

Week 27 Family Letter

God's People Praise Him: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

(Matthew 21:1-11)

All the people were excited. Jesus was coming to their town! The grown-ups were excited. The children were excited. They all wanted to see Jesus. They ran to the road to meet Him. Jesus came, riding on a donkey. The people remembered all the good things Jesus did. They remembered He fed the hungry people. They remembered He made sick people feel better. They didn't know that Jesus was coming for a special reason. Jesus knew He would soon die on the cross to forgive our sins. And Jesus knew that after three days He would come alive again at Easter. We have so many reasons to praise Jesus!

The people that day long ago shouted praises to Jesus. They shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" They took branches from the trees and waved them in the air. They took off their coats and put them in the road. It was like a parade to welcome Jesus. The people were so happy to see Him!

The next day, Jesus went to the temple church to worship God. The children saw Jesus. The children wanted to show Jesus how much they loved Him. They sang songs of praise to Jesus. We know Jesus loves us too. We praise and thank Him too.

Bible Words

**Great is the Lord, and greatly
to be praised.**

Psalm 145:3

Dear Family,

Point out the palm branches in the hands of the children in the Bible picture. Talk about what type of tree these branches grow on as your child colors the leaves green.

Explain that the children waved the branches to celebrate much like we wave flags and balloons to welcome someone. We can join in the celebration too. Jesus came to the people of Jerusalem, and by the way and means of His Word He comes to us! We praise His holy name in what we say and sing.

Point to pictures of crosses in your home or church. Explain that Jesus was coming to the town to die on the cross. He took that punishment in place of all people, like you and me. Talk about wrong things children sometimes do. Point out that grown-ups do wrong things too, even moms and dads. Grown-ups sometimes lose their temper, say mean words, lie, or don't do what they should do.

But Jesus loves us so much, He went to the cross to take away our sins. Anticipate the good news of Easter. Make the phrase "Jesus is alive!" a family theme. Read the story on page 389 of *The Story Bible* together.

