

# A Good Shepherd Story of Jesus

## Waving Palms

Adapted by:  
Brenda J. Stobbe

---

**Illustrations by:  
Jennifer Schoeneberg**

2nd Edition  
'Good Shepherd, Inc. 1991, 1992  
Good Shepherd, a registered trademark of Good Shepherd, Inc.  
**All** Rights Reserved  
Printed in U.S.A.

## INTRODUCTION TO LENT-- YEAR 2

The season of Lent is another "waiting time". The Good Shepherd program makes it easy for children to see the time pass as they prepare to experience Easter.

The stage is set for Lent by using a series of seven cards. The first six cards are purple with one side showing a blackened silhouette and the seventh card is white with one side showing a blackened silhouette. Each week the cards are removed from the Lent-2 basket and laid out in a straight line to your left with the solid side facing upward. As each week's story is shared, the card is turned over. The first week the purple card with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "Waving Palms" is revealed. The second week that card and the one with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "In Memory Of Her" are revealed. And so on. Each week we begin with card one, asking the children to mentally recall each part of the Lent story, before telling the current week's story.

During the story response time, the children are encouraged to take the Lent-2 basket and the story basket from the shelf and see if they can tell the story each week. By using the Lent cards and the story figures the children look ahead with great anticipation to the joy and wonder of Easter.

Each lesson in the Lent series tells you what story, story figures and Lent cards are to be used. During the "circle of light" be sure to place the appropriate bookmark representing each week's story in the Good Shepherd classroom Bible. This allows the children, non-readers as well as readers, to become familiar with where the Lent stories are found in the Bible.

An optional activity you may want to include at the start of the "circle of light" each week is the use of the church year puzzle. It illustrates the passage of the weeks of Lent as we move toward Easter. This is how you would do it the first week of Lent:

When the children return to the circle for the "circle of light", bring out the church puzzle.

### ACTIONS

Hold up the church year puzzle.

Touch the first week of Lent.

Touch each purple piece as you count it.

### WORDS

This is the circle of the church year. It helps us see how the time of God's people is divided.

We have just started Lent so we are right here on this first purple piece.

We will wait 1,2,3,4,5,6 weeks for a very special Easter celebration.

-----

At this point begin the "circle of light" as usual. For weeks two through six simply move the markers on the church year puzzle before each circle of light and adapt your words accordingly. On week seven you will be at a white marker and it will be obvious the holy day of Easter has arrived.

During this time called Lent we learn a lot about Jesus, the stories he told and the things he did. We learn about his relationships with his friends and the people who followed him. The message of Lent is heard as we gradually begin to understand that Jesus showed himself to be the Messiah.

## **MATERIALS USED DURING LENT-- YEAR 2**

The medium Lent-2 basket on the shelf contains:

- a set of 7 cards are used each week in the following order:
  - a purple card with palm branch silhouette
  - a purple card with bottle silhouette
  - a purple card with man with withered hand silhouette
  - a purple card with table silhouette
  - a purple card with chalice and paten silhouette
  - a purple card with money pouch and coins silhouette
  - a white card with an empty tomb and cross silhouette

The story sets are used in the following order:

- Waving Palms basket
- In Memory Of Her basket
- Jesus Heals On The Sabbath basket
- Jesus Cleanses The Temple basket
- The Last Supper basket
- Judas Betrays Jesus basket
- Crucifixion and Resurrection basket

Items needed from the worship shelf for Lent:

- chalice (for use with the Last Supper basket)\*
- paten (for use with the Last Supper basket)\*

The church year puzzle used as an optional activity each week during the "circle of light" can be purchased separately from our Good Shepherd Accessories order form.

If communion is served during the "circle of light" the week The Last Supper story is presented you will need to purchase bread and grape juice.

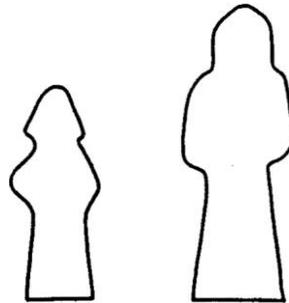
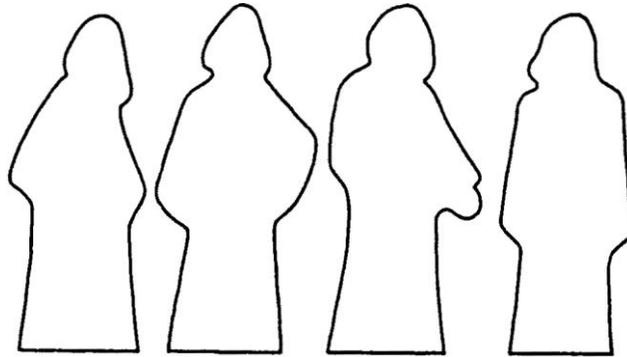
\* These items are not furnished for you. We recommend their use and hope you can acquire them locally.

## WAVING PALMS .... MATERIALS

- medium wicker basket to hold:
  - wooden figure of Jesus on donkey
  - 4 wooden disciple figures
  - 3 wooden onlooker figures
  - brown felt road
  - 4 green felt palm branches
  - 3 stones
  
- from worship shelf
  - Lent-2 basket containing 7 cards



Jesus  
Disciples



Onlookers

## WAVING PALMS ... LUKE 19:29-40, MARK 11:1-10

### ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the Lent-2 basket from the worship shelf. Get the Waving Palms basket from its shelf. Bring them to the circle and sit down.

Allow 10-15 seconds of silence as you reverently touch the Lent cards or wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Point to the worship shelf.

Remove the six purple cards from the Lent-2 basket and lay them out with the plain purple side showing in a straight line starting to your outer left.

Remove the white card from the Lent-2 basket and lay it next to the purple card closest to you with the plain white side showing.

Turn the first purple card over so the silhouette of the palm branch shows. Touch it reverently.

Place the brown road horizontally in front of you. Put stones along side and across the road from you at the left end.

Move your hand down the road from right to left, stopping at the left end to indicate where Jerusalem is.

Place two disciples in front of you to the side of the road.

### WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get these materials so you will know where to find them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

Today begins a new season of the church year. Today we changed the worship cloth to purple and we know we are waiting. This time is called Lent.

These are Lent cards.

They will help us understand the stories we hear during Lent and make us ready for the time we are waiting for. .. Easter.

This first week of Lent we will hear a story about Jesus.

Jesus was now almost to Jerusalem.

When Jesus and the ones who walked with him came to the Mount of Olives Jesus sent two disciples to the nearby village.

Point away from the road (toward your upper right).

Untie an imaginary rope.

Emphasize the words "The Lord has need of it" by saying them slowly.

Move the two disciples to the area you've indicated.

Nod your head.

Move the two disciples back to the center of the road.

Place the figure of Jesus on the donkey with the two disciples on the road.

Add two more disciples in front of Jesus and move them all toward the left on the road.

Place the three onlookers next to you alongside the road toward the left end.

Lay the green palm branches on the road in front of Jesus.

Move the Jesus figure over the palm branches to the left end of the road.

Shake your head and look angry.

Jesus said, "Go to the village. There you will find a donkey tied up.

Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone asks you why you are untying it, you will say "The Lord has need of it. "

So the disciples left.

They found the donkey, just as Jesus said.

When the owner asked why they were untying the donkey the disciples said, "The Lord has need of it. "

They brought the donkey back to Jesus.

The disciples laid their coats on the donkey and then put Jesus on the donkey.

They even put some of their coats on the road in front of the donkey.

As they came into Jerusalem other people joined them.

They praised God and shouted their joy.

Some of them broke branches off the palm trees and waved them and laid the branches in the street.

They shouted "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. Hosanna, hosanna! "

Some of the Pharisees didn't like what they saw and heard.

Put your finger to your lips.

Point to the three stones by the side of the road. Pause for 2-3 seconds before saying, "And Jesus was finally in Jerusalem."

Place the wooden figures, felt pieces and stones into the story basket.

Pick up the Lent card with the palm branch on it and place it in the Lent-2 basket.

Pick up the remaining five purple cards and then pick up the white card and place them in the Lent-2 basket.

After speaking, stand and carry the story basket back to its shelf and the Lent-2 basket back to the worship shelf. Return to the circle.

Be certain ALL children have had a chance to choose their work before dismissing the children.

They told Jesus to make his followers be silent.

But Jesus said, "I tell you, if these people were quiet, even the stones would cry out." And Jesus was finally in Jerusalem.

#### WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder if the disciples were nervous when they went to get the donkey?

I wonder if the owner went along to see what would happen to his donkey?

I wonder what Jesus thought when the people waved palms and shouted praises to him?

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

This is the first week of Lent.

We will wait and make ourselves ready for six more weeks, then it will be Easter.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose what each of us will do.

## WA VING PALMS .... TEACHER HELPS

I have chosen to use both the Luke and Mark accounts of this story because I did want to include the waving of palms that is recorded in Mark, while I also used Jesus' statements about the stones crying out which is recorded in Luke.

By this time Jesus understood what was to happen to him. He had shared with his disciples that he would die and rise again (Luke 18:31-34). We are also told in the same passage that his disciples did not understand what Jesus meant.

It will be helpful for you to understand that when a king rode into a city on a horse, he was coming to do battle. However, when he rode into a city on a donkey, he was coming in peace. (Erdmans' Handbook to the Bible, edited by David and Pat Alexander, England: Lion Publishing Co., 1973, p. 526)

To the disciples and onlookers it did not matter that he was coming in peace ... he was coming. To them Jesus' coming into Jerusalem on the donkey was the sign that he was the Messiah. The word "Hosanna" is a war term meaning, "save us". It is used to hail conquering heroes. What hopes and expectations must have been in the hearts of the disciples and the other people who ran to see Jesus!

This concept of a political Messiah is difficult for the young children to understand. We can talk about kings and presidents and that may help them some. But it may be that we will have to save those particular discussions for children who are older. Here we will emphasize that Jesus came into Jerusalem as the recognized Messiah of the Jews. Note that Jesus no longer told the people to be quiet about him, as he had in other times when he has healed and fed. Now Jesus was ready to be declared the Messiah. However, he was the only one who understood what was before him. His disciples had visions of great places in the palace for each of them. The people who cheered him from the street imagined the Roman rulers out of their lives once and for all. Only Jesus understood that at the end of his journey to Jerusalem was a cross.

The first wondering question deals with the disciples' feelings about being asked to go get the donkey. Yes, they probably were nervous. Jesus tried to calm them by giving them words to say, but they still must have felt a little strange saying those words. How did Jesus know about the donkey? Many scholars believe that Jesus knew people in these various cities and had prepared the owner of this animal earlier that he might need the animal. (The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary on the Bible, edited by Charles Laymon, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987, p. 663)

The second question deals with the feelings of the owner of the donkey. Did he want to go along and see what would happen? We don't have any further record of this man, but that allows us much wondering.

The final question wonders what Jesus thought when the people called him King and threw palm branches before him. We don't know. He must have been both happy and sad. To see his people so happy and hopeful and joyous must have thrilled him. On the other hand, he must have been saddened that they didn't understand what this was all about. He did refuse to silence the people, telling the Pharisees that it would do no good. If they were quieted, the stones along the road would cry out. All of creation, even the stones, understood that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah. And not Jewish law or human beings could quiet creation when it set about praising God and rejoicing in the coming of the Savior.

Allow this to be a joyous story. It sets the stage for the Easter cycle of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and then death and resurrection. But alone, it is a wonderful and happy story of the recognition by the people of God that the Messiah, who had been promised, had finally come.

#### SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Why did Jesus choose to ride a donkey into the city instead of walking in as he usually did?

Some of the Pharisees did not like the people's actions as Jesus entered Jerusalem. Why?

Do you think everyone who waved palm branches knew Jesus and were familiar with his teachings or do you think some people joined in because they just happened to be there and it looked like fun? Have you ever been in a place where you got caught up with a crowd of people but didn't really understand what it was all about?

Most kingdoms are won by the use of a great army. If the Jews saw Jesus to be the one to start a new kingdom, how do you suppose they imagined him doing that?