

# Holy Week and Easter

## Faith focus


Jesus shows God's love.

## Introduction

"Celebrate! Isn't it great! Jesus is here! Jesus is here!" This is the chant used throughout module 8. While the celebratory mood remains the same, the chant takes on a different meaning in each session. Session 1 welcomes Jesus to Jerusalem. The second session celebrates Jesus feasting with his friends. Sessions 3 and 4 share the utter delight of Jesus' resurrection. The mood of joy and celebration is demonstrated with joyous songs and prayers, and waving palms and streamers.

The American Sign Language (ASL) sign for "celebrate" is introduced in this module. Use it during the opening chant, the spoken Sending phrase, or while singing the theme song. Twos may not be familiar with the term "celebrate," but they will soon absorb its joy as you use the term and sign over and over again.

## Theme song

"Awake, arise, O sing a new song"  track 8

## Preparation

**Prepare the story figures** and story props for module 8. (See a complete list in *Tell-It-Again*, p. 158.)

**Collect real palm branches** or tree branches from your area. *OR*, reproduce paper palm branches from page 261, making one for each child and several for the Connect area of Responsive play.

**Make several "towel colts"** for children to ride like stick horses. Use the pattern and directions on page 262.

**Prepare several types of "wavers"** for children. See Preparation, sessions 2 and 3, for supplies and directions.

**Learn the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for "celebrate."**

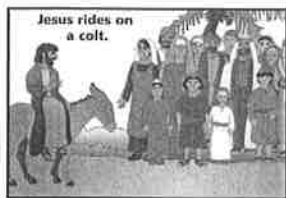


1. Hold both hands in loose fists at mid-chest.
2. Spiral fists upward until level with head.

## GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Wee Wonder CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- Story figures
- Storytelling props (see *session supply lists*)
- Prepared activity cards
- Responsive play materials (see p. 158)

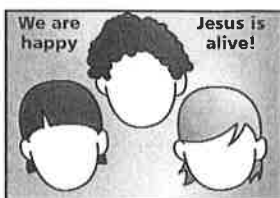
## Prepare the activity cards:



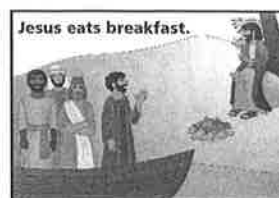
Session 1



Session 2



Session 3



Session 4

## Gather materials for Responsive play

### CONNECT

Connect with the stories through play.

**All sessions:** fabric or robes, "towel colts" (see p. 262 for pattern and directions)

**Session 1:** palm branches

**Session 2:** blanket or tablecloth, dishes, cups, play food (especially bread)

**Session 3:** streamer wavers, blanket

**Session 4:** blanket or tablecloth, dishes, cups, play food (especially bread), fish and bread paper cutouts (p. 263), orange tissue paper, cardboard tubes

### BUILD

Build with small boxes with lids to build concepts of "empty" and "full."

**All sessions:** boxes/containers with lids (shoebboxes, shirt boxes, empty margarine/cottage cheese containers, freezer containers, etc.)

**Session 1:** plastic or wooden people figures and animals (especially horses and donkeys)

**Session 2:** play food (especially bread)

**Session 3:** plastic or wooden people figures

**Session 4:** plastic or wooden people figures, play food

### TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

**Session 1:** Jesus, colt, pile of rocks, Peter, Andrew, James, John, crowd, white fabric

**Session 2:** Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John, white fabric, plate/basket, cup

**Session 3:** Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John, 4 women, 2 men, cross, tomb, white fabric

**Session 4:** Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John, boat, campfire, blue felt/paper, tan felt/sandpaper, white fabric, basket with paper bread and fish

### EXPLORE

Explore rocks and water together.

**All sessions:** various rocks (large enough to not be a choking hazard) to cover bottom of tub, water to just cover rocks in tub, vinyl tablecloth under tub, smocks

**Session 1:** plastic horses or donkeys

**Session 2:** plastic cups

**Session 3:** small brushes or dish scrubbers, towels

**Session 4:** sponge fish

### CREATE

Create various items related to the stories.

**Session 1:** green paper, real branches with leaves (palm and/or local branches)

**Session 2:** flour, oatmeal, water, bowl and spoon for each child, small measuring scoop

**Session 3:** paper celebration wavers, stickers, markers

**Session 4:** dried dough shape from session 2, glue, plastic lid, paint brushes, seeds (sesame, poppy, caraway, etc.)

### READ

Read about Easter and Holy Week.

*J Is for Jesus* by Debbie Trafton O'Neal

*The Story of Easter* by Patricia Pingry

*Touch-and-See Bible* illustrated by Eileen Hine

**FAITH  
FOCUS**  
Jesus shows  
God's love.

# Jesus rides on a colt

## Mark 11:1-10

### Faith formation for twos

The Hebrew term “hosanna” (from Psalm 118:25) originally meant “Save us, O LORD.” By Jesus’ time, it was used as a term of praise. Let today be a pure time of praise, joy and celebration. Celebrate Jesus!

### Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 11.
- For the “Waving branches” Gather option, bring real palm branches or real tree branches from your area. *OR*, make paper palm branches using the pattern on page 261. You will need one for each child. The branches are also used in the Connect area of Responsive play, so make or bring some extras.
- Practice the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for “celebrate” (*see module introduction, p. 157*).
- For telling the story, you will need:
  - length of white fabric, large enough to wrap around yourself like a cloak, and tape to hold it together
  - small piece of felt with masking tape loop to attach to colt figure
  - branches, real or paper (*see pattern on p. 261*)
- Practice telling the Bible story.
- Prepare a healthy snack.
- Prepare the activity card:
  1. Cut small pieces of felt or fabric for “coats.”
  2. Collect small green leaves or cut small pieces of green paper for “branches.”
- Gather materials for Responsive play.

### Environment for twos

All of the Bible stories in this module use a white cloth as a prop. Several of the stories direct you to lay the white cloth “in front of the storytelling area.” Lay the cloth on a flat surface, either in front of the magnetic or flannel background or in front of the area where 3-dimensional figures move.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or “Waving branches” activity
- Song (“Awake, arise, O sing a new song”)

#### Share the Bible story

- “Celebrate!” chant
- Song with the Bible (“Jesus loves me”)
- Story (Mark 11:1-10)
- Hosanna prayer
- Action song (“Jesus comes”)
- Activity card: “Jesus rides on a colt”

#### Responsive play

#### Sending

### SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For “Waving branches” Gather option: palm/other tree branches (or paper branches from pattern on p. 261)
- Story figures: sitting Jesus, colt, Peter, Andrew, James, John, crowd, pile of rocks
- For telling story: length of white fabric, small piece of felt, masking tape, branches
- For activity card: small pieces of felt/fabric, small leaves or pieces of green paper, glue, plastic lid, paintbrushes, wet towel (or glue sticks)
- Responsive play materials (*see p. 162*)

# Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. Choose one of the following options for children to do as they enter the room:
 

**Option 1:** *Snack*—If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.

**Option 2:** *Activity*, “*Waving branches*”—As each child arrives say, “Hosanna! Jesus loves (name)!” Hand the child a branch (*real or paper*). As you wait for all children to gather, wave the branches high, low, fast, slow, etc. Wave them while walking, wave them while sitting. Talk about how the branches look, feel, smell, etc. Sing “Hosanna! Jesus loves (name).” with the *Wee Wonder* CD.
3. When you are ready to tell the story, sing “Awake, arise, O sing a new song” along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Wave the branches in celebration as you sing and move to the worship area.



track 6

## MODULE 8 THEME SONG

### Awake, arise, O sing a new song

Awake, arise,

O sing a new song of joy  
and celebration.

A new day has come,  
bring praise to the son of  
God, of God.



track 8



track 1

# Share the Bible story

1. Say the “Celebrate!” chant together with excited voices, as you wave the branches. Repeat as many times as children have interest. Then collect the branches and place them beside the storytelling area.

**Cel-e-brate!** (*make ASL sign, holding branch in one hand*)

**Isn't it great?**

**Jesus is here! Jesus is here!** (*say “Jesus” quickly in one beat*)

2. Sing “Jesus loves me” along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. (*See words on p. 271.*) As you sing, make the ASL sign for “love” and the ASL sign for “Jesus.”

**Jesus loves me, this I know  
for the Bible tells me so . . .**

Hold up the Bible, with today’s story marked. Say,

**“This is the Bible.”**

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

**“Here is the story.”**

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

**Story figures:** sitting Jesus, colt, Peter, Andrew, James, John, crowd, pile of rocks

**Other props:** small piece of felt with masking tape loop to put on colt, length of white fabric, branches

**Set the scene:** Place on one side of storytelling area: Jesus on pile of rocks, the disciples, and colt figure. Place crowd on the other side.

**Tell the story.**

4. Carefully place the story figures and pieces (*except branches*) in the Tell-It-Again box. Then stand, raise your arms with palm branches and pray:

**“Hosanna! Hosanna! Praise God! Amen.”**



Figures 12, 13, 14, 18, 24,  
29 (Jesus), 43, and 49

## BIBLE STORY: Mark 11:1-10

*(Wrap white fabric around you like a cloak. Use tape to keep it closed as you use your hands.)*

Jesus' friends found a colt for Jesus to ride. *(Move colt next to Jesus.)*

They put a coat on its back for Jesus to sit on. *(Attach piece of felt to colt's back, put Jesus on colt.)*

Jesus rode the colt into the city of Jerusalem. *(Move Jesus and colt over to crowd.)*

The people were so excited to see Jesus.

They spread their coats on the road for Jesus. *(Take off your "cloak" and lay it in front of storytelling area.)*

They laid tree branches on the road for Jesus. *(Lay branches in front of storytelling area.)*

They shouted, "Hosanna! Jesus is here!"

Hosanna! Jesus is here!" *(Move figures over fabric and branches as if walking on them.)*

5. Sing the following action song to the tune of "Peter, James, and John in a sailboat."

*Note: If you aren't familiar with this tune, try an Internet search to find an online recording.*

Walk around in a circle, waving palm branches. *(Explain that a colt is a little donkey.)*

**Jesus comes, riding on a donkey.**

**Jesus comes, riding on a donkey.**

**Jesus comes, riding on a donkey.**

**Shout hosanna and wave!**

6. Activity card: "Jesus rides on a colt." Invite children to glue the "coats" and "branches" (*pieces of fabric and green paper or small leaves*) on the road for Jesus. Children may use glue from a plastic lid, applying it with fingers or paintbrushes. *(Or use glue sticks.)* Say, "The people were so excited to see Jesus!"



*Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.*

### Responsive play *(See p. 162.)*

Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

### Sending

As each child leaves, kneel down and look him/her in the eye. Hand the child a palm branch to take home. Say:

**"Celebrate! Jesus is here!"** *(make ASL sign for "celebrate")*

*Option: Sing "Holding hands together" from the Wee Wonder CD, while holding hands.*



track 13

# Responsive play

## CONNECT

Set out items related to the story.

**Faith Link:** "Jesus rode a colt. The people were excited to see Jesus."

**Supplies:** palm branches, fabric or robes, "towel colts" (see p. 262 for directions)

**Tip:** You may need to show the children how to ride the "towel colts." (Place towel between legs, hold on to towel just under head, and gallop around).

## BUILD

Provide boxes and/or containers with lids, along with people figures and farm animals for building.

**Faith Link:** "Jesus rode a colt into the city."

**Supplies:** boxes/containers with lids (shoeboxes, shirt boxes, empty margarine/cottage cheese containers, freezer containers, etc.), plastic or wooden people figures and farm animals (especially horses and donkeys)

**Tip:** Ask, "How could we make the city where Jesus rode? How could we make a road?"

## TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

**Story figures needed:** sitting Jesus, colt, Peter, Andrew, James, John, crowd, pile of rocks

**Additional props:** small piece of felt with masking-tape loop for colt's back, length of white fabric, branches

## EXPLORE

Set out a tub containing various rocks, just covered with water, along with plastic horses or donkeys.

**Faith Link:** "The colt Jesus rode needed water to drink."

**Supplies:** tub of rocks (large enough to not be a choking hazard), water to cover, vinyl tablecloth under tub, smocks, plastic horses or donkeys

**Tip:** Pile rocks in one corner of the tub to give animals dry land to stand on.

## CREATE

Supply green paper for tearing into "leaves."

**Faith Link:** "The people waved tree (palm) branches when Jesus rode into the city."

**Supplies:** green paper, real palm/tree branches with green leaves

**Tip:** Explain that this is paper the children may tear. As the children tear pieces, look for shapes that resemble the real green leaves on the table and talk about them. "This piece is long like this leaf. This one is tiny like this leaf," etc.

## READ

Read about Easter and Holy Week.

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