



## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

We should praise God for saving us from our sins.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will share a reason they want to praise God.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Mark 11:1-10, Palm Sunday

### **INTRO:**

When you think about Easter, you think about science. Don't you? Come on, how can you not think about science at Easter? Easter is full of amazing science questions. For example: Where do they grow all that Easter grass in our Easter baskets? How come we've never seen it growing in the wild? Here's another good question: what kind of chicken lays a Reese's Peanut Butter egg? Or a Cadbury Creme Egg? Anyone have an answer for that?

Okay, let's be honest: there's not much about Easter that makes you think of science is there? As a matter of fact there are many people who think that Easter and science have nothing in common. Easter is a special time when we celebrate God's greatest miracle, and miracles, well, they can't always be explained with science.

Some scientists think that the story of Easter is nonsense simply because it can't be explained by science. We disagree. We know that our God is the Creator of all things in nature. He wrote the rules of science, and he alone has the power to break them. He also has the power to do the impossible, and for that, we dedicate this first day of our Easter Science series to praise.

Our first scripture reading takes us to Jerusalem the week before Easter. On this particular day, the children of Israel are gathering in the holy city of Jerusalem to get ready to celebrate a meal called Passover. If you know your Old Testament history, Passover is a feast that reminds the people of the night God saved them from Israel. They were slaves of the cruel king of Egypt, and it seemed impossible that he would ever let them go. God saved the people of Israel and rescued them from Egypt, and as this Passover season begins, God is preparing to save his people from an even greater foe.

### **READ MARK 11:1-10**

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## **MAIN POINT:**

People didn't line the streets of Jerusalem for just anyone. They didn't wave palm branches and lay down their cloaks for everybody who came to Jerusalem for Passover. The people knew Jesus was special. Many already believed he might be the Messiah, the chosen one whom God promised would save his people!

Jesus was praised as a king, but even then, the people had no clue why they should really worship Jesus. A week later, all would be revealed. Jesus had come to do the impossible. He was going to save not just Israel, but the world from sin!

Jesus is the only man who never sinned. He is the only person who could have taken the punishment for sin upon himself and died for all humankind. Today, we want to lift our voices and praise God for doing the impossible. We want to thank him for Easter, for dying on the cross, and for saving us from sin!

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Every week when we gather here at church, we begin our services with music. We don't do it just because we like to sing and dance. We do it because the Bible tells us that God loves to hear us sing to him. All the songs we sing are songs of praise. Their words remind us why we are here. They remind us of all God has done for us.

It's especially important to praise God during Easter. There is no story in the Bible more important than the Easter story because this is the story that changes everything! In the beginning, God made a perfect world. The first humans, Adam and Eve, ruined that perfection when they sinned, and for the rest of the Old Testament, it's a constant struggle for people to stay faithful to God.

God knew there was no way we as humans could ever be good enough to pay for our own sins. No amount of good deeds or sacrifices could ever make up for the sins we have committed. So God sent Jesus to do the impossible. He sent Jesus to defy the laws of science by dying and rising from the grave.

We praise a risen Savior, one we believe is coming back to take us all to his Paradise up in Heaven. We praise God because he came to Earth, and to Jerusalem, to do the impossible for us.

This Easter season, take a moment each day to praise God. Praise him for sunshine if there's sunshine. Praise him for your family. Praise him for a good meal, or a good friend, or just a good day. More importantly, praise Jesus for what he has done for you.

Jesus has come to save us from our sins. Let us prepare our hearts to remember the Easter story by praising the one who saved us!

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## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for doing the impossible for us!*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*