

Easter at Home Week 6

March 24th

Hi Parents and Kids of West Springs Church! Welcome back to week six of Easter at Home! We are excited you are continuing this journey of exploring Lent and Easter with your family. We hope and pray that throughout your time with Easter at Home you can connect with your family and make space for God to be present and speak to you. We also want to encourage you, throughout each week of Easter at Home, take photos of you and your family working through the activities, prayers, and discussions, we would love to see how it is going and share it with our church community!

This week we will be discussing Palm Sunday and begin to prepare ourselves for Good Friday and the Easter Cross. The material focuses on how Jesus' rode into town defying the expectations of everyone who saw him, even his closest friends. Where many expected a war leader on a great horse, Jesus chose to humble himself as a servant. The activity for this week is one where you should be actively involved with your children as you work through it, taking the time to help them as they have questions and discover more of their faith.

Scripture

Matthew 21: 1-11

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"^[a]

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[c]

"Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

-What do we learn of the way Jesus entered the city or of how people spoke of Him? Why did Matthew include the Old Testament references and how do they connect?

Reflection Question

What was your favorite part of Lent and what was the hardest part?

What does Palm Sunday teach us of Easter, Jesus, and God? How would you react to seeing Jesus ride into your town on a donkey with a large crowd following him cheering, yelling, and chanting?

Activity

This week's activity is a bit different. This week you will as a family work to write a prayer. This prayer doesn't have to be too long or complicated, and it doesn't need to follow the style of prayers that are written each week. Instead, your goal is to write the prayer as a family and use this prayer once a day for the whole week. Write a prayer that is easy to remember and connects to Easter and what you have learned about Lent. Use this time to ask questions about prayer and why we do it; "Why do we pray? How do we pray? Can you pray wrong or different?" And use this time to help your children feel comfortable praying out loud.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for Palm Sunday, that you rode towards the cross, not away from it. And that you defied our expectations and wants. Thank you Lord for how much you love us, that you would send your one and only Son. Help us to love those around us like you love them and teach us how to be patient and kind. Show us how to pray and help us to trust in you every day.

We pray this in your loving name,

Amen.