

# Palm Sunday - Family Activities

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-16

## Game - Make a Motion!

In our Bible story, the people waved palm branches and shouted out praises to Jesus as he rode by. When the Pharisees told Jesus to make them stop, Jesus told them that if the people were quiet, even the stones would burst out in cheers. Explore that by playing a game!

Everyone sits in a circle. Pick someone to be the leader to stand in the center of the circle. The leader will randomly call out either "praise" or "stones." When you say "praise," those in the circle will wave their hands over their heads like they're waving palm branches. When you say "stones," they will curl into a ball on the ground and cheer. Once everyone understands the actions, begin the game. Start out slowly calling either "praise" or "stones." Then begin calling out the commands faster and faster until they can't keep up.

## Talk About the Game

- It was hard to keep up in this game. When is it hard for you to remember to praise Jesus?

Sometimes we're moving so fast or are so focused on other things that we forget that Jesus is the King. The Bible reminds us that as King, Jesus deserves our praise. Even the stones would recognize that Jesus is the King.

## Craft- Fans of Jesus

Print and cut out [this palm branch](#). (You might need to look at the print settings as it was designed as 11x17.) Alternatively, you can draw and cut out your own palm leaf shapes. To decorate the leaf, take one or two spinach leaves. Have kids use their fists to hammer the leaves onto the palm, staining it with green on both sides. One leaf should be enough to cover the entire fan. Don't have spinach? Green markers or crayons will work. To make fans out of their leaves, have kids accordion fold them. Then have each child use tape to secure craft sticks to the bottom of the leaf as a handle. On the handle, kids can write "I'm a fan of King Jesus."

Talk About It: • How does your leaf fan remind you of the way people worshipped Jesus?

Jesus is the King! He deserves our worship. Sometimes kings have people to fan them so they don't get too hot. In the Bible story, people used palm leaves to worship Jesus. We can remember to worship Jesus as a king and be his biggest "fans"! You can fan others and share why you are a "fan" of Jesus!

## Through the Week

One day this week, lay some old towels along a hallway or common area of your house. Whenever you pass by or walk on the path, remember that King Jesus lives in your house! Praise him! At the end of the day, pick up the towels and talk together about how you can honor Jesus as a King all the time.