

# Do You Hear What I Hear?



## Find

- The Character Mark who is helping to tell the Easter Story.
- A picture of a palm leaf to place behind Mark.
- Musical instruments e.g. tambourine, bells - anything with a distinctive sound; OR sounds such as bird song, tooting horns etc. played on CDs or computer.

## Introduce

- Introduce Mark, a boy who has been on an Easter adventure - he will help us to explore our Easter story today. Invite a child to come and look what Mark has hidden (this will be a palm leaf). Ask the children what part of the Easter story they think Mark may have been investigating on his Easter travels, to cause him to have a palm leaf in his bag.
- If a child has not guessed 'Palm Sunday' explain how you believe Mark has witnessed the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey. Explain how the bible describes the welcome Jesus received when he rode into Jerusalem, how people welcomed him by waving palm branches and placing their coats on the floor for the donkey to walk over. It would have felt very much like when in today's society the queen visits a place or town. Lots of excitement and noise!
- Why do you think Jesus chose to ride on a donkey and not a horse? What was he trying to show people by riding on a donkey? Kings did ride on donkeys but when they came in peace not ready for war. Many years earlier a Jewish teacher had also written about a spec

## Play

- Do you hear what I hear?
- When Jesus entered Jerusalem at a time of great celebration the streets were lined with people celebrating it would have been noisy.
- So it's time to make a noise of our own. What we need to do is simply listen to different sounds coming from behind the screen, and when you think you have identified the sound raise your hand. (*Either use the instruments hidden behind a screen or play sounds electronically.*)
- Check if the children have guessed correctly what it is they have heard. Give out team point to those that guess correctly.



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## Talk

The story below is 'told' by Mark. Invite the children as they listen to the story what sounds they think Mark heard, how those sounds made him feel.

"It was a lovely sunny day. We were preparing to celebrate the Passover and everyone was looking forward to it. There were lots of people about and they were all talking about a man who was coming to Jerusalem. They sounded really excited and happy. I wanted to know more about this man. Some people said that he was a king – well that made me really excited! A king coming to Jerusalem – would he have lots of servants? How would he be dressed?"

More and more people were gathering now and I couldn't get to the edge of the road. Then I had an idea. So I climbed up a tree. The trunk was rough and I scraped my knee, my clothes got a bit grubby too! The noise of the crowd got louder and louder so I knew this king was getting closer. People were singing and shouting, 'Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!' They put their cloaks on the road and some people were cutting leaves off palm trees and waving them like flags. He was coming, he was coming! But he wasn't dressed in fancy clothes and he was riding on a donkey – I didn't think kings rode on donkeys. They are a bit smelly really - the noise was deafening with people cheering and shouting. When he had gone past, I slid down the tree. What a funny day it had been. I wonder if I will see that king again. I wonder what will happen to him?"

Ask the children what sounds Mark heard, how those sounds perhaps made him feel.

Palm Sunday is a time to consider Jesus as King but also to remember that he is not a nasty king but one who lets all people get close to him. He is not a king that storms into your life like a warrior on a horse but a gentle king that comes in peace and love. He is also a king that loves a party and is happy when his people are celebrating and having a good time – just like the Jews were at that Passover celebration.

## Pray

Thank you Jesus that you are the kind of king that rides on a donkey, that we don't have to fear you, and that no matter who we are if we want to, we can get to know you.  
Amen

### Classroom follow up:

Talk about sounds we associate with different occasions. For example party poppers remind us of Birthday parties.

You could make palm leaves and play a game of pin the tail on the donkey!

Create a classroom display. The road could be made of a collage of brightly coloured coats. There could be the people lining the road all holding palm leaves.