey rather than pompously on a warhorse. Just as the crowd celebrated Jesus on that day long ago, we continue to celebrate Jesus as a leader we can all follow and praise every day!

- Wave palm branches.
- Learn about different leaders.
- Explore praise through music.

## SESSION OUTLINE

### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us  
Grow in Our Faith

Palm Sunday Banner (Craft)

### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

### FUN WITH FAITH

Praise Parade  
(Music and Movement)

Cloak Relay (Game)

### SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

## SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

hole punch

yarn

CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or  
streaming device

permanent markers

plastic eggs

dry beans or lentils

masking tape

bath towels



# COME TOGETHER

## Prepare to Learn

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

**Prepare Ahead:** Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13), Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19), and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the donkey sticker on the Session 7 space.

**SAY:** We are learning stories about how Jesus can help us grow in our faith. As we explore the stories from Jesus' life together, we learn more about how to follow Jesus' example of sharing God's love with the world.

**ASK:** What do you think it means to have faith?

## Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us Grow in Our Faith

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack, crayons

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19). Photocopy "Palm Sunday Maze" (Leader Guide—p. 52) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the "Palm Sunday Maze."

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we hear how Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem as a sign that he was a good and kind leader for all people. The crowds of people in Jerusalem praised him as he went through the city. We remember this day each year, called "Palm Sunday," by praising Jesus in our church.

**ASK:** What does it mean to praise? How do you show that you celebrate a person or an event?

- Give children time and space to solve the maze and color the page.

## Palm Sunday Banner

**Supplies:** Activity Sheets, scissors, hole punch, yarn

**Prepare Ahead:** Tear out "Palm Sunday Banner" (Session 7 Activity Sheet) for each child.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, people praise Jesus and welcome him to Jerusalem by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" It was a joyful celebration!



- Give each child a copy of “Palm Sunday Banner.”
- Help the children cut out the palm branches on the page. Then help them punch a hole in each palm leaf.
- Show the children how to string the palms onto a piece of yarn, tying a knot at each end so the leaves will not fall off.
- Display these banners around your class space.

## FAITH CONNECTIONS

### Read the Story

**Supplies:** *CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**SAY:** Jesus entered Jerusalem and it was kind of like a parade.

**ASK:** What kind of parades have you been to or seen? What was it like? What happened at the parade?

### Big Faith Video

**Supplies:** *Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 7 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the video?

### Faith Response

**Supplies:** *All-Ages Class Pack, permanent markers*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Display the Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) and Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven’t already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

**ASK:** What does it mean to praise God? How do we praise God in church? How can we praise God outside of church?



- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.

**ASK:** How do you feel like praising God today?

- As the children share, invite them to use a permanent marker to draw or write on the poster how they want to praise God today. You may wish to suggest prayer, music, singing, sharing, or helping others as options for how to praise God.
- Allow all children to make their marks on the poster.

*Tip: If you have a large group, you might consider laminating your poster and letting children use a dry-erase marker to respond so that you can use it week to week. You may also choose to let children respond on sticky notes and place those on the poster.*

## FUN WITH FAITH

### Praise Parade

**Supplies:** plastic eggs, dry beans or lentils, masking tape

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we heard how people celebrated Jesus visiting the city of Jerusalem. Some people celebrate by singing or dancing or joining a parade.

- Give each child a plastic egg and have them open it. Direct the children to put a handful of beans or lentils in the egg and close it. Help children tape their eggs shut with masking tape so the beans will not fall out.
- Line the children up and parade around your class space. Have the child at the front of the line use their egg shaker to make a pattern that the others follow. Make sure to switch leaders so all children have a chance to lead the parade.

**SAY:** Praising Jesus is not just for people long ago. We can praise Jesus every day, wherever we are. We praise Jesus each time we tell the stories of his life, when we act as good friends, and when we celebrate him with our church family.

### Cloak Relay

**Supplies:** bath towels, masking tape

**Prepare Ahead:** Clear a large space in your area to play, at least 10' by 15'. Use masking tape to mark the ends of the space, creating a starting line and a finish line.

**ASK:** What did people throw on the ground in front of Jesus as he rode the donkey into Jerusalem? (*their cloaks*)



**SAY:** People watching Jesus threw cloaks on the ground to honor Jesus. Cloaks are kind of like coats are today, protecting us from the weather.

- Divide the children into groups of four. Have two children from each group stand on the starting line, and the other two children stand on the finish line.
- Give each group a towel. Have the first child at the starting line put the towel around both shoulders like a cloak.
- When you say “Hosanna,” have the first in line run from the starting line to the finish line. That child tags the next person in their group, who puts on the cloak and runs back to the starting line. The group continues until all four children have worn the cloak and run to the opposite side.
- The first group to complete the relay wins.

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack*

*Prepare Ahead:* Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21) and the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven’t already. Photocopy the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) as needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we learned how great big crowds of people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem. The people praised Jesus because they had faith that he would help them.

**ASK:** Who do you have faith in? Who do you know will help you?

- Invite the children to make a gesture of praise as you read the Bible verse from the Bible Verse Poster. They may wish to raise their hands in the air, clap, jump up and down, wave their hands, smile and cheer, or think of their own gestures.

**PRAY:** God, we praise you for sending Jesus to teach us about faith. Help us live with joy and gratitude. Amen.

- Send the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn’t received them.
- Also send home any activities or items made during today’s session.



## REPRODUCIBLE

## SESSION 7

## Palm Sunday Maze

Solve the maze to get Jesus through the parade on the donkey.



Art: Omar Aranda/Gwen Walters Artists' Representative