

Team Jesus

Readings	1) Deuteronomy 32:36-39 2) Philippians 2:5-11 3) Luke 22:1–23:56 (The Passion of Christ)
Scripture Focus	Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-40
Take Away	Palm frond cross – if you make it for them.
Aids (pics, props, etc.)	If you have access to palm fronds, you can have kids do this in Sunday School. Palm frond cross video: https://youtu.be/wpjO_S99fEA?si=P9Yo-xS2IcJcDGw8
Message In the Bible, palm trees and branches were special. People would use them and wave them to celebrate victory or winning, joy, and peace. That's why they were used on Palm Sunday. The people looked at Jesus as their King and waved them and put them on the ground in front of him like a green carpet. We wave palms too, to celebrate everything Jesus did for us from today until Easter morning. It was a very busy week for Jesus. Even though he tried to tell his disciples, they never really knew what was going to happen after he came riding into Jerusalem on the back of a colt (a young boy donkey). Jesus was going to have one last special dinner with his disciples (closest friends), one of them would tell the leaders where to find him. He would be taken away, beat up, and nailed to a cross even though he didn't do anything wrong. He would die, but then... he would wake up from being dead and see his disciples again. Hooray! Jesus is the winner!! (Wave hands – or palms if there's room and it's a good idea for the age and number of the kids.) That makes everyone on TEAM JESUS a winner, too. Is Jesus your friend? Are you on Team Jesus? Say it with me, "Hooray! I'm on TEAM JESUS!" (Then, have the congregation do it with them.) "Hooray! I'm on Team Jesus!" Sometimes the palm branches are very big, so we can't wave them, but we can do something else with them. We can take one of their fronds (kind of like a palm leaf) and make it into a cross to remind us that we're on Team Jesus. It's kind of tricky though, so: 1) We made one for you. 2) You're going to make one in Sunday School today. Hooray! Jesus is the winner! Let's pray.	
Repeat Prayer	Dear Jesus, You are always the winner / and you make us winners too. Help us to remember / that we're on Team Jesus. Thank you for loving us. We love you. Amen.