

**Week 3: Jesus' Power is Unexpected**  
**Palm Sunday (Luke 19:28-40)**

**Supplies:** Thankful journals, markers or crayons, coats or jackets, ball or other round item  
 (For video only: Nerf ball or other soft item to throw at the speaker – or a kitchen timer goes off...something unexpected.)

Minutes	Element	Description
1	Introduction	<p>Hi friends! (Introduce yourself.) You know, things seem to be changing so fast right now, it's hard to know what to expect. If I'd asked you two months ago, this probably isn't the way you expected to be spending today. Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about people who expected some things from Jesus. But Jesus didn't do what they expected. Jesus doesn't always work the way we expect either. Often, <u>Jesus' power is unexpected</u>.</p> <p>Before we get started, let's talk about this past week's God sightings—something beautiful or amazing, or something God did for your family in the last week.</p> <p>(Share your own example.) Pause me for a minute as you talk about that...</p> <p>[SMILE AS YOU HOLD UP "PAUSE" SIGN – ADD A PALM BRANCH TO IT THIS TIME – OR USE A PALM BRANCH! RIFF OFF THE SURPRISE OF THIS]</p>
8	Family Discussion	<p>In good and bad times, Jesus is always working, even in ways we don't expect. Sometimes that's a happy surprise, like when Jesus leads us to a new friend. But sometimes, Jesus doesn't do things we hope he'll do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk with your family about some things you <i>hoped</i> Jesus would do about the Coronavirus, but he didn't. For me... (Leader, share your example.)</li> </ul> <p>Pause me as you talk about your expectations.</p> <p>There are a lot of things we expected, or at least hoped Jesus would do about the Coronavirus. Jesus is powerful. But often, <u>Jesus' power is unexpected</u>.</p> <p>(For an added fun surprise: Something comes flying from offscreen toward leader – react with surprise.)</p> <p>Whoa! That was unexpected! Let's hear about a time in the Bible Jesus didn't do what people expected.</p>

7	Bible Story	<p>Before we jump in, let's grab all the supplies you'll need. You'll need your Thankful journals, markers or crayons, a ball, and some coats, jackets or extra shirts. Don't worry, we aren't going anywhere, but you'll need them as we tell our story. I'll wait while you pause the video. (Show the supplies so families can refer to them as the video is paused.)</p> <p>Jesus was on his way into Jerusalem. People had heard about Jesus and all the wonderful things he did. So, they had some pretty high expectations. If you want to follow along in your Bible, look up Luke 19:28-40.</p> <p>(Tell the story in your own words, covering these points and leading kids in the motions in parentheses.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People were excited for Jesus to come (cheer)</li> <li>• They even threw their coats on the ground in his path (lay a jacket or shirt on the floor and have families make a path with their coats) –this was a way people honored a king</li> <li>• Then Jesus came along, on a <i>donkey!</i> That's not what we'd expect a king to ride. (roll a ball down the path)</li> <li>• But still, it was Jesus, so people shouted Hosanna and cheered for him (cheer and shout Hosanna for Jesus)</li> <li>• The leaders of Jerusalem weren't excited about Jesus. They didn't want things to change. They didn't want Jesus to be king. They were even making plans to kill him. (grumble and groan)</li> </ul> <p>Jesus could've come into Jerusalem and proclaimed himself king. Many people probably expected him to. They were tired of being ruled by the Romans. And they didn't always like the way their leaders treated them either. But Jesus didn't do what they wanted or expected. That makes me wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you think Jesus doesn't always do what we want him to? (Share your own idea, then have people pause.)</li> </ul> <p>Jesus knew that the people of Jerusalem, and all of us, need much more than a great king ruling the land. Jesus had something so much better in mind than just a kingdom on earth. He wants us to be part of his <i>heavenly</i> kingdom forever. So even though he didn't stop the leaders from plotting to kill him (and next week we'll find out that they <i>did</i> kill him), he was up to something really good...and unexpected. That's because <u>Jesus' power is unexpected</u>. When he doesn't do what we want...it may be because he's up to something <i>better</i>...even if it doesn't seem better right now.</p>

		<p>Now pause me and talk about these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What good things is Jesus doing through this time we're in right now?</li> </ul> <p>Thanks for sharing! Sometimes it's hard to see Jesus' great big plan. But even when we don't understand why something's happening, we can trust that Jesus is still powerful. Jesus doesn't always do what we expect. Sometimes, <u>Jesus' power is unexpected</u>. But he promised to always do what's best, and we can trust that!</p>
3.5	Video	<p>Praising Jesus is a great way to remind ourselves of all the good things he's done for us. Jump up and join in praising him right now! We can praise Jesus all the time...morning, noon, and night...because we trust his power...even when it's unexpected.</p> <p>Praise Him (Provide this link in a comment or description under your video.)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd3pZ1aF6is">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd3pZ1aF6is</a></p>
5	Game: The Unexpected	<p>Since you're up, let's keep moving and play a fun game full of the unexpected! Go ahead and clear as much space in the room as possible. Pause the video; I'll wait.</p> <p>Welcome back! Are you ready to get moving? Okay, I'm going to give you instructions, and you try to follow them as quickly as you can. Ready? Listen carefully, because they'll keep changing fast!</p> <p>[LIST THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, LEAVING JUST A FEW SECONDS BETWEEN EACH ONE. YOU CAN EVEN TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE DIRECTIONS YOURSELF!]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do 3 jumping jacks</li> <li>• touch something in the room that's red</li> <li>• give everyone in the room a high-five</li> <li>• touch your toes</li> <li>• reach for the sky</li> <li>• touch your toes again</li> <li>• spin in a circle</li> <li>• reach for the sky again</li> <li>• sit down</li> <li>• stand up</li> <li>• hop on one foot 5 times</li> </ul> <p>[REPEAT ACTIONS IN RANDOM ORDER FOR ABOUT 1-2 MINUTES ENDING WITH SIT DOWN]</p> <p>Whew! It was hard to keep up with that game. Pause the video and talk with your family about this question.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did you feel as you tried to keep up with all the changes in this game?</li> </ul> <p>You never knew what I was going to ask you to do next. It was always unexpected! We don't always know what's coming next in life either. With the Coronavirus, it seems like things change every day! But Jesus knows what's coming next, and we can always trust that he's in control, even when he doesn't do things the way we expect – even when <u>his power is unexpected</u>.</p>
2	Closing/prayer	<p>Jesus doesn't always do what we think he should. People expected him to be a king on earth...but instead, Jesus died. That didn't seem as good...but then, Jesus came back to life! Now THAT was unexpected! Now, Jesus invites us to a much better kingdom in heaven!</p> <p>When <u>Jesus' power is unexpected</u>, we can trust that he has something better, even if we don't understand it right now. Take a minute to think about the ways your family has been able to help each other during this time. Or maybe you'll think of people outside your family, like nurses, doctors, and grocery store workers. (Pause for a few seconds.)</p> <p>Now, pause me, and pray for those helpers. Then take a minute, as a family, to thank Jesus for the things <i>he's</i> done. Ready? Pause!</p> <p>Awesome prayers! Now, when this video ends you can draw a picture of something good or unexpected Jesus has done during this time in your Thankfulness Journal. Put today's date on that page and keep adding to your journal this week as you see more God Sightings. See you next week!</p>
Total: 27		