

THREE CHEERS FOR JESUS

(Palm Sunday)

Theme: Palm Sunday

Scripture: John 12:12 & 13

Prop: A palm branch



(Note: for this message use whatever sports team is popular in your area.)

Do you know what today is called? Palm Sunday. Well, I have a question for you: What do Jesus and the Red Sox have in common? I'll give you a minute to think about it. (*Hum "Jeopardy" theme while children think.*)

So what do Jesus and the Red Sox have in common? They both had huge crowds cheering for them when they entered the city. When the Red Sox won the World Series, the city had a big parade for them and thousands of people stood at the side of the road cheering like crazy. Well on Palm Sunday 2,000 years ago when Jesus came into Jerusalem there were thousands of people standing at the side of the road cheering like crazy.

But there were some differences, too. For instance, in Boston lots of fans help up signs, but in Jerusalem they were waving palms like this instead. You can read about it in John 12:12 & 13: "...the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" That's why they call it Palm Sunday. Imagine, thousands of people waving palm branches and cheering for Jesus!

But it's funny about big crowds: they can cheer you one minute and boo you the next. In fact that's what happened to Jesus. One day they cheered him, and a few days later they were yelling, "Crucify him!" And that's exactly what they did.

Of course, we know that wasn't the end of the story. And we'll talk about the rest of the story next week. But meanwhile, when you see a big crowd cheering, think about how they cheered for Jesus and how he died so that we could be forgiven.

That's something we should pray about: Dear Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus. Thank you that he died so that we could be forgiven. We pray that we'll always keep cheering for Jesus, and we pray this in his name. Amen.

Songs: "He Is Exalted" or "Crown Him with Many Crowns"