

Sunday Gospel Background

This Sunday begins the special liturgies of Holy Week. The Palm Sunday procession recalls how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus. The Mass that follows includes the reading of the Passion. Young children aren't able to fully grasp the meaning of Jesus' Passion and Death, but they can appreciate that Jesus shows how tenderly and persistently God cares for us. Find out about Holy Week liturgies in your parish and attend as a family in whatever way you can—online or in person.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together:** "Jesus, thank you for our family. We welcome you into our hearts and into our lives. Help us welcome others as you welcome us. Amen."
- Activity • Welcoming Others** Talk about a time you welcomed a visitor to your home. **Ask:** How did we let the person know he or she was welcome?
- Story • Matt gets ready for Grandma. (page 2)** Tell your child this story about a special visitor:

"When is Grandma coming, Mom?" asked Matt. Mom laughed and said, "You've asked me that ten times already. Grandma will be here before it's dark. She's driving all the way from Milwaukee." Matt frowned. "I want her to be here now so we can go to the children's museum and the zoo and the ice cream shop." Matt always got a chocolate sundae with sprinkles on top when he was with Grandma.

"We have lots to do today to get ready," said Mom. "Do you want to help?" "Yes," said Matt. "Good," Mom said. "I put clean sheets on your bed so Grandma can sleep there. Please put on the bedspread and put all your things away." Matt ran off to do what Mom said. Soon he was back. "It's all finished, Mom. What can I do now?" "I am making Grandma's favorite soup," Mom said. "Please help me get the vegetables ready."

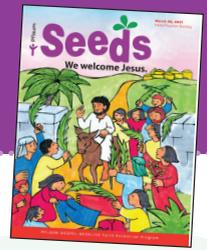
Matt washed the celery and carrots and handed them to Mom to chop. She added onions and noodles. Soon the soup was simmering on the stove. "What now, Mom?" Matt asked. "Wait until Dad comes home from work. Then you two can make a welcome sign," Mom said.

Dad was hardly in the door when Matt shouted, "Dad, Dad, please help me make a welcome sign for Grandma!" Dad drew the letters, and Matt colored them in. When the sign was finished, Dad hung it above the front door. Matt watched out the window until he saw a white car pull up. "She's here!" Matt shouted. "Grandma's here!" Grandma waved and smiled and pointed to the welcome sign. Matt ran outside and gave her a big hug. "Grandma, I'm so glad you came to visit us!"

Turn to page 2 of *Seeds*. Talk about what is happening in each picture. **Ask:** What did Matt do first to prepare for Grandma? *He prepared his bed.* Write a big number one on a board or sheet of paper and have your child write a number one on the circle on the right top corner of the picture that shows Matt making his bed. Do the same for the other three pictures.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

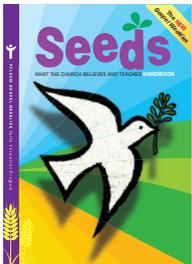
- Sunday Gospel • We welcome Jesus. (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the cover of *Seeds* and describe the illustration. Tell the Palm Sunday story:



The more Jesus taught, the more friends he made. Many people heard about him and wanted to listen to him. One day, Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem, the capital city of his country and the place where the Temple was. He invited his friends to come along. When they got to the city gate, Jesus asked two of his friends to find a donkey for him to ride. This was a sign that he was a peaceful person, not a king who was used to riding around in a chariot and making wars. His friends put their cloaks on the donkey's back for Jesus to sit on.

People were glad to see Jesus. They crowded around to welcome him like a king. Many people spread their cloaks on the road. Some others cut leafy branches to spread on the road. They did this to make a special path for the donkey to travel on. People ahead of Jesus shouted, "Hosanna!" This is like shouting, "Hooray!" They shouted, "Hosanna! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna for God in Heaven above!"

Remind your child about how Matt and his family welcomed Grandma. **Ask:** How did they show Grandma was a special person? How did the people of Jerusalem welcome Jesus? What did they do to show they loved him? What did they shout?



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 12. Read the page title. Explain that we remember Jesus all during the year but at certain times, we remember special events in Jesus' life. Have your child look for the picture with three crosses. Explain that Lent is the season when Catholics prepare with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to celebrate Easter. Have your child trace the word *Lent*.

Then invite your child to find the cross with the white cloth, flower, and eggs. Explain that this cross is for the great celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. **Ask:** What do we call that? *Easter*. Have your child trace the word *Easter*. Explain that Easter is the biggest celebration of the Church Year because, by rising from the dead, Jesus gives us the opportunity to live with him forever in Heaven.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, page 2.

- Sunday Gospel • Holy Week (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Holy Week is the week before Easter.*

Live the Gospel

- Activity • Welcome, Jesus! (pages 3-4)** Point out the word *Hosanna* on pages 3-4. Remind your child that *Hosanna* was the welcoming word the people used when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. Read the words *Welcome, Jesus*. Have your child print his or her name on the palm branch and cut out the palms.
- Closing Prayer** Ask your child to wave the palm branch and respond "Hosanna" after each of the prayer statements: God sent Jesus to show us love... Today, Jesus comes in peace... We welcome Jesus... You love us, Jesus. We love you... Amen.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture