

Day 2

Read John 12:12–16

Get the biggest sheet of paper you can find and draw a palm frond.

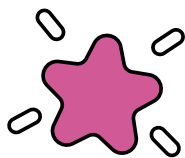


Read John 12:12–16 out loud, and when you get to the part where the people waved palm branches and shouted, wave the frond and shout, “Hosanna!”

After you’ve read the passage, write on the palm frond. On the left side of the stem and on the top half of the palm frond, write words that describe who the people were expecting God to send as the Savior — from how He would arrive to what He would be like. On the right side at the top, write the words describing how Jesus actually came and Who he was.

Jesus didn’t come or act the way that most people expected He would. But that didn’t mean He wasn’t the Savior they needed. They couldn’t see it at the time, but Jesus was exactly who the world needed, and God was still working out the plan to save the world.

Save the drawing for later this week.



Day 3

Head to a hallway or a room that has some floor space clear of furniture.

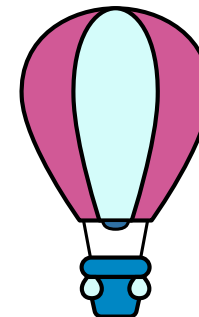
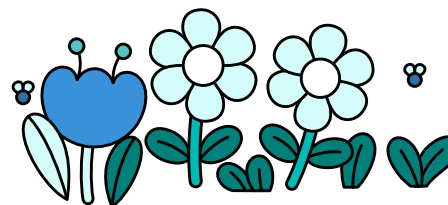
Before you pray, walk the hallway or room and imagine you are one of the people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. Imagine how it would feel to see God’s plan for the world happening. Continue walking as you talk to God about what’s happening in your life right now. You can pray about anything that you need help with, that you’re thankful for, or that anyone in your life needs. Close your prayer by asking God to help you remember that God is still working.

Day 4

Whatever happens, remember God is still working.

Think back to the list of names you wrote down last week of people you know who are followers of Jesus and who you think probably have seen something good come out of something bad. Start out by talking to anyone on the list who you didn’t talk to last week, but you can also go back to the same people.

Today, ask around and see who has experienced hope from remembering that God was or is still working. Some may still be waiting for an answer or for things to get better—ask them how they’ve seen God at work while they wait.



Day 5

What are you hoping for?

Pull out the drawing of the palm frond you made earlier this week. On the bottom left side of the frond, write what it is that you are hoping for—in any and all areas of your life. It could be goals you have for your grades or the sport you play. It could be hoping you will find a new friend, that your cousin will get better, or that your parents will stop fighting. Write as many things you’re hoping for as you can think of.

Hang the palm frond somewhere you will see it. Just as God was still working out the plan to save the world when Jesus came in a most unexpected way, God is still working in your life. All of those hopes and dreams you wrote down on the palm frond are works in progress. Not all of them will turn out the way you may be expecting, but that doesn’t change the fact that God is working things out in your life.

As you see updates in the things you are hoping for, write down the outcomes on the right side of the leaf. Even when the reality is different from what you were hoping for, look for the signs that God is still working.