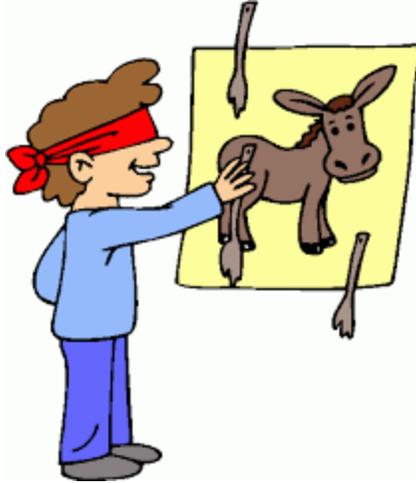


Christ Church Kids Lesson



*** you may want to print the last page with the donkey to use in the lesson or draw one ****

Today is Palm Sunday. And what does that mean? Why do we have palm branches? What are we remembering? Well, we are going to talk about that. This is a special day when we recall how Jesus was cheered and celebrated as He entered the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. Speaking of donkeys, I know a game that involves donkeys. Have you ever played "Pin the Tail on the Donkey"?



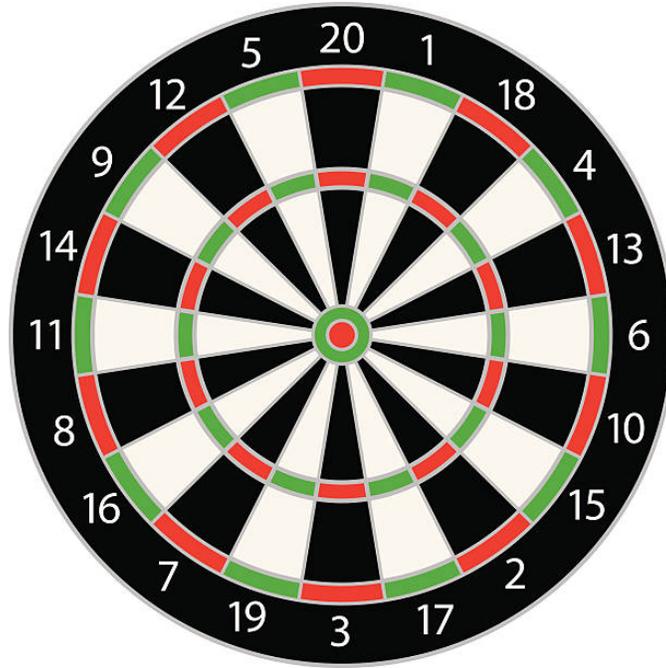
It's a popular old party game where you have to try attaching a tail symbol onto a picture of a donkey. I'm not quite sure who came up with it, but it can be kind of fun and challenging

Okay, I want you to take this picture of a tail, and I want you to attach it to that donkey (*indicate the larger image*). Just go ahead and paste it on there. (*Watch child complete the task.*)

Great! You may sit back down. Okay, now you're going to put this tail on the other donkey. Oh wait; first, I want you to put this blindfold on...and then we are going to spin you around a little. Okay, go ahead!

Well, that wasn't too bad. You did a great job. But tell me, which of those do you think was easier? That's right, it was much easier to aim for the larger picture, especially when you could see to do it!

It might seem obvious to aim for a target that's easier to hit, or for a goal that's easy to achieve. Have you ever played darts? In a game like darts, you have a target that might look like this.



Now, hitting these outside rings is easier. But hitting the smaller tougher areas is worth more points. If you get the “bullseye” in the center, which is challenging, it’s the most valuable. Well, why are we talking about targets anyway? What does it have to do with our Bible story? It’s quite simple: Jesus had a different goal in mind than what others thought He should be aiming for. He wasn’t just taking things the easy way. He knew that His job would be the hardest thing possible, but that it would be worth more than anything else.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem. He was on a donkey, showing that He came in humble peace. People had heard about Him and were excited to see Him. They expected that He might save them from political oppression, and they wanted Him to rise up and help them. They cheered “Hosanna”, which means “save us!” They waved palm branches, which was sort of like waving flags in a parade. These people wanted Jesus to have an end goal that included rescuing them from other people and taking over government. But that was not the kind of salvation Jesus planned to bring. He knew what was coming. He knew that He had a tougher target to hit. He would have to suffer, experience immense pain, and be killed. His end goal was the cross.



He also recognized that this was God's plan and purpose for Him, and that He was going to rescue not just the people of Jerusalem, but all people, saving them not from Romans, but from sin, death, and the devil.

And what wonderful news this is for us! We should rejoice that Jesus did not aim for an easy task but was willing to suffer and die. He had a painful and difficult goal to reach, and He did it. With His blood, He freed us from sin and death forever. We can give thanks to God every day for saving us.

Why don't we say a prayer right now?

Dear God,

Thank you for your marvelous plans

Thank you for sending Jesus and giving Him important purpose

Help us to trust you and remind us you are near

In Jesus's name, Amen!

