

Easter FS- KS2

PROGRESSION OVERVIEW

	FS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Content and Big Idea	Zacchaeus the tax collector Jesus enters Jerusalem Palm Sunday Jesus the Messiah	Last supper Bread and wine Holy communion/ eucharist	Foot washing Maundy Thursday Radical humility	Christian interpretation: John and Matthew, Pope Francis I
Text	Zacchaeus the tax collector Palm Sunday	Bread and wine (Matthew) 'No servant is greater than his master' (John)	Foot washing in John	Comparison of Matthew and John
Jewish Context	Pilgrimage festivals Jerusalem	Passover meal Covenant	John- who, where and when?	Matthew- who, where and when?
Christian history	Palm Sunday	History of Christianity in Britain	Maundy money	St Francis, Pope Francis

FOUNDATION STAGE

Big Idea
<p>Palm Sunday Easter Week begins with Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem. Today the first day of Easter Week is called Palm Sunday, remembering the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem. People were happy to see him. They laid palms on the road as he passed and called out 'Hosanna', which means 'save now!' The word is Hebrew, meaning 'save' or 'saviour'. It is a shout of joy, to express thanks that Jesus will save the people. In Syrian churches, which are some of the earliest churches, Palm Sunday is called 'Hosanna Sunday'.</p> <p>There are many types of palm trees in the Middle East, with different shapes, shades of green, some would be large and wide and some would be thin and long.</p> <p>People called out in joy as Jesus entered Jerusalem because they believed he would come to save them from sin.</p> <p>Zacchaeus Before Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he travelled through Jericho, which is about 18 miles away. In Jericho a man called Zacchaeus desperately wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, meaning he worked for the Roman rulers, although he was a Jewish man.</p> <p>In Jesus' day the Roman Empire controlled Jewish lands, as part of their huge empire. The Jews resented this control, they wanted to be free to live in their own land, under their own laws. To make things worse, the Romans demanded everyone in their empire pay taxes to Rome. Local Jews who collected taxes for the Romans were seen as traitors and were excluded.</p> <p>As Jesus entered Zacchaeus's town of Jericho, a crowd gathered. Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree to get a good glimpse of Jesus. Jesus saw him and said he was going to stay at Zacchaeus's house that night. Zacchaeus was delighted and came down from the tree. The people in the crowd were angry- why should this traitor receive the honour of Jesus' visit? Zacchaeus was a rich man. In front of everyone he declared he would give half his fortune to the poor. Jesus said that Zacchaeus had been saved, and people like Zacchaeus were who he had come to help.</p>

Text

Luke 19: 1- 10

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

You can compare different accounts of this in the 4 Gospels.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triumphal_entry_into_Jerusalem

Here is a summary:

Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem. As he came near he asked some of his disciples to find a donkey. They borrowed a donkey and Jesus sat on it. The donkey carried him into the city.

People were happy to see Jesus. They spread out their cloaks on the road for the donkey to walk on. They also spread out palm leaves for Jesus to walk on. People called out, 'Hosanna'. They described Jesus as someone who comes 'in the name of the Lord' and, 'the king'. They also shouted that there would be peace in heaven.

Jewish Context

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and a holy city for the Jews. Since the Jews had lived in the land of Israel, they had come to Jerusalem three times a year for the 'foot festivals', so called because many people would walk from their farms or villages to Jerusalem. These are also called the 'Pilgrimage Festivals'. On these festivals Jews believed God asked them to come and make a sacrifice at the Temple in Jerusalem, which is the holiest site for Jews. The festivals are called Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot. Passover is when Jews thank God for rescuing their ancestors from slavery in Egypt and bringing them to the land of Israel. Sukkot is the harvest festivals when Jews thank God for the food they have grown over the year. This is celebrated with four 'species' of plant, including palm leaves. Some people thought Jesus entered Jerusalem at the festival of Sukkot, but it is more likely he arrived at the start of Passover (see KS1 work on Last Supper). The palm leaves laid out for Jesus to walk on are a general sign of welcome and respect, rather than related to Sukkot. The final pilgrimage festival is Shavuot, a festival to thank God for the Torah (Jewish holy book). The festival occurs 50 days after Passover.

For Jews, the land of Israel is given by God as their homeland. The city of Jerusalem was where they came to show their gratitude. However, after many years of tension with the ruling Romans, a war broke out between the Jews and the Romans. In 70 CE the Romans destroyed the Temple and threw Jews out of the land of Israel. The Temple

has never been rebuilt. Jews can visit the last remaining wall. All over the world, Jews mourn the loss of the Temple.

In Luke's account of Jesus entering Jerusalem, Jesus weeps and predicts the destruction of the temple (Luke 19: 41).

Christian History

As Christianity spread into Northern Europe, palm leaves were not available. People used branches of trees that grew in their region, such as olive, willow or yew. In some regions, Palm Sunday is called 'Yew Sunday'. The branches are blessed by a priest and taken home. The remaining branches are saved and then burned the following year. The ash is dabbed on peoples' foreheads on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

In the Middle East, when people of high status were welcomed, their path would be covered by rushes, cloth and other leaves. This was a sign of respect and welcome.

In Roman symbolism, palm leaves or a palm branch symbolised victory. The goddess Nike, who symbolised victory in war, carries a palm branch. Palm crowns would be placed on triumphant generals heads after a successful battle.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a horse. A donkey symbolised peace, whereas a horse symbolised war. A ruler would ride on a horse to show he was going to war, and on a donkey to show he was bringing peace.

Jesus the Messiah

In Christian belief, Jesus' entering Jerusalem and speaking to Zacchaeus shows that he is a different sort of saviour, or 'messiah'. He comes on an animal that symbolises peace, instead of war. He is welcomed by the people for bringing peace. He spends time with someone unpopular, and welcomes his change of heart. Christians see Jesus as the long-awaited saviour, or 'messiah', who would show humans how to live a better life, more in line with God's wishes, a life of justice and goodness. The Jewish people had waited for a messiah (saviour) for many hundreds of years. They had been invaded by empires and armies repeatedly, and had always believed God would send a saviour to help them.

Jesus' followers started to think he was something different. He preached peace and forgiveness and constantly stressed the need to be loving and just, to live in the way God wants. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his warm welcome, is another piece of evidence for his followers that he might be the long-awaited messiah. However this is also evidence that he is a different messiah; not a warrior vanquishing the Jews' enemies in battle, but a humble teacher bringing justice and forgiveness.

SUGGESTED TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Zacchaeus

- Act out the story. Some children can stand on the floor being 'trees' and Zacchaeus can climb on a chair to peer over them.
- Make a large tree with brown paint on paper. Stick an image of Zacchaeus sitting on a branch. Cut lots of leaves out of green paper and stick all over the tree so Zacchaeus is hidden. Stick these loosely with glue, children will take it in turns to peel off.
- Write words from the bible story on the back of some leaves and stick these as well. You could use these words:
Jericho, tax collector, rich, Jesus, crowd, Zacchaeus, 'I will stay at your house', share riches, saved, happy.
- Invite children to peel one leaf at a time, the leaves with the words from the story can be collected. Can the children find Zacchaeus in the leaves?
- Take the leaves with the words on, can children re-tell the story using these words?

- Add some 'money bags' to the bottom of the tree. What does Zacchaeus say he will do with his money? Talk about why he does this. Does this make him feel better?
- In Hebrew the word for 'saviour' is 'messiah'. Say this a few times. In Greek the word 'saviour' or 'messiah' is 'Christ'. What does Jesus mean when he says Zacchaeus has been 'saved'? Write the word 'messiah', practice saying it a few times. This means 'saviour'. Talk about the ways we can help other people. Show all the ways we can help other people with small world play or images.

Jerusalem/ Palm Sunday

- Make 'hosanna' banners or bunting. Hang or wave them. Learn what the word means. Say the word.
- This trailer of a National Geographic film about Jerusalem shows some wonderful images of this unique city: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYa9VPVAJ18>
- This BBC clip shows a young Jewish girl visiting Jerusalem for the first time: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mx930>
- Make palm branches by painting handprints green and cutting out once they are dry. Stick about 6 handprints to pole or cardboard stick to make a palm branch
- Lay these on the ground and invite children to walk on them- how does it feel? Talk about what the people of Jerusalem meant when they laid these palm branches on the floor to welcome Jesus.
- Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey. Look at pictures of donkeys- they are strong and sturdy, and also calm and humble. Imagine the children are donkeys carrying something precious- what is most important to them that they 'carry' in their thoughts every day?
- Make pictures of 'Palm Sundaes'- you will need a background of a bowl or tall glass to stick different coloured elements on. Here are some suggestions to symbolise the different colours children could use to make their sundaes:

Brown= the road the Jerusalem

Green= palm leaves

Red or pink= Jesus' love

Yellow= the peoples' happiness

Fruit= peoples' hopes for Jesus

The colours could be different textures as well, such as tissue paper, corrugated cardboard, fluff, felt or wool. If possible, children can write in the coloured sections what they mean to them.

This idea is from Messy Church:

<https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/latest/resources/messy-palm-sunday/>

