

Short Talk

(SHT198)

A very special day

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “A very special day”

- Aim of Short talk:** To teach that the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey was a very special day for the Jewish people, because Jesus was declaring that He was the long-awaited Messiah through this action.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Jesus, Palm Sunday, Messiah
- Biblical references:** Matthew 21:1-11
- Lectionary:** Year A – Palm Sunday
- Props:** You will need the following props:
- A photograph in a frame
 - A packet of sparklers or a firework
 - Small glass of red grape juice / wine

Most of our days are very ordinary days aren't they?

- We get up, have breakfast, go to work at school, college, or home, have an evening meal and do something else for a couple of hours before we go to bed.

But every so often in our lives there is a really special day, when we celebrate something.

- Perhaps that special day is our birthday, or even Christmas Day.

I wonder if you can guess what particular special day I am thinking of from the things that I am going to show you now.

- Here is a photograph of a lady *(or gentleman)*
- Can you guess what the special day is that is going to be celebrated soon? *(Receive responses. If they don't guess, move on to the next clue)*

How about if I tell you that she lives in Australia? *(Receive responses. If they don't guess, move on to the next clue)*

- How about if I tell you that her relatives haven't seen her for a few years? *(Receive responses.)*
- The special day that is going to be celebrated is the day that this lady arrives to stay with her family, who live on the other side of the world.

Now a second one. Here is a sparkler *(Show sparkler or firework)*

- Can you guess what the special day is that is going to be celebrated? *(Receive responses.)*
- It isn't bonfire night. When else do we set off fireworks? *(Receive responses.)*

The special day that is celebrated all around the world with fireworks is New Year's Day,

- when we celebrate the beginning of a New Year and the end of the old year.

Here is something much harder. *(Show glass of red grape juice or wine)*

- A glass of red grape juice or wine. I will give you a clue.
- This day is celebrated by people of the Jewish faith and sometimes by Christians.
- Can anyone tell me what that day is? *(Receive responses.)*
- Final clue – Jesus celebrated this day just before He was crucified.

The special day I am thinking of is called Passover when the Jewish nation remembers God setting them free from slavery in Egypt.

Today is Palm Sunday, another really special day when we remember what happened in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago.

- It was the day when someone very important arrived; a bit like a distant relative arriving that we talked about earlier. *(Show photograph)*
- Who can tell me who arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey? *(Receive responses.)*
- That's right, it was Jesus, the Messiah, God's King who arrived.

Palm Sunday was also a very special day in Jerusalem because to the Jewish people the arrival of the Messiah meant that there was going to be a new beginning for the whole nation, *(Show sparklers)*

- a bit like the new beginning that we have at New Year.

People believed that the Messiah would set them free from the harsh and brutal rule of the Romans, so Palm Sunday was a special day to the Jewish people because they thought that it meant freedom from slavery for them,

- a bit like the Exodus from Egypt that had happened many years earlier. *(Show glass of red grape juice / wine)*
- What they didn't realise was that Jesus had come to set them free from the slavery of sin, not the slavery of the Romans.
- The people all celebrated, waving palms and shouting praises out to Jesus.

Palm Sunday is a special day for us as well because Jesus came not just as the King of the Jews, but He came as our King too. *(Show photograph)*

- When we turn to Him, a new day begins as we receive His gift of life, *(Show sparklers)* and are set free from slavery to sin. *(Show glass of red grape juice / wine)*

So, let's celebrate by praising Jesus today!