

# Alley SG—March 27-29, 2021

## 1. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Scratch-Off Paper Square (1 per student), Scratch Sticks (1 per student), hand sanitizer

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a Scratch-Off Paper Square, a Scratch Stick, and a pump of Hand Sanitizer.
- Direct kids to use their sticks to etch into the top half a simple image of something they have had to wait for in the past.
  - This can be simple, like waiting in traffic, for Christmas to come, school to be out for a holiday, etc. Or bigger things like waiting to get a new pet, for a sibling to be born, for a parent to find a new job, or for a terminally-ill loved one to get better.
- In the other half, etch something they are waiting for right now.
- Invite kids to share their etchings when finished and tell the stories behind each one.
- Encourage them to share how they felt as they waited.
- Share answers as time allows:
  - What did you do to keep from getting impatient?
  - Did whatever you were waiting for turn out to be as you'd expected or hoped for? Why or why not?
  - Did you learn any lessons from the experience that helped you the next time you had to wait?

If kids did not mention experiences and details about how COVID-19 has impacted their lives, invite them to share how things like a loved one being sick, sheltering in place, social distancing, wearing face coverings, and other changes are a test of their patience. What helped them the most as they went through those experiences that has helped them be a more patient person today? What aspects of COVID are still testing their patience?

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bible, notecard (1 per student), pens

### What You Do

- Review today's story by asking kids to share two things they remember about it.
- Explain that the event of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was actually a fulfillment of a promise God made in the Old Testament.
- Invite one of the kids to look up Zechariah 9:9 and read it aloud.
- Ask if anyone remembers what the people shouted when they saw Jesus coming.
- Let one of the kids read John 12:13 in the New Testament then have someone else read Psalm 118:26a in the Old Testament.
- Explain (if necessary) that "Hosanna" is a Hebrew expression meaning "Save us!"
  - The crowd was shouting out their praises to the One Who came to save.
  - They quoted part of Psalm 118—the same Psalm we have in our Bible today.
  - Jesus was coming to save them—but not the way they thought.
  - The people thought Jesus was coming to save them from the rulers of Rome and to be King of the Jewish people.

- More importantly, he was coming to save them from the consequences of their sin. He was coming to die on the cross in their (and our) place.
- Ask
  - For hundreds of years Israel had been waiting for their Messiah to come. What's the longest you've had to wait for something?
  - What are you waiting for right now?
  - What can you celebrate today even as you wait?
  - How can you keep in mind that God is still working while you're waiting for something big to happen?
  - When the religious leaders told Jesus to make his followers be quiet and stop celebrating Him, Jesus said that if the people were silent, the rocks would have to speak. What does that tell you about the importance of the events that were happening?
- Ask kids to think of something the rocks might have said if they could speak instead of the people then write it on the notecard without sharing what they wrote. Their responses should be short—just a few words.
- Exchange cards when finished then let kids read what's written but still not say what it is.
- Explain that when you say, "Rocks cry out!" they should all shout whatever is written on their card—all at the same time.
- If your kids would enjoy using their imaginations, have them come up with different types of voices the rocks might have had and let them use a silly voice as they shout out whatever is written on their cards.
- Ask kids to identify the phrases they heard being shouted. If all the phrases weren't heard, repeat the shout one more time.
- Remind kids that we may have to wait for a lot of things in our life, but a Savior isn't one of them. He's already come, and we can celebrate Him every day.

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Why is it good to find something to celebrate while you're waiting and trying to be patient?
- When you're feeling impatient, the LAST thing you're probably thinking about is what you can celebrate or be grateful for. How could we change that and make it the FIRST thing we think about?
- Name three things you can celebrate every day no matter what.

*Note: If you did not do the Bible Story Extension activity (above), incorporate those questions into your discussion here.*

### 4. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, markers (1 set per student), "Hosanna Cake" page (1 per student)

#### What You Do:

- Ask kids to look up and read Psalm 33:20-22.
- Ask:
  - What does it look like to "wait in hope for the Lord"?
  - What are some reasons you can rejoice or celebrate even while you're waiting for God to do something?
  - Is there a difference between the way God wants us to react to the small, everyday "waits" versus the big, life-changing "waits?" Why or why not?

- Give each of the kids a “Hosanna Cake” Activity Page and set out the markers.
- Invite the kids to decorate their “Hosanna Cake” by putting the message about patience from Psalm 33:20-22 in their own words.
- Allow time for kids to share their “Hosanna Cakes” and the meaning behind what they put on the cake.
- Remind kids that the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem is found in all four Gospels. On the back of their “Hosanna Cake,” ask them to write the following references.
  - Matthew 21:1-11
  - Mark 11:1-11
  - Luke 19:28-44
  - John 12:12-19
- Once they are done, you can proceed to Activity 5 as a small group or gather other groups together.

### **5. Make it Personal with Prayer** *(can be done as a big group)*

**What You Need:** “Hosanna Cakes” from Activity 4

**What You Do:**

- Scatter the “Hosanna Cakes” on the floor around the room.
- Invite kids to go stand by one of the cakes.
- Ask kids to silently read what’s written on the “Hosanna Cake” and then share a silent or verbal prayer of thanks in celebration of Jesus.
- Signal kids to move to a new “Hosanna Cake” about every 15-20 seconds until they have visited each cake.
- Encourage kids to pick up their own “Hosanna Cake” and put them in their Bibles, or fold them and put them in their pockets, and take time later this week to look up and read each account and compare how the different writers tell the story.
- Close by praying for the kids to grow in their ability to trust God when they need to be patient and to celebrate what they know to be true of His love and plan for them while they are waiting.