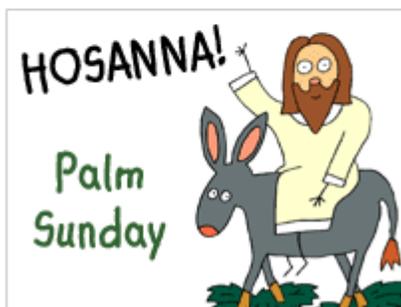
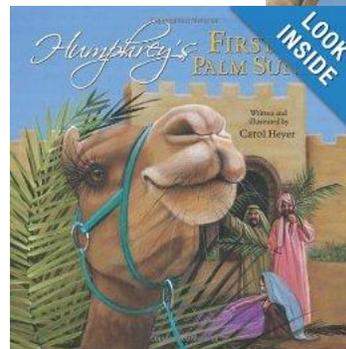
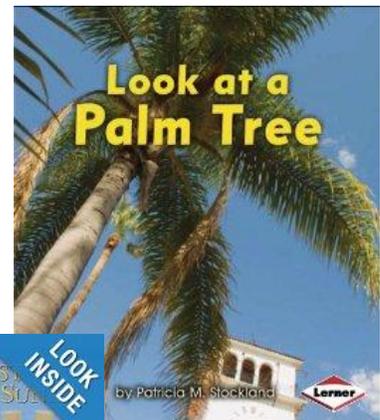


## Preschool Post

Lesson 28



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### Special Holiday Lesson/Science Sampler

**Preschool Theme:** Palm Trees

**Bible Theme:** Palm Sunday. In this lesson children learn all about historical triumphant entry!

**Morning Circle:** Show the children [colorful images of palm trees](#). Explain that there are many different kinds of palms. Use a world map and point out the areas of the world where palms naturally grow. Explain that there are tiny palms and huge towering palms. Discuss how the palm trees differ among themselves, and then [compare other native trees](#) in your area to the palms. How are they the same? How are they different? Use lots of pictures and allow time for the children to discuss their observations. You might have a few types of leaves or branches to let the children touch and smell, explaining that they will have opportunity for further leaf exploration in Centers.

**Read:** [Look At a Palm Tree](#) by Patricia M. Stockland. Enjoy learning all about palms, from roots to fruits.

**Music & Movement:** Palm Waving Praise Parade! After today's Bible lesson, (and after the children understand that "hosanna" is a shout of praise, joy, and adoration,) act out the triumphal entry by giving the children real palm branches to wave in praise of their savior. (If you don't have access to real palm branches, use ones cut out from green construction paper.) Play Steve Green's "[Hosanna](#)" from the "Hide 'Em in Your Heart Vol. 1" CD. Wave your palm branches as the children sing "Hosanna in the Highest!"

**Snack:** One very useful type of palm tree is the coconut palm. Offer some real coconut for the children to sample, and have some coconut-inspired goodies for snack time.

### **Centers:**

1. [FronD and leaf exploration](#). Spread lots of varied palm fronds, fern leaves, and other types of leaves around on a table. Include some photos and books about palm trees, ferns, and other types of trees for the children to investigate. Place magnifying glasses on the

table to encourage a closer look. Provide some plain white paper and crayons and encourage the children to make some artful leaf rubbings.

**2. Palm tree make-believe center.** Create an oasis in your classroom! Use a large sand-colored sheet and spread it out in a peaceful corner of the room. Place some seashells randomly around it to simulate a beach. Put on some beach nature sounds to listen to, and maybe turn on a fan to create a breeze. Make some [palm trees](#) for the center of your "island." Take a large tube (like the ones wrapping paper comes on) and stuff the top with layers of green tissue paper rolled up into long "fronds." (Super simple and requires no cutting!) You can prop up your palm trees by placing the trunks between pillows or bean bags. Leave some books lying around your little oasis and encourage the children to chill under the palm trees.

**3. Leaf match and count.** Prepare [template images](#) (basic black and white drawings) of various types of leaf shapes in varying numbers (you might have 5 palm leaf images and 2 oak leaf images, etc.) Include palm tree types as well as fern leaves, maple leaves, oak leaves, sassafras leaves, etc. Any leaf with a distinct shape will be helpful. Provide a basic chart with the leaf images on one side and columns for tallying. Help the children sort out and categorize the images by leaf shape. Then let them tally up how many of each type they found.

### **Art Activity:**

Make palm fans. Provide a long craft stick for each child. Create a [palm leaf template](#) and prepare a cut-out of a palm branch for each child. Provide green glitter and glue for each child, and help the children



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decorate their palm branches then glue them to their craft sticks. Let them dry and have the children wave their palm branches, reminding them of today's Palm Sunday Bible lesson.

### **Bible Storytime:**

**Read:** ["Humphrey's First Palm Sunday,"](#) by Carol Heyer.

Explain that palm branches were used in honoring Jesus as he came into the city of Jerusalem the week before he was crucified. Tell the children that the moment he came into the city was kind of like a parade, with all his followers waving palm branches, cheering and shouting praises as they welcomed him as their king.

### **Bible Verse Bracelets:**

"They shouted, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God.' Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!' But Jesus answered, 'If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting.'"

[Luke 19:38-40 \(CEV\)](#)

Discuss this last powerful statement with the children. How amazing to think that Jesus said the stones would cry out if the people had kept quiet!

**Bible Song:** ["Hosanna"](#) by Steve Green from the "Hide 'Em in Your Heart Volume 1" CD. Use this song in the "Music and Movement" part of today's lesson.

**Additional Activity:**

Visit a botanic garden in your area. Some cities have indoor gardens that house tropical plants, including palms, in climate-controlled environments. If you have access to such a garden, take a field trip there to experience some exotic trees and plants. Alternatively, ask a botanist or horticulturalist to visit your class and bring in some examples of tropical plants and trees to explore.

**Optional Resources:**

[Hosanna Coloring Page with Bible Verse](#)

**Helpful Links:**

[Tons of Christian Preschool Easter Resources](#)

[K-5 Christian Easter Resources](#)

[More Information About Palm Trees](#)

**Notes:**

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