

Palm-Branch Pickup

Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40

Materials

Green construction paper, scissors or paper cutter, markers.

Prepare the Game

Cut construction paper into small squares, making at least 10 squares for each student.

Lead the Game

1. Give each student 10 squares of paper and a marker. Students number squares 1 to 10 and



then randomly place squares, numbered side down, in center of playing area.

2. Divide students into two teams. Teams line up shoulder-to-shoulder on opposite sides of the playing area. Assign numbers to students as in the game Steal the Bacon (see sketch).

3. Call two numbers. Students with those numbers from each team have five seconds to collect as many green squares as possible. Call "stop" when time is up; students return to teams with the squares they collected. Volunteer(s) from team who collected the square with the highest number tells a reason to praise Jesus.

4. To play another round, volunteers return squares to playing area, numbered side down. Play as many rounds as time allows.

Options

1. If you have fewer than 10 students in your class, make more than 10 squares for each student. Divide students into two teams, but tell all students to collect squares at the same time. Students race to collect squares until there are no more remaining on the ground. Volunteer from team with most total points tells a reason to praise Jesus.

2. Cut the papers into palm-branch pieces.

3. For older students, each team totals the numbers on the squares they collect. Volunteer from team with most points tells a reason to praise Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. **Instead of laying palm branches on the ground, how might we show praise to an important person today?** (Putting down a red carpet where that person is going to walk. Clapping for a person.)

2. **What are some ways we can give praise to Jesus today?** (Sing songs to Him. Pray to Him and tell Him what we praise Him for. Tell other people how great He is.)

