Palm Sunday Lesson For Kids:

**BOTTOM LINE**: **Jesus came to save us!**

**KEY PASSAGE**: Matthew 21:1-11 The Triumphal Entry

**MEMORY 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 (NIV)

As an introduction, invite children to name someone famous.

**ASK:** How would you feel if this person visited our home today? What kinds of things might we do to get ready for the visit?

**SAY:** Today, we will read about an important visit from an important person. Listen to find out who came to visit and what the people did.

**READ:** Matthew 21:1-11 with great expression.

**ASK:**

* How was the story different from what you thought it might be?
* What would you do to get ready if you knew Jesus was coming to visit our town?
* Why might we decide that Jesus is the Son of God after hearing this story? *(He knew about the donkey; people called Him blessed.)*

**Activity**

***Materials:*** *Large sheet of paper, rolled-up blanket (or small section of material) for each child, paper palm branches, rope (for leading imaginary donkey), markers*

**ASK:** In our story, the people called Jesus “blessed.” What words do we use to tell Jesus how special He is?

Talk about praise words. List ideas on a large sheet of paper as you talk together. Use discussion questions such as: What do people say to thank or praise one another? What do people say to you to praise you or thank you? What might we say to God?

Have children write praise words on their paper palm leaves.

Hand each child a blanket that is rolled up.

**SAY:** Today we will pretend to be part of the crowd welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem.

Prepare the scene and ask the children to use their imaginations to see Jesus and the donkey. Choose a child to lead the donkey. (Have the child slowly walk down the center of the room, holding a rope over the shoulder as though leading a donkey.)

As the child leads the donkey, the crowd will unroll blankets or lay down the palm branches for the child and donkey to walk on.

**SAY:** “Blessed is the one who comes from the family of David!”

After the sentence is read, invite the children to add their own praise words (listed earlier). They can wave palm branches.

**ASK:**

* What did the people in today’s story do to praise Jesus, the Son of God? *(waved palm branches; sang “Hosanna!”, which means “save us now;” they treated Jesus like a king*)
* What words did they say to praise Jesus? *(Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*)
* What can you do to praise Jesus, God’s Son? *(pray, sing, draw, write)*
* What words can you say to praise Jesus? *(Recall praise words mentioned earlier)*

End the session by singing songs that praise Jesus.

**Craft**: Print the next page on green paper and cut palm leaves out before lesson *(or after for the kids to re-enact the lesson)* OR use the link for a template to cut large green sheets of construction paper

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/images/bpalm.gif>

