

Palm Sunday / April 5, 2020

On Our Behalf

By Jill Meek

for use as
STEP 1 

Palm Sunday**Focus:**

Jesus took what we
deserved.

Palm Sunday**Bible Basis:**

Mark 15:16-37;
Hebrews 10:19-22

Palm Sunday**Memory Verse:**

God was reconciling the world to himself in
Christ, not counting people's sins against
them. —2 Corinthians 5:19a

Students will consider the cost of acting on behalf of others as they watch a video about volunteer drivers in China helping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Materials:

Internet access

As the coronavirus began to spread in Wuhan, the city went on lockdown. Still, as COVID-19 continues to spread with no vaccine or cure, one of the best measures for prevention is quarantining. That is, those who have or have potentially been exposed to the virus need to stay away from others and from public spaces. This of course leaves them without vital supplies like food unless someone else can take on that task for them. That is just what Li Wang and other volunteer drivers decided to do—give of themselves for the sake of others at risk.

Play the following video [2:24]:

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmGSIUH7F-M&list=WL&index=15&t=0s>

- **What of her own is she giving up to do this for others?** (She is using her own time, car, energy, and other resources.)
- **Why does she feel nervous?** (She feels nervous because by helping those infected by the virus; she puts her own health at risk. However, she feels that because she is younger and healthier than some, she is in a unique position to do this.)
- **What is her motivation for helping her neighbors survive this lockdown?** (She had an experience where someone else helped her survive. She understands the importance of using your own life to give someone else a better, more whole life.)
- **Would you be willing to take a risk or give up your own comforts to help a stranger/a friend/a family member survive?** (Accept all reasonable answers. When someone's life is on the line, it seems obvious to help. But we don't always think of others' needs, might not be willing to put ourselves at risk, or feel we don't have much to give. Some might express being willing to sacrifice more for someone they love over a stranger.)

There are many heroes in the world, some who give of their own time and talents, even those who risk their own health and safety, for the sake of others. But the greatest all-time example of this is Jesus—who gave His very body and blood to give us life and wholeness. Let's find out more.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



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Palm Sunday / April 5, 2020

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for use as
STEP 4 

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Materials:

None

Out of His great love for us, Jesus stood in our place when He hung on the cross. We can't repay Him for what He has done, but out of our gratitude and because of His examples, we can pay it forward a little when we have the chance. By standing in someone else's place when they can't or shouldn't have to go it alone—being for them a friend, an advocate, or supplying a resource—we point to Jesus who stood in our place so we would never be alone, but could be with Him always.

➤ **How does it feel to be in need or alone?** (Accept all reasonable answers. One might feel overlooked, forgotten, misunderstood, unloved, etc. Students may share examples of times they have experienced this.)

➤ **How does it feel to be treated kindly or receive support when you are in need or feeling alone?** (Accept all reasonable answers. One might feel relief, surprise, joy, gratitude, etc. Students may share examples of times they have experienced this.)

Talk to your students about which of the following examples they would be willing to stand in someone's place or act on behalf of others, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. Encourage conversation about what causes us to lean into our comfort zones and what might inspire us to act.

- Stand up for a friend being bullied or teased online.
- Speak up for someone with a disability to ensure they get the access and opportunities they need.
- Give food to a hungry stranger.
- Help a competitor who is injured.
- Bring groceries to a homebound neighbor.
- Raise money for a family in need.
- Volunteer to walk a dog for someone who is sick (with your parents' permission.)

- Send thank-you notes to first responders and those who take risks every day while exposed to this virus.

➤ **How can you stand in someone's place this week?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Previous conversation may have prompted ideas. The key is to identify a need around you or a personal blind spot or comfort zone to break out of.)

Challenge them to look for opportunities to follow through. Urge them to send you a selfie as they engage in this challenge along with info on the way(s) they are following through.

Close in prayer with gratitude for what Jesus has done for us and asking for boldness to act on behalf of others to demonstrate the love of Christ.

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