Walk with Jesus

# Palm Sunday

You know, Easter eggs, Easter chicks and bunnies have been lining store shelves since Valentine’s Day. Have you noticed? Yet *our* Easter focus each year, a celebration that means so much to us, lasts little more than a few days.

This year, we decided to extend our Easter and take a little longer to more fully and deeply experience the excitement of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, the significance of the Last Supper, the darkness of Gethsemane, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the joy of His resurrection.

As you arrived this morning, each child should have received a Follow Jesus keepsake wristband to remind them of the life-changing sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us. Everyone received a collectible card, one of set of five. Please come each week for this special Walk with Jesus Easter experience and collect the whole series. Questions are printed on the back of each card for you to read, think through and discuss later with your friends and family. FamilyTime Together booklets, given to families, are filled with simple devotional activities to keep faith conversations continuing after the Walk with Jesus experience.

Sometimes, whether we’re adults or kids, it’s hard to imagine what it would really have been like when Jesus walked the dusty roads healing the sick and telling others of God’s love. So this morning, I want you to use your imagination… perhaps you could close your eyes to help you focus. Imagine you’re sinking your toes into the warm sand of a path that leads, not to the front of our church, but to a city- Jerusalem! (*Cue background soundtrack to start here.)* If your imagination is really working well, you might even hear some of the excited noise of Jerusalem. (*Throw a scarf or cloak over you to look more the part of a visitor to Jerusalem*.) Can you hear it? Open your eyes.

Welcome to the city gates of Jerusalem! Everyone comes this way to the city. You picked an exciting time to visit. Everyone’s very excited! Today, we’re expecting a very special guest- a king, Jesus. But I need to help you get ready.

When you arrived this morning, you should have been given a cardboard leaf. Take a few moments to discuss with those near you and come up with a cheer, a shout of praise for Jesus. Write it on your palm leaf.

*Wait a few moments before continuing…*

Jesus entered Jerusalem in a sort of parade. People were excited that he was coming. They’d heard about the amazing miracles He had performed and how he’d shown love to everyone. They wanted to follow Jesus. People stood on both sides of the road, shouting and cheering for Him. Everyone… stand up, hold up your palm leaves and cheer for Jesus’ arrival.

*Encourage everyone to join in cheering and waving their leaves.*

The people thought Jesus was coming to be their king on earth. They thought He would defeat the Romans who ruled over them. They thought they would be free. So they shouted, “Hosanna!” which means, save us. They didn’t realize that Jesus had come to save them from something that bound them much tighter than the Romans- their own sins.

As we sing a song of praise together to finish, I want you to come and lay your palm leaves on the path, just as the people did in Jerusalem so many years ago. (*‘Jesus’, whoever you have organized previously for this part, will walk down the path at the close of the singing.)*