

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 05 April 2009 PALM SUNDAY
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Jesus is King! / Jesus dies
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 26:1-5; 14-30; 36-68; 27:1-2; 17-66
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus came to save us

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus was not an earthly king, but that He saved the world through His death.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their King and Saviour.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with palm branch inside (from last week's activity)
- ✓ Picture of cross / ornamental cross
- ✓ Handmade sign reading: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes</p> <p>1. Welcome kids.</p> <p>2. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the palm branch you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain why we made them last week and what that should remind us of. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on the donkey. What did the people shout as they waved their branches? <i>Hosanna!</i></p> <p>If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>Rejoice! ... your king comes to you ... gentle and riding on a donkey ...</i> (Zechariah 9:9)</p> <p>Finish by eliciting the concept: Jesus came to save us.</p> <p>3. Distribute the kids' palm branches which you collected in last week. Tell them to wave them while they sing because today is Palm Sunday!</p> <p>4. Sing 2 songs together (<i>One Way / God you make me smile</i>).</p> <p>5. Open in prayer.</p> <p>6. Collect in the branches and keep until the end.</p> <p>7. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Treasure chest / palm branch</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p>
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<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>2. Set the scene Those crowds of people in Jerusalem were so excited that Sunday as they waved their palm branches. They shouted out 'Hosanna!' as they followed Jesus because they wanted Him to be their king. This special man who had performed amazing miracles was coming to the capital city! They really believed He was going to save them.</p> <p>But not everyone in Jerusalem was so happy and excited. The leaders and politicians were not happy about all the attention Jesus was getting from the crowds. They didn't want Him to ride into their city, throw them out of their powerful positions and become the new king. No way would they allow that to happen! So they all met together and came up with a plan to secretly arrest Jesus and kill Him. It would have to be done in secret because they wouldn't want to upset the crowds of people who loved Jesus. They could have a riot on their hands!</p> <p>3. Tell the story Jesus and His disciples – the twelve men whom He had chosen to follow Him and be His friends – had a celebration dinner that Thursday in Jerusalem. It was the Passover dinner – remember we talked about it last week? While they were eating, Jesus told the twelve men some things about God, His Father, and about what was going to happen very soon. Jesus lifted some bread, He said thanks to God for it, and then He broke it and shared it with the disciples. He told them, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then Jesus lifted up a cup of wine, He said thanks to God for it, and then He shared it with the</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p>
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disciples. He told them, "This is my blood ... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28) This was a very special time for Jesus and the disciples, even though they didn't know what was going to happen next.

Later that night, Jesus went out with His disciples to a garden. Jesus wasn't happy that night. He was very worried and upset. He fell down on the ground and prayed, calling out to God, "Father, if you can do this some other way then please do it! But I will do it Your way, no matter how difficult it is, I will do it Your way." (paraphrase Matthew 26:39)

Jesus was telling His disciples to get up for it was time to go. And just at that, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived in the garden with a big crowd of people. These people didn't look like the ones who had been out waving their palm branches and laying down their coats on the road a few days ago. These people were carrying swords and clubs, as if they were ready for a fight! Judas, the disciple who had brought the crowd, went to Jesus and kissed him on the cheek. And at that, the men with swords and clubs went and took hold of Jesus' arms and arrested Him! Jesus was under arrest!

You see, this was the secret plan. The leaders and politicians who didn't want Jesus in their city had bribed Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, to help them capture Jesus in secret, where no one would see what was going on. Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver for helping the leaders and politicians capture and arrest Jesus, their 'wanted' man.

They took Jesus straight to see a man called Caiaphas. He was an important leader. All the other important leaders and politicians were there too. They were trying to find evidence against Jesus, good reasons for passing the death sentence on Jesus. They asked Jesus questions, trying to make Him mad by telling lies about Him, but Jesus didn't say a word. Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you Jesus Christ, the Son of God?" and Jesus replied, "Yes." Caiaphas and the other leaders and politicians were so mad with Jesus' answer that they spat on Him, they punched Him and slapped Him, and they said, "He deserves to die."

Early the next morning, Friday morning, the leaders and politicians decided to kill Jesus. But they couldn't do it legally by themselves. That's because the Romans were in charge in Jerusalem at that time, and only a Roman leader could make the decision to sentence a person to death. So the leaders and politicians tied Jesus up and took Him to a man called Pilate. Pilate was a Roman governor, or ruler, of the whole area of Judea.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" (Matthew 27:11) Jesus said, "Yes." The leaders and politicians then started to tell Pilate many lies and false stories about Jesus, trying to make Jesus look like a criminal. But Jesus kept silent. He never said anything to defend Himself. And Pilate was amazed at this.

It was Pilate's tradition every year at the Passover Party to allow the crowd to choose a prisoner to set free. Pilate went out to the crowd and asked them, "Which one do you want me to set free: Barabbas,

who is a criminal, or this man Jesus?" The people shouted out, "Barabbas! Barabbas!" So Pilate said, "You want Barabbas? Well, what should I do with Jesus because, as far as I can find, He hasn't done anything wrong?" The people shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Do you know what that means, boys and girls? When the Romans crucified someone, they tied or nailed them to a cross – two pieces of wood nailed together into the ground. *Show picture or ornamental cross to demonstrate.* It is a very slow and very painful way to die. Pilate tried again. He asked the crowd again, "What has Jesus done wrong?" But the crowd was getting noisier and more excited. "Crucify him! Crucify him!" they shouted.

Pilate listened to the people. He set Barabbas free, and he sent Jesus away to be beaten and killed.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus away. They took His clothes off Him and made Him wear a red robe. They were making fun of Jesus because He had said He was the King of the Jews. Then the soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches and set it on Jesus' head. The soldiers laughed at their funny-looking king; they pretended to worship Him; they spat on Him and hit Him over and over again. Then the soldiers led Jesus away to kill Him.

They walked to a place outside the city. The soldiers offered Jesus something to drink to help take the pain away, but Jesus didn't take it. They nailed Jesus to His cross and put a sign over His head – the reason why they were killing Him – 'THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.' *Show kids your pre-made sign and set it somewhere prominent in your room.* There were two robbers crucified with Jesus, one on Jesus' left, one on His right. The soldiers played a game to see who would win Jesus' clothes. And the people walking by shouted at Jesus, "Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God! ... He saved others but he can't save himself!" (Matthew 27:40-42)

Boys and girls, it was such a sad day for the world that while Jesus hung there on His cross, darkness came down over the land. Jesus was in such terrible pain, and when He could take it no longer, He cried out to God and He died. At that very moment, there was a great earthquake. The ground was shaking and the rocks split apart. And when the Roman soldiers guarding Jesus saw this, they were so frightened, and they said, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54)

One of Jesus' friends took Jesus' body, wrapped it in cloths and laid it in a tomb. The tomb was like a little room cut out of rock. A big heavy stone was rolled across the door of the tomb so no one could get inside. Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb, in case anyone would try to steal Jesus' body.

4. Explain

What a sad story, boys and girls. Jesus suffered terrible pain. He could have saved Himself, He could have broken free from the Roman soldiers, He could have climbed down from the cross without suffering the pain of death. Remember, Jesus is the Son of God who performed so many amazing miracles! But, you know, Jesus allowed the soldiers to beat Him, spit on Him, laugh at Him, and kill Him on

Picture of cross / ornamental cross

Handmade sign: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'

the cross out of love. Jesus loved the people. God loved His people – the people He had created and the people who would be born years in the future – so much that He allowed Jesus, His Son, to die in our place.

You see, we are all born with sin. Sinful hearts, sinful thoughts, sinful words. We do things we shouldn't do, we make mistakes, we get into trouble. And really, we don't deserve to go to heaven because of that sin inside us. But God loves us so much that He wants us to go to heaven to be with Him. And there was only one way that all the people of the world could be saved and get to heaven – that's why Jesus died. When Jesus died, He took our sin – yours and mine and everybody's – on Himself. Jesus died for us – for you and for me and for everybody in the world! That's how much Jesus loves us! That's what a great friend Jesus is! That's why He's my friend, and that's why I live for Him! All I had to do was ask Jesus to forgive me, believe that He died for me, and ask Him to live with me day by day. I'm so glad that Jesus loves me!

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

You'll need ...

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Ask: Boys and girls, have you already asked Jesus to forgive your sin? You don't have to put up your hands or tell me about it right now. If you have already decided to follow Jesus, then that's wonderful. Everybody, close your eyes please. I want to ask another question. Is there anyone here who hasn't asked Jesus to forgive their sin? After listening to our story today, of how Jesus died on that horrible cross to save you, would you like to talk to Him? Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive your sin? Do you believe that Jesus died for you? Would you like Him to be your friend, a friend who never leaves you until you go to be with Him in heaven? Boys and girls, if you would like to ask Jesus into your heart today, would you just put up your hand so that I can see you? Everybody else has their eyes closed. I won't say your name. I will talk to you when everyone has left The Island today. Jesus loves you so much that He went to die for your sin. Do you believe it? Do you want Him to forgive you and live with you?

Take note of any child who raises their hand. Make sure you (or another adult helper) speak to the child after the session to confirm their decision. Provide some evangelical literature for the child to take home.

Let's pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for loving us so much that You suffered pain and torture for our sin. We are sorry for the bad and sinful things we have done, and we are thankful that You made a way for us to be free. Lord Jesus, thank You for listening to our prayers, and thank You for the boys and girls who have raised their hands today. We ask that You will stay with us. Amen.

4. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those

Net (with last week's prayer cards)

<p>situations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. 6. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 7. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 8. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	<p><i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. <i>Remind kids:</i> Good Friday is this Friday. That's the day we remember Jesus dying on the cross. Easter is a fun time with school holidays, chocolate eggs, chicks and bunny rabbits, but this Good Friday, try to remember that Jesus died to save you from your sin. 3. Put the sign (This is Jesus, the King of the Jews) into the treasure chest. Tell kids you will take it out next week. 4. <i>Explain:</i> It was a sad day, but a day with a happy ending ... because Jesus didn't stay dead in the tomb. No! On Easter Sunday, the third day, Jesus rose from the dead! He came back to life! Jesus was alive, and He's still alive today, waiting for us in heaven. So next Sunday when you come to church, you'd better be ready for a big celebration! When you come to church, remember to tell everyone you see, 'Jesus is alive!' 5. Sing a closing song. (One Way) 6. Remind kids to come back this evening. 7. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 8. Ask any kids who raised their hands during the prayer time to stay behind afterwards. If you have enough adult helpers, assign one child to each helper for counselling. Provide evangelical literature for kids to take home. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Treasure chest</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p> <p><i>Evangelical literature</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 05 April 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making scratch art cross pictures.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task: Slide (John 3:16)
Medium sized Easter egg (still in its wrapping)
- ✓ Activity: Tables
Pre-made cross cut from A4 scratch art paper, with a hole punched in the top and a length of ribbon tied through to make a wall hanger (see instructions and photos below)
Pre-cut A4 scratch art paper crosses with a hole punched in the top of each (one cross per child)
Lollipop sticks (one per child)
Lengths of ribbon (or wool or cord) (one length per child)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>blank screen.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <i>Explain:</i> I brought an Easter Egg with me today. Did you know that Easter Eggs remind us of the big stone that was rolled over the door to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid after He had died? Have you ever rolled your Easter Eggs down a hill? That's just like the stone that was rolled over the tomb door. Today, we're not going to roll the egg. We're going to spin it. You see that the egg has a fat end and a thinner, pointier end. I'm going to spin the egg first. If the egg stops and is pointing at you, then you must say the memory verse. Then you can spin the egg until it stops at another person. 6. Spin the egg on the floor in the middle of the circle of kids. Wait for the egg to stop spinning. Work out who the egg is pointing at. Help that child say the memory verse before they spin the egg. Continue until most kids have said the verse or until your time is up. 7. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Medium sized Easter egg, wrapped in foil</i></p>
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<p>G. Activity 15 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up tables as a workspace and ask kids to find a space around the tables. 2. <i>Explain:</i> Our story today was a sad one, wasn't it? It did have a wonderfully happy ending, but it's important for us to remember how awful it was that Jesus suffered such terrible pain. He could have saved Himself, He could have broken free from the Roman soldiers, He could have climbed down from the cross without suffering the pain of death. Remember, Jesus is the Son of God who performed so many amazing miracles! But, you know, Jesus allowed the soldiers to beat Him, spit on Him, laugh at Him, and kill Him on the cross out of love. God loved His people – the people He had created and the people who would be born years in the future – so much that He allowed Jesus, His Son, to die in our place. 3. <i>Explain:</i> This is why we often see crosses in churches. Some people even wear a little cross on a necklace. Some people have fancy decorated crosses in their homes. All because Jesus died for our sin, and that is such an important thing for us to remember. We are saved because Jesus died. 4. <i>Explain and demonstrate:</i> Today, we're going to make our own crosses to take home as a reminder of how Jesus suffered pain and died for us so that we could be saved and have a place waiting for us in heaven. Here's one I made. <i>Show kids your pre-made scratch art cross.</i> I'm going to give you a cross shape cut from card and a lollipop stick. Use the stick to scratch patterns and shapes in the card and see the colour come through. There is a little hole at the top of the cross. You can tie some ribbon through the hole to make a hanger. Then you can hang the cross on the wall when you take it home. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>Tables</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made scratch art cross</i></p>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Give each child a pre-cut scratch art card cross. 6. Give each child a lollipop stick (or a proper scratch art tool if you have enough to go around). 7. Help kids to scratch patterns onto their crosses with their sticks. 8. Give each child a length of ribbon and help them tie it through the hole in their cross to make a loop for hanging. 9. When kids have finished, push tables to the side. 	<p><i>Pre-cut crosses</i> <i>Lollipop sticks</i></p> <p><i>Lengths of ribbon</i></p>
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (One Way) 2. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 3. <i>Remind kids:</i> Good Friday is this Friday. That's the day we remember Jesus dying on the cross. Easter is a fun time with school holidays, chocolate eggs, chicks and bunny rabbits, but this Good Friday, look at your cross and remember that Jesus died to save you from your sin. 4. <i>Explain:</i> It was a sad day, but a day with a happy ending ... because Jesus didn't stay dead in the tomb. No! On Easter Sunday, the third day, Jesus rose from the dead! He came back to life! Jesus was alive, and He's still alive today, waiting for us in heaven. So next Sunday when you come to church, you'd better be ready for a big celebration! When you come to church, remember to tell everyone you see, 'Jesus is alive!' 5. Close in prayer. 6. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p><i>You'll need ...</i> <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made cross</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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