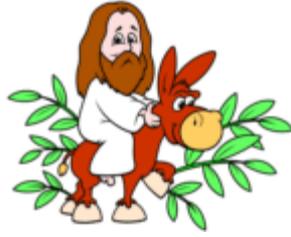


A "Rock Concert"



Theme: The Triumphal Entry — Palm Sunday, Year C

Object: A bucket full of rocks and stones

Scripture: "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." Luke 19:40 (NIV)

You are probably wondering why I have a bucket of rocks this morning. Well, I thought it would be a good idea for us to have a "rock concert" this morning. I see some of you are smiling. Don't you believe these rocks could sing? Do you think they could even talk? Do you think they could tell you stories about Jesus? Well, you might be surprised to hear what Jesus himself had to say about that.

Jesus was walking with his disciples toward Jerusalem. When they approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he called two of his disciples to him and said, "Go into the next village where you will find a young donkey. Bring it to me. If anyone asks why you are taking the donkey, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it.'"

The disciples did as they were told and brought the young donkey to Jesus. They threw their garments over it so that Jesus could ride on him.

As he rode along, crowds were lining the streets and they began praising Jesus and shouting, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" They were creating quite a stir and some of the religious leaders didn't like it. They asked Jesus to keep his followers quiet. Jesus answered them and said, "If they remain silent, the stones would immediately begin to cry out!"

If these rocks would cry out this morning, I wonder what they would say? One might tell how a little shepherd boy named David used a small stone to slay a giant to show that we can do anything when God is with us!

Another might tell how the prophet Elijah used stones to build an altar to God. The altar was used to offer a sacrifice to God to prove that He is the one, true God.

This rock might tell how Solomon had used stones to build a beautiful temple for people to worship God.

Still another rock might remind us that Jesus once told a story about a wise man who built his house upon a rock. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm.

Yes, these stones might have a lot of stories to tell, but we won't let them. Just as the followers of Jesus lined the streets to praise their King, you and I are here today to praise

our King. As long as we praise him, there will be no need for these stones to cry out.

Dear Lord, we know that you would rather hear us praise you than to hear a "rock concert." So Lord, we lift your name on high! Amen.

ROCK SWEEPING: Divide the children into teams and run a relay with each child sweeping a rock to the finish line, then picking up the rock and running back with the rock and broom to the next player. Continue playing until all players have swept the rock. Tell the children to listen carefully to our Bible story today to find out about a ROCK CONCERT!

ROCK TOSS: Give each child a rock and a sticker to place on their rock. Each sticker must be different to identify the child's own personal rock. Let the children divide into teams and play a ROCK TOSS similar to a game of horseshoes. Mark off a large circle on the ground if children are outside, or tape an area on the floor if playing indoors. The object of the game is for the children to see which player can toss their rock nearest to the center of the circle.

DONKEY RELAY: Organize the children into pairs and tie a rope loosely around one child's waist and let the other child lead the "donkey" around the room and back and then switch and let the other child be the "donkey". The children can walk or crawl on all fours when they are the donkey! **DISCUSSION:** How would you have felt if Jesus had chosen you as his donkey? How would you have felt carrying Jesus to Jerusalem? Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey and not a camel or a horse?

PALM BRANCH MARCHING: Give children a real branch or a paper cut out Palm branch. Let the children march around the room as some Easter music plays and as the teacher shouts, "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! PEACE IN HEAVEN AND GLORY IN THE HIGHEST!" (Luke 19:38) The teacher may wish to say a phrase and let children echo the phrase. This activity could be done for the worship service with the children marching up the aisle. They might sing "Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!" and let the congregation sing "Praise Ye the Lord!"

ROCK CONCERT: Give each child a rock. Divide the children into small groups and give them 5 minutes to make up a song or chant and tap out the rhythm together on the floor as they perform for the other groups.

BIBLE HOPSCOTCH: Let children play HOPSCOTCH. In each hopscotch square, put words for today's lesson such as KING, PRAISE, LORD, ELIJAH, HEAVEN, GLORY, etc. The teacher can have painted rocks for the children to choose from for their part in the game.

ROCK PAINTING: Provide some smooth stones for the children to decorate using permanent markers to write PRAISE THE LORD, BLESSED BE THE LORD, HALLELUJAH, or other praises of their choice. Read, recite and memorize together the Bible verse today and SING Hallelu, Hallelu, Praise Ye the Lord!

WALL ROCK PRAISES: Before class time, the teacher can draw a large rock on poster board and attach it to the classroom wall. Lightly color the rock gray or brown. During class time, after the lesson has been taught, give the children bright colored markers to write PRAISES all over the big rock. When everyone has a PRAISE on the rock, let children gather around the rock and as the teacher points to a praise, children will shout out that praise and continue until all the praises have been shouted out!