

Palm Sunday 2007 *POWER* Hour

The Case of the Missing Donkey

Scripture Text: Luke 19:29-40

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

***POWER* Line:** I give my worship to the Lord.

Note: The Palm Sunday lesson and the Easter lesson were adapted from the kids *POWER* hour series *Search 'n Rescue*. If you would like to continue this series of lessons, order your copy of this creative children's church curriculum from the Pentecostal Publishing House today at www.pentecostalpublishing.com.

Supplies:

- ✓ *Kids in Praise* CD (available from the Pentecostal Publishing House), player
- ✓ Picture of a donkey
- ✓ Cell phone
- ✓ Detective costume (trench coat, hat, flashlight, etc.)
- ✓ Good sized rock for *POWER* line signal
- ✓ Biblical costume for owner of donkey
- ✓ Pin the Tail on the Donkey game
- ✓ Blindfold
- ✓ Palm branches
- ✓ Posterboard

Preparation:

- ✓ Recruit two volunteers to play the parts of detective and man from the Bible story. Make copies of the script so they can rehearse.
- ✓ Print the words to the suggested songs on posterboard or transparency for overhead projector.
- ✓ Purchase or prepare palm branches by cutting them out of green construction paper.
- ✓ Locate a picture of a donkey.

- ✓ Prepare a code poster for the memory activity using the code below.

ω υ Η λ ♣ ν : ♣ τ

— — — — — — — — —
 :: 0=τ 1=♣ 9=ν E=λ K=H L=ω U=υ

- ✓ Make two signs out of posterboard: “I’ve been lost” and “I’ve been found.”

Schedule

- I. *POWER* of Worship
 - A. Introduction: Detective
 - B. Praise Generator: “No Rock Gonna Cry Out”
 - C. Energy Outlet: Pin the Tail on the Donkey
- II. *POWER* of the Word
 - A. Memory Activity: Secret Code
 - B. Truth Conductor: Lost and Found
 - C. Illustrated Sermon
 - D. Invitation and Prayer

POWER of Worship

Introduction

As children are finding their seats, detective enters in a flurry of police-type activity.

Excuse me! Pardon me! Police business! Scurries through the crowd, one hand holding a flashlight or cell phone and the other a picture of a donkey. **Come on, quit hee-hawing around. I’m looking for a missing donkey.** Holds up the picture. **Anyone seen a donkey like this?** Allows children

to look at the picture, make comments, etc. As detective is talking to the children, he gets a call on his cell phone. Pretends to talk to someone on the phone. **Have you found the donkey? What? You have a witness? Keep him right there. I want to talk to him.** Leaves the room calling over his shoulder. **If you see a donkey that looks like this, give me a call!**

After the detective leaves, explain that during this children's church session and next children's church session, the children will be investigating some strange cases. **A few things have come up missing and we are going to find out what has happened to them. Today we are investigating "The Case of the Missing Donkey."**

Praise Generator

Sing "No Rock Gonna Cry Out" from the *Kids in Praise* CD (available from the Pentecostal Publishing House). Give each child a palm branch. **The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday because the week before Jesus was crucified, people cut branches off the trees and waved them before the Lord. When Jesus' enemies complained, He said, "If these people should hold their peace, the rocks would cry out."** Let's wave our branches and praise the Lord as we sing this song. **No rock is going to take our place when it comes to worshipping the Lord!** Let children march around the room or stand in place and wave the palm branches as they sing.

Hold up the rock. **Our POWER line today is *I give my worship to the Lord. Whenever I hold up this rock, shout out I give my worship to the Lord.***

Energy Outlet

Not only is the donkey missing, but he's lost his tail. Let's see if we can help him with that. If you have a large class, assign four or five children to a group. One member of the group is blindfolded and turned around a few times. Before he pins the tail on the donkey, he and his group must shout out the

POWER line: ***I give my worship to the Lord.*** The group can help the pinner by giving him one set of directions as to where to pin the tail: “to the right,” “up a little,” “too low,” etc.

***POWER* of the Word**

Memory Activity

Are you ready for some real detective work? Right now we need to figure out this secret code. Show the poster. **This code is our first clue to an important message we must learn.** Assist the children in solving the clue one symbol at a time. When Luke 19:10 is revealed, instruct the children to find it in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.

Truth Conductor

Show the “I’ve been lost” and “I’ve been found” signs. **If you have ever been lost, raise your hand.** Ask two or three children to share their experiences. Be sure they tell who found them.

If your birthday is January, February, March, April, May, or June, call out “lost.” Children do so. **The rest call out “found.”**

At my signal, start calling out your word over and over. If you are calling “lost,” move to the right side of the room. If you are calling “found,” move to the left side. When the children are divided into two groups, raise your hand for silence.

What does it mean to be “lost in sin”? Lost in sin is a little different from a lost donkey or being lost in a department store. What do we mean when we say “Jesus found us”? Be sure children understand that this is a spiritual experience.

Ask three children who have repented, been baptized in Jesus’ name, and received the Holy Ghost to stand. **These children were lost, but Jesus found them.** Ask these children, **Why do you think**

Jesus found you? Was it because you are beautiful, smart, or kind? Or was it because you were lost in sin and cried out for help? Jesus answers those who cry out to Him.

Now let's find out what happened to that donkey.

Illustrated Sermon

Detective enters with a man dressed in biblical attire.

Detective: **So you are the owner of a missing donkey. Does he look like this?** Shows picture.

Man: **Why, yes, he does. Well, maybe his hair is a little bit darker, and his tail a little bit longer, and he has a spot . . .**

Detective: **Yes, yes. But basically this is what the donkey looks like, right?**

Man: **Well, yes. It's what most donkeys look like.**

Detective: **So where do you keep the donkey? Or where *did* you keep the donkey when he wasn't missing?**

Man: **I tied him to that tree over there. See, he is a really young donkey and has a tendency to run away, so I tied him up right there.**

Detective (making notes): **Hmmm. So the donkey didn't just wander off. Whoever took the donkey had to untie him. Sounds like a deliberate act.**

Man: **Well, yes, I guess you could say that.**

Detective: **Have you seen any suspicious characters in the area lately? Any strangers?**

Man: **No, not really. Just the two guys who untied the donkey.**

Detective: **Two guys who untied the donkey! You mean to tell me you saw them untie the donkey?**

Man: Sure I did!

Detective: And you just let them take the donkey? Did they have a weapon, or did they threaten you in any way?

Man: No, I asked them what they thought they were doing by untying my donkey, and they said, “The Lord has need of him.”

Detective: That’s it? You just let them take the donkey?

Man: That’s right. Anything that I have that the Lord has need of, He can have.

Detective: Did they give you any money for the donkey? Did they say if they would bring it back?

Man: No, I didn’t ask for any money. I gave it to the Lord. I don’t care if they bring back the donkey.

Detective: Well, did they say why the Lord needed the donkey?

Man: No, but I heard what happened. The Lord rode the donkey into Jerusalem. All the people threw coats and robes down on the road in front of Him, waved palm branches, and shouted “Hosanna!” as He rode by on my donkey. I wish I could have been there.

Detective: Well, I guess there is no crime involved here. If you are willing to give your donkey to the Lord, far be it from me to investigate!

Detective and man exit.

Invitation and Prayer

Think of something valuable that you have. Allow a few moments for children to consider and relate what valuables they have. **How would you feel if someone came up to you and said, “The Lord needs this”? Would you be willing to give it to Him? What would the Lord do with (named item)?**

The Lord is not really interested in your (item), but there is something of yours that He would very much like to have. Hold up the rock. *I give my worship to the Lord.* The Lord wants your worship. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day, the people recognized that He was a king and worshiped Him. They threw down their coats and cloaks, waved palm branches, and shouted words of praise to Him.

The Lord wants our praise. Sometimes we are kind of tied up just like that donkey and can't worship the Lord with all our hearts. We may be a little embarrassed to raise our hands and lift our voices. But the Lord needs our worship, just like He needed that donkey. As the music plays, will you give the Lord what He needs from you? Hold up the rock again. *I give my worship to the Lord.*

Play "Lord, I Worship You" or "All My Days" from the *Kids in Praise* CD as you invite children to surrender their lives to the Lord and worship Him.