

ACTIVITY TIME!!!

Activity

Materials:

Markers, Poster board

When Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he does so in a unique way. Other leaders of his day would have big processions through the city, wearing armor and riding horses. In fact, Pontius Pilate did this on the same day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on his donkey. These displays were meant to show how wealthy and powerful the leaders were.

Jesus, however, was a different kind of leader and his entry into Jerusalem demonstrated that by not having all the traditional displays of power.

The people who bore witness to Jesus' entry into the city praised him and showed their support of him by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" as he passed by. These were signs of support for Jesus as a leader. "Hosanna" means "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." By shouting this when Jesus passed, they affirmed he was sent by God. Palm branches suggested victory or triumph, so when the people waved them, they celebrated and showed their belief in Jesus' power.

Today, we often encourage and celebrate political or civic leaders by showing up to large gatherings called rallies and holding up signs supporting the values they believe in and advocate for.

Brainstorm together a list of Jesus' qualities and messages he taught demonstrating the kind of leader he was.

Make signs celebrating those qualities and teachings you brainstormed to show support for Jesus and the kind of leader he is.

Alternate Activity

In addition to making signs at rallies for leaders we want to celebrate and support, we also often shout words and phrases of encouragement or support for what the leader believes in and fights for. Brainstorm together the qualities and messages of Jesus that made him a unique leader.

Then, as though you were at a rally, come up with some phrases you could call out to Jesus to show you support him and the kind of leader he is. What kind of people did Jesus help or serve? How did he teach people to treat each other? How can you translate those teachings into brief cheers and phrases?

Let's pretend Jesus is arriving in the place where you live today. As a group, practice cheering him on with the phrases you chose. Depending on the size of your group, you can have people take turns playing the role of Jesus arriving while everyone else cheers and calls out their support.