

Caught up in celebration

Mark 11.1-11 Palm Sunday

There was a party atmosphere as Jesus entered Jerusalem and many acts of generosity from the crowd. The cloaks that were laid on the road, where they would be trampled and ruined, had a greater value than the coats we wear today. The branches had value too, having been cut to celebrate the Festival of the Booths. Like the cloaks, they were given up in the excitement of celebrating Jesus.

This week we explore what it means to give extravagantly.

Prepare your young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Can you imagine yourself in the crowd of pilgrims as Jesus approached the city? What would you be prepared to give up for him?

Prompt the young people to think about the things they consider valuable. What would they feel if these were lost or broken, and would they feel differently if they were to give them away voluntarily?

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

GATHER

Meaningful gifts 5 mins WE

You will need: sticky notes, pens.

- Ask the young people to think about the most meaningful gifts they have been given. Are the things they value most always the things with greatest monetary value? Are there gifts they have been given that boost their sense of self-worth?
- Give each young person a sticky note and ask them to write a compliment about another member of the group, and then give it to them.
- Play the track 'I Give You My Heart', Hillsong Worship on *God is in the House*, during this activity.

First impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- What is happening in this picture?
- What is the most extravagant gift you have given or received?
- What do you have to offer as a gift?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Palm Sunday Year B:
Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29;
Mark 11.1-11.

Rewrite for today 10 mins WE

You will need: pens and paper.

- Split the young people into pairs and ask them to rewrite the passage using ideas from the modern day.
- Ask the pairs to consider: What sort of things would people do to celebrate? How would they show appreciation for Jesus? What things of value would they lay down on the road for him? Share the new versions of the passage.

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

Giving away game 10 mins E

Explore the value of giving away

You will need: sweets, two equally sized containers per team, tablespoons.

- Split the group into teams of equal numbers and give each team one tablespoon per person and two containers – one filled with sweets (labelled 'giving'), the other empty (labelled 'receiving').
- Place the empty containers at the far end of the room and explain that the aim of the game is to run a relay race: to place as many sweets as possible into other teams' 'receiving' containers, using only the spoon and one sweet at a time.

Giving to God 5 mins WS

Reflect on the ways we celebrate God

You will need: palm branch outlines (template on [WEB](#)), scissors, pens.

- Play the track 'Give Thanks To God', Housefires on *We Say Yes*, during this activity.
- Use a table to symbolise the road into Jerusalem. Give each person a palm branch and ask them to write down the ways they celebrate God on it.
- Then invite them to cut out and lay their branches on the road. Ask: Can you think of other ways to celebrate Jesus?

Party poppers 5 mins ES

A prayer of celebration

You will need: party poppers.

- Give each young person a party popper. Ask everyone to think of something that they want to celebrate in Jesus.
- When they have all thought of something to celebrate, invite the young people to pull the party poppers together, while shouting out what they want to celebrate.

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

- Invite the young people to consider something they could give as an offering of love and worship to God – this could be physical, practical or something else, e.g. their time.
- When they have thought of their offering, ask them to lay down their coat/jacket/jumper on the floor to symbolise offering this to God.

Go with God 24/7

Give away something small but valuable this week, and notice things that others do for you that are generous. **EA**

As you finish, give out the **ROOTS at home** resource [WEB](#), to encourage faith at home.