

This Artical was written by

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Richard M. Davis

Editor of Word Aflame Publications

## SUNDAY SCHOOL DIVISION—PALM SUNDAY 2005

### THE ROAD OF PRAISE

#### Scripture Text

Luke 19:28-40

28 And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem.

29 And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,

30 Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.

31 And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.

32 And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.

33 And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?

34 And they said, The Lord hath need of him.

35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.

37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

### **Memory Verse**

“Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Luke 19:38).

### **Lesson Aim**

To learn about Palm Sunday and to praise the Lord.

### **POWER Line**

I will praise the Lord.

### **Schedule**

I. POWER of Worship (25-30 minutes)

A. POWER Welcome (8-10 minutes)

1. Craft: Praise Rocks!
2. Energy Outlet: Action Song

B. Praise Generators (5-6 minutes)

1. Truth Conductor: What Is Palm Sunday?
2. Praise Chorus

C. Prayer Time (5-6 minutes)

#### D. Offering (5-6 minutes)

1. Truth Conductor: Object Lesson—One Stone at a Time
2. What is SOC?

#### II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

##### A. Memory Work (4-6 minutes) Sorting: Build a Road

##### B. Illustrated Sermon (12-15 minutes)

###### The Road of Praise (Praise Chorus)

##### C. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

### Supply List

- Craft: Praise Rocks!: smooth rocks in various shapes and sizes, but large enough to see handwritten words, waterproof acrylic paints and brushes, puffy paint (optional)
- Offering: rocks and pebbles in a bucket, offering plate or appropriate container, a small cross
- Memory Verse: The verse written on big paper or cardboard stones, one word per stone. Make two or three sets depending on the size of your class. The words "I will praise the Lord," written the same way for the POWer Line.
- Lesson Props: suitcases, coats/capes, plastic grapes or fruit, swords, sandals, oranges to juggle, stuffed animals/lambs, stick horse, palm branches

### Before the Session

- Room Décor: use brown craft paper to make a big curving road on the wall or directly on the floor. Post a sign with an arrow pointing to Jerusalem. Add palm trees or bushes.
- Craft: rinse the rocks to remove any dirt and let them dry. Spray paint a base coat of white acrylic paint to the top and sides of each rock. Set up work area(s) and supplies.
- Offering: Set up the small cross within a few feet of your offering plate or appropriate container. Start a path of rocks from the offering plate to the cross.
- Memory Work: write the memory verse on posterboard or on the road.
- Purchase palm branches or any big leaf branch—usually available from local florists this time of year, or make large branches from green posterboard.
- Select a teen or another helper to play the part of Jesus. Make a stick horse for him to ride. Have your lesson props in a box for easy access during the story time.
- Read the account of Palm Sunday for background.

## POWER of Worship

### Welcome (8-10 minutes)

As the children enter, direct them to the craft "Praise Rocks!" Children decorate the rocks with words of praise (Hallelujah, Praise the Lord, Glory to God, Thank You Jesus, etc.). For extra flourish add puffy paint. When children have completed the project, set the rocks aside to dry.

### POWER Line

**Let's do some praising today!** Pass out the POWER Line stones you prepared to five children. Ask them to hold up their stone as the class says three times, "**I will praise the Lord!**" Then each child must pass his stone to someone else (who didn't have one the first time). Repeat the POWER Line three more times.

### Energy Outlet

Lead the children in the happy song, "Ho, ho, ho, ho-sannah, Ha, ha, hal-le-lujah, He, He, He, He saved me, I've got the joy of the Lord."

Each time through the chorus, add another action: hopping on one foot, waving your left hand, patting your tummy with your right hand, hopping back and forth from foot to foot, etc.

### What is Palm Sunday?

**In olden days when people heard that the king was coming to their town, they would line the streets awaiting his arrival. When he came into sight they would wave and shout hurrahs and other words of welcome as he walked or rode down the street. Sometimes they would throw their coats or capes on the ground in front of him so that he would not have to walk on the dirty ground. This was a sign of respect and honor. They did this because they believed their king was special.**

**In our Bible story today, some people felt the same way about Jesus. They were so excited they ripped palm branches off of the trees and waved them before Jesus as He came by. This happened right before Easter—right before Jesus was crucified. Today is the Sunday before Easter, so we call it Palm Sunday and we praise the Lord and recognize Him as King just like those people did long ago. You are going to praise the Lord today, aren't you? What does our POWER Line say? I will praise the Lord!**

Sing a praise chorus.

### **Prayer Time (5-6 minutes)**

**One reason we praise the Lord is because He answers our prayers. Can anyone tell me how He has answered a prayer for you?** Allow children to respond. Relate how the Lord answered a prayer for you. **When we pray we can be sure the Lord will answer our prayers.** Ask children for prayer requests. Ask the Lord to bless your children's service today. **Now let's thank the Lord and praise Him because we know He will answer our prayers!**

### **Offering**

**The Romans who ruled during Jesus' time were great road builders. Some of their roads are still around today, more than 2,000 years later because they built such good roads. The Romans built their roads one stone at a time. We are building roads that help kids with the money we give to Save our Children. The SOC offering helps pay for Junior Bible Quizzing, camps, crusades, and teacher training. As you come up to give your offering, add a rock to the road we've started from the offering plate all the way to the cross. Our money helps kids find the road to Jesus.**

### **POWER of the Word (25-30 minutes)**

### **Memory Work (4-6 minutes)**

Show children the pile of rocks you prepared with the memory verse written on them. Have groups of three to five children work on identical piles, putting the rocks in order, building a road to understanding. **Work with your group to build a road that shows our memory verse. Each rock has one word of the memory verse written on it.**

After children have assembled the verse, ask them to grab a stone and get into a line in correct order as you walk around the room singing, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Change the last line of the song to, "Blessed be the king that comes in the name of the Lord."

### **Illustrated Sermon (12-15 minutes)**

Have the students sit on the floor in two lines, facing each other, creating a road down the middle. (If you prepared a road in the middle of the floor, seat children on each side.) Select students before the story begins to act out certain parts. Provide props. Have palm branches nearby to give to children as Jesus comes by. Ask the helper who is portraying Jesus to go out of the room or off to the side until it is time for him to come down the road.

Ask the students to stand along the roadside as they are called on to act out the parts of observers and witnesses. More than one child can represent an occupation or role.

The acting out of this story may cause a lot of commotion. Point out to the children that there was probably a lot of commotion and chaos in the streets when Jesus passed by. The crowds did not sit by the road gently waving palm branches as He passed.

**Jerusalem was a busy city and busier than usual for the Passover festival. Lots of people were on the streets. Roman soldiers guarded the gates and were watchful for any sign of disturbance.** (Have two boys stand at attention at the end of each line of children.)

**Travelers from far away were coming into the city for the festival.** (Give a couple of students suitcases to carry down the road.)

**Merchants were selling food** (a student passes out the plastic fruit) **and clothing** (sandal shopkeeper waves a pair of shoes) **and animals for sacrifices** (student carries stuffed animals) **along the road to get the best stream of traffic.**

**Entertainers were trying to earn some money** (juggler with a hat to catch coins stands) **along the road, because that's where the crowds were.**

**There were also pickpockets along the road and con artists trying to rent out rooms that they didn't own to travelers** (needs no representation).

**As with all busy streets and places, there were good and bad people rushing all around.**

**Everyone was talking about the Miracle Man, Jesus, who was coming through today.**

**This was going to be exciting! Everyone wanted to see Him. They told each other stories about the miracles that Jesus was supposed to have performed. Maybe He would perform a miracle today.**

**First they heard singing and shouting from a long way off. Then as they all craned their heads to look** (have your class look to one end of their road) **He came into sight on a donkey.** (Give a prearranged signal so you helper will know it is time for Jesus' entry.) **The people yelled "Hosanna!" and "Hallelujah!" and "Blessed be the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

**They grabbed palm tree branches and waved them.** (Give each child a palm branch.) **They threw their coats** (throw the coats, capes, scarves) **into the road for the King to pass over. Some people who did not believe in Jesus and were jealous of Him complained about the noise. "Make these people stop yelling and saying You are king!" But Jesus answered, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"**

**This was a road of praise. It was time to praise the Lord. If the people didn't praise the Lord, then Jesus said the rocks in the road would start praising Him.**

**I don't want the rocks to praise the Lord for me. I'm going to praise Him! Use your palm branches and march down this road with me as we praise the Lord.** Sing, "Blessed be the name of the Lord" again—changing the last line to "Blessed the king that comes in the name of the Lord."

## **Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)**

Put the palm branches aside and ask the children to be seated. In an atmosphere of praise, the Lord can fill your students with the Holy Ghost. Explain how they can receive the Holy Ghost.

**In our Bible story today, Jesus walked on a road of praise, but next week He walks a different road. Make sure you are here next week to see where it leads.**

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