

April 3, 2020

Hello everyone,

It has been uplifting to touch base with your families throughout the week and hear stories of family hikes, game nights, and fun with siblings. April 5 is Palm Sunday, a morning at FPC that would typically be filled with celebratory hymns, a performance by the Youth Choir, and plenty of waving palms. While we can't gather for a traditional service, there are other ways to commemorate Jesus' ride into Jerusalem. Perhaps your kids will want to listen to hymns online; maybe your family will have a mini Palm Sunday parade around the yard. Below you will find ideas to engage together in Palm Sunday activities.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Jenna

### **Growing in Grace & Gratitude**

This wonderful PC(USA) curriculum has shared a Palm Sunday lesson with churches. You'll find in the attachment a Palm Sunday reading from Matthew 21, conversation starters, and more.

### **Kids Corner**

Part 3: The Cross- Adults, please take a listen first; I even found myself cringing at times. Part 4: Resurrection! is accessible from the same page below and is much gentler for all ages.

<https://kidscorner.reframedia.com/bible-stories/the-cross>

**BOOKFLIX:** <https://e-resources.powerlibrary.org/ext/econtent/BarcodeEntry/index.php?lid=PL7321R&dataid=1162&libname=eCard+or+public+library>

Now that it feels like spring outside, this is the perfect time to plant something in the dirt or simply walk around your yard and see what is growing naturally. Isn't it amazing that grass, some flowers, weeds, and more "spring" back to life when the weather warms up? God sure did a beautiful job when he created our world. Below are two more book and video suggestions that I enjoyed when it was too wet and cold to take a walk; I hope you turn to books sometimes, too.

*Planting a Rainbow / It Could Still Be a Flower*

*Do Unto Otters / We Are Citizens*

### **Marsha's Children's Message, Cinderella's Stepsisters**

In Marsha's retelling of the story of Cinderella, we are warned about judging people too quickly. Cinderella extends grace to her family, choosing to forgive her stepsisters who acted unkindly and even inviting them to move into her new home with the prince. Curious about why the stepsisters had such attitudes? Watch this fun clip from Rogers and Hammerstein's musical! **Stepsisters' Lament:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDTmDcllvj8>

### **Kindness 101 with Steve Hartman**

CBS's Steve Hartman leads 30-minute recorded lessons on character traits we can all strengthen in ourselves, whether at home, school, church, or a friend's house. Geared for elementary ages, even adults will take away something from Hartman's anecdotes. His children's involvement in the productions helps lighten up these character-building lessons.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/feature/kindness-101-steve-hartman/>

### **Easter Story Cookie Recipe and Lesson**

This Easter story and baking activity was part of the plan for FPC's postponed Easter Family Movie Night. With a few simple ingredients, your family can hear the Easter story and reenact its miracle together, right in your kitchen! The **BOLD words** are the actual recipe; the rest is explanation to tie this recipe to the Easter story.

Ingredients (Original recipe yields 24 servings)

- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 cup white sugar

### **DIRECTIONS**

- **Preheat oven to 300 degrees.**
- **Place pecans in a zip lock bag, close the bag, and let the children beat the bag with a wooden spoon to break the pecans into small pieces.** (*Suggested substitutions for nuts: mini chocolate chips, dried fruit, coconut flakes, colored sprinkles, or cinnamon*)
- Explain to the children that after Jesus was arrested, the Roman soldiers beat him.
- Let the children smell the vinegar.
- **Put the vinegar into a mixing bowl.**
- Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink.
- **Add egg whites to the vinegar.**

- Eggs represent life; Jesus gave his life to give us life.
- Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hands.
- Let them taste it and **brush the rest of the salt into the bowl.**
- Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our sin. So far, the ingredients aren't very appetizing.
- **Add 1 cup sugar.**
- Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us; He wants us to know and belong to him.
- **Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks form.**
- Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sin have been cleansed by Jesus.
- **Fold in nuts or other additions.**
- **Drop by teaspoons onto a cookie sheet covered with wax paper.**
- Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.
- **Put the cookie sheet in the oven and turn OFF.**
- Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door.
- Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.
- Explain to the children that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight.
- Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.
- On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie.
- Notice the cracked surface and take a bite; the cookies are HOLLOW!
- On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.
- He has risen! Happy Easter everyone!

