



# Faith Adventures for Children Together

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:  
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

## Psalm 118: 26-30 – Palm Sunday

Theme: Jesus in unexpected places – it's happening now!

### Contents:

Introduction .....



# Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

## Gathering prayer

### Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

### Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

### As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

### Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

### Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

### And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

### As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

### AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

**Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.**

**Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.**



What sort of celebration did they go to?



times that God has been with us, the times when God has saved us. We especially remember when God sent Moses to lead us out of slavery in Egypt and take us to the promised land. God has saved us and will save us again.

The air is filled with singing and prayers. Some are new and some are old and familiar. Songs we sing at each of our festivals. Like Psalm 118, the Passover song.

It's loud and happy and we take turns to sing it to each other as we walk through the streets up to the temple. The song asks who will save me? And replies God will save us, only God.

We sing it to remember what God has done for us over the generations but we also sing it to remember that God has promised to send someone to save us once and for all. We look forward to that day.

This is a scene that takes place every year at this time, but this year everything is about to change.

As you are walking through Jerusalem to the temple, you sing the songs and wave branches from the trees like they were flags, you are enjoying the celebration. When suddenly you hear loud cheering and shouts of Hosanna coming from behind, back near the gate to the city. It's getting louder, a wave of sound and singing and shouting creeping nearer to where you are stood.

What's happening? You hear people running by shouting He is here! He is coming!

But who is here? Who is coming?

It must be someone very important to cause this much fuss on such a special day.

You strain your neck to see over the crowds, squinting your eyes to see the procession coming towards you. You can see the crowds shifting to either side of the street, making a path for the special guest to walk through, you hear them shouting and you can see them waving their branches and even throwing their cloaks on the floor as a carpet of colour. Who can it be?

Then you see him, not a king in a carriage, not an army marching, but a man, just a man, riding a small donkey, he is waving and smiling.

As he comes nearer you stop one of his companions and ask who he is, who is this man and why are we celebrating him coming?

You are told, this is Jesus, The Messiah, the one we have been waiting for, the one who has come to save us. Our song has been heard, God has answered our prayers, today in Jerusalem, riding a donkey, is the one we have been waiting for.

You grab a branch and you join in the song, singing, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna!

The procession continues past you and you follow on, shouting, singing, and dancing all the way up to the temple.

How wonderful! How surprising!

You take a breath as you watch the scene that day, It seems that this day has changed everything, it has certainly changed our song. One thing is for certain, you can't wait to see what this man Jesus, does next.

## Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's



**Cave Baby by Julia Donaldson and Emily Gravett**

Cave Baby goes on an unexpected journey and makes new friends along the way.

<https://youtu.be/-3Md0E8uUKQ>

And here is a BSL signed version of the story - <https://youtu.be/feytJaamJFc>

**Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?**

- Where do you see Jesus in your familiar celebrations such as birthdays, Hallowe'en, bonfire night, welcome homes?
- Why is this story part of the Christian tradition now – why are we still telling this story?

**Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities**

- I wonder where you expect to find Jesus?
- I wonder what it is like to be in a big crowd celebrating Jesus?



# Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

## Mexican wave prayer

Ask the children to sit in a line, facing forwards.

Choose three or four subjects to pray about. You could write a word or draw a picture, for each, as a prompt.

Each person thinks of one thing to pray about, for each category.

After a short opening prayer, start the wave! Each person shouts out their prayer as they wave. You can use the prompt cards to re-start the prayer wave with a new topic.

You could end your prayer with a final wave aaaaa.....men!

If you are using this activity with younger children, why not use this simple rhyme to start off each wave.

Let's get **ready** and think what to say,  
We're still and **steady**,  
Come on, let's **pray**!

Spoken prayer 74 (s)-8.11-8.68 280.5Alp.3 5222ra pre2ouf th.3 522n.3 522ka pr2004 (1)01

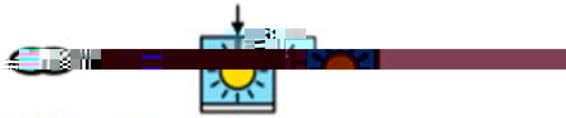








Jesus our friend



be with us today



as we share together



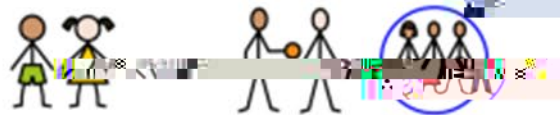
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



Amen

