

UNIT 1: REMEMBER • SESSION 4:

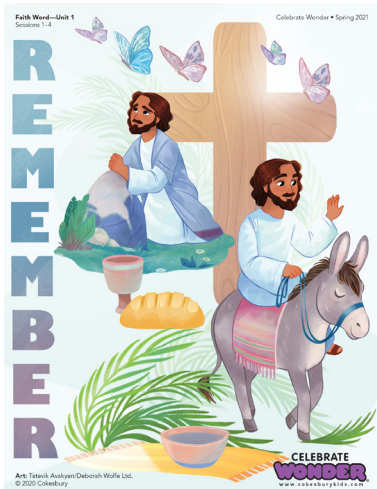
“Jesus Enters Jerusalem”

MATTHEW 21:1-11

JESUS ASKS US TO REMEMBER:

As we are moving through Lent and getting closer to Easter, we remember the stories of Holy Week - Jesus' last week on earth. Today we are exploring the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem at the beginning of the week.

We refer to his day as Palm Sunday. Jesus asks his disciples to bring a young donkey to him to ride in as a King of Peace not on a big horse as a King of War. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, crowds gathered on the road to greet him as people greeted royalty, by waving branches and spreading leaves and garments across the ground to make a colorful path. When we think of Holy Week we are **remembering Jesus**.



Do this in remembrance of me.
Luke 22:19c



BIBLE STORY: This story is found in all 4 of the Gospels. This version is taken from the book of Matthew.

Jesus and his followers were close to the city of Jerusalem. They could smell the spices from the shops and hear the people buying what they needed inside the city walls. Jesus asked two of the followers to get a donkey and a donkey colt for

him to ride. The two followers found the donkey and her colt and brought them back to Jesus. The followers placed their clothes on the donkey's back and placed Jesus on the donkey. A large crowd met Jesus at the city gate of Jerusalem. The crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off of trees and laid them down on the road. The crowd shouted praises, saying, "Hosanna! Blessings! Hosanna!" The whole city was excited. "Who is this? The people in the city asked. The crowd told the people, "This is the prophet Jesus."

This story helps us pay attention to how we welcome people. Do you smile when you meet someone? Do you show excitement when someone comes to see you? Do you give people your full attention? Do you offer hospitality? How do you welcome Jesus into your life? We welcome our faith to teach us to be followers so that we, too, can welcome others and treat others the way we would like to be treated.

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

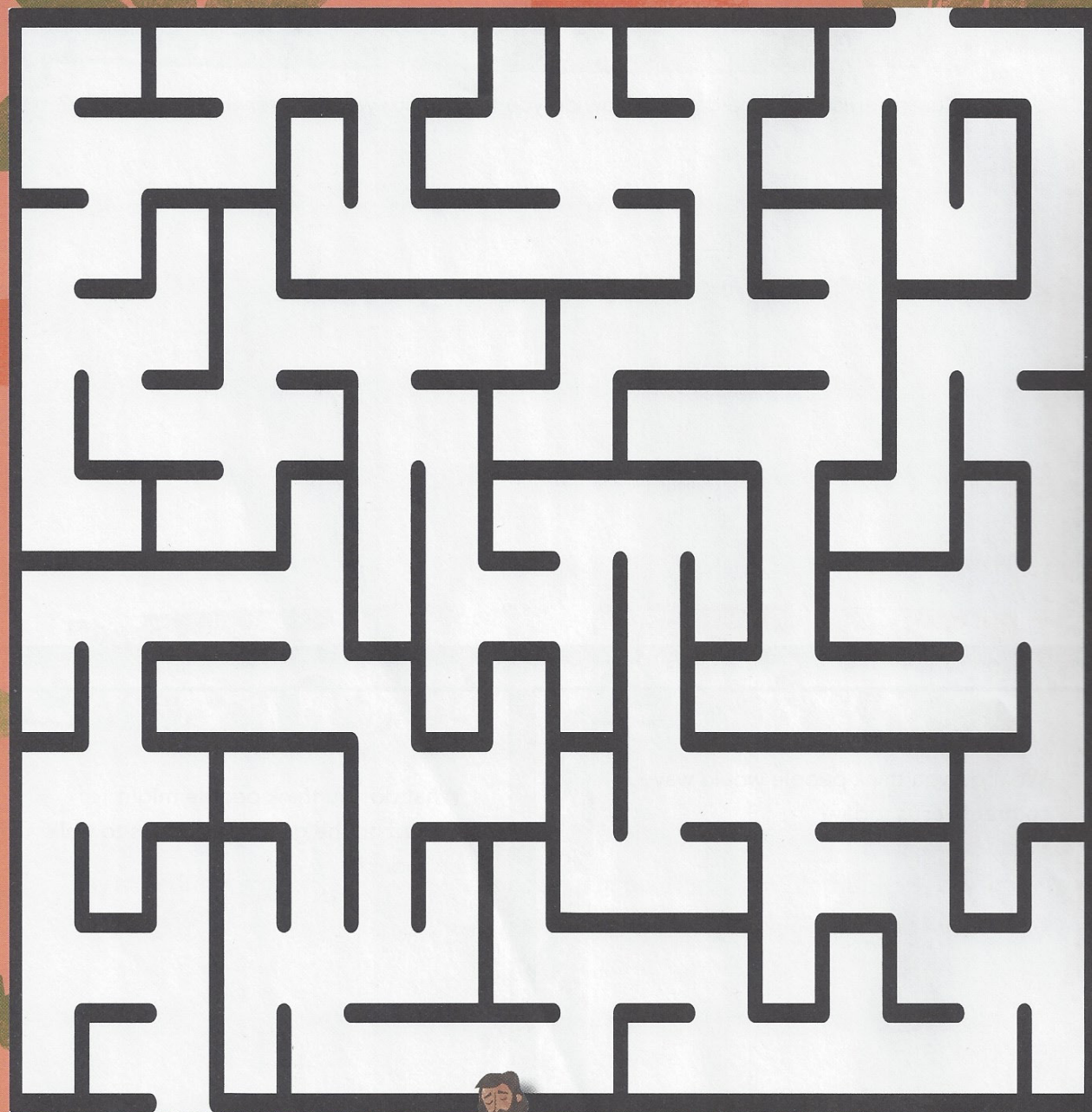
- How do you celebrate Palm Sunday? Find a branch on the ground to raise up high and wave.
- Why do you think Jesus rode in on a young donkey instead of big horse?
- When do remember being greeted in a special way? How did it make you feel?
- What do you think the crowds of people thought when they saw Jesus? What do you think Jesus was thinking as he entered into the city of Jerusalem?
- How do you think Jesus would be welcomed today?
- **People often have welcome mats outside their front doors to make people feel good about entering their home. This week make a welcome mat for your room. What would you draw or write on it to make people feel welcome to enter your room.**
- As you prepare for Holy Week, think about the word **welcome**. Use the following acronym:
Welcome Everyone Let Christ Open My Eyes.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

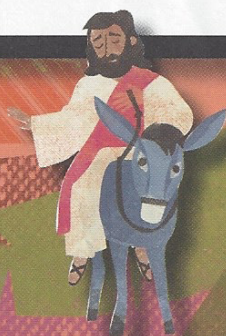
Jesus Arrives

Help Jesus find his way from Bethphage to Jerusalem.

BETHPHAGE



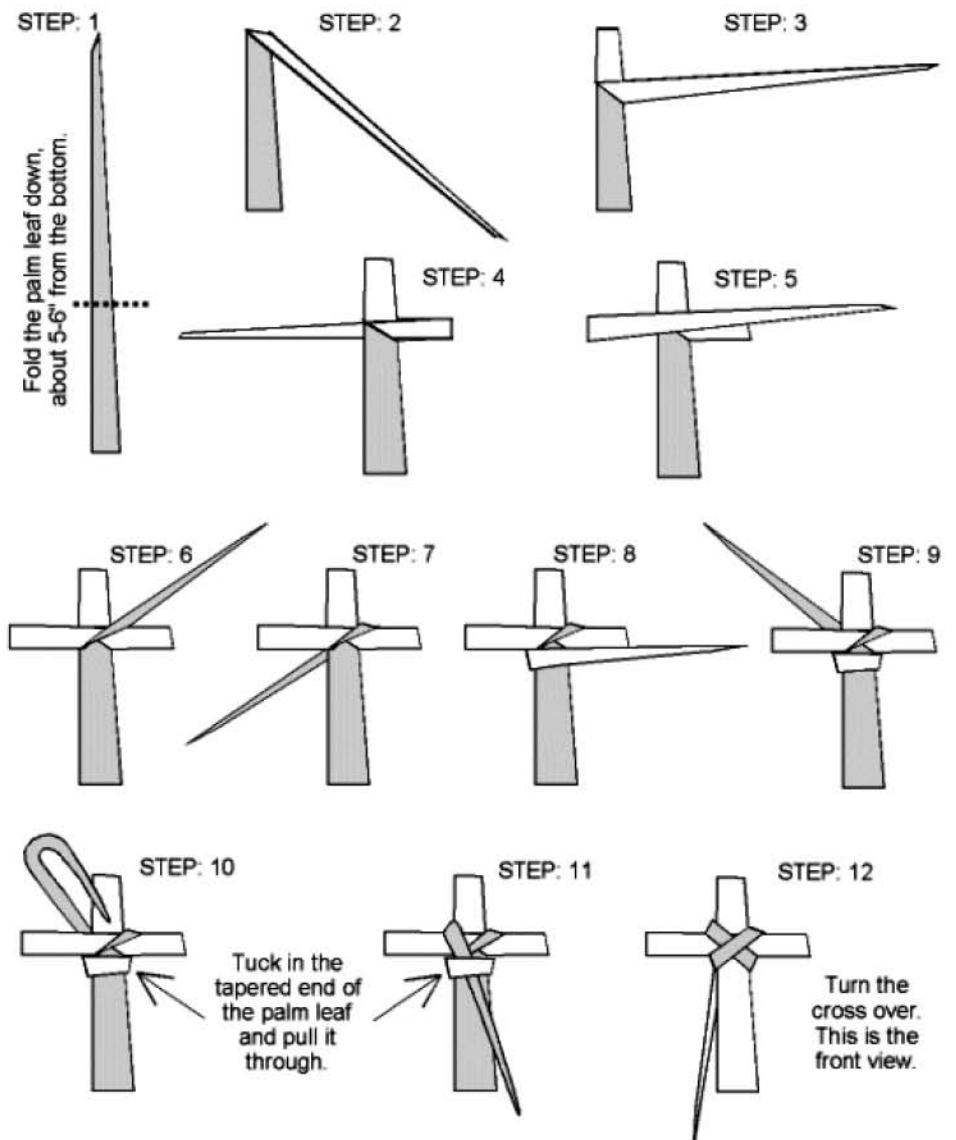
JERUSALEM



Palm Frond

Cross Folding Directions

Palm Sunday



If you do not have a palm frond, cut two strips of paper 11" tall x 1/2" wide. Cut one of the pieces at an angle so it becomes a tall skinny triangle. Tape the 2 pieces together. This becomes your palm frond.
(Examples at left not to scale.)

Now you can follow the folding directions above.

