

# CREATE IT

## PALM BRANCH CONSTRUCTION

Palm branches come in many sizes, some up to 9 feet long. Ours will be mini versions!

Of the 5,000 ways to create paper palm branches, what follows is about the simplest approach. If you decide to modify how participants make their branches, that's fine. It's all about the conversation and praise, not the branches!

### Supplies

- Green construction paper (2 sheets per person)
- Scissors
- Cellophane tape

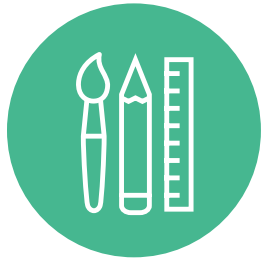
### Directions

Give each person 2 sheets of paper and these instructions:

1. Roll 1 piece of paper as tightly as possible to create the stiff stem of a palm branch. Use strips of tape to keep the stem tightly rolled. Hint: If papers are rolled slightly diagonally, stems will be longer. Test it out!
2. From the second sheet of paper, cut an elongated palm leaf shape (essentially, an oval with pointy ends).
3. Fold the leaf-shaped paper in half lengthwise. Using scissors, snip thin leaflets along the leaf. Be sure to cut along the open edges; stop cutting about an inch from the center fold. Leave enough room at the bottom of the leaf to attach it to the stem made earlier.
4. Unfold the leaf. Tape it to one end of the stem, forming a branch. Be sure to leave enough stem at the bottom of the branch for you to hold it.
5. Wave the branch—you're done!

During or after the activity, talk about this:

- Tell about the most famous or important person you've met. Who did you meet and what was the meeting like? How did you communicate respect for that person?
- It's great that Jesus is our King, but ... so what? What does that change for you in daily life?
- Kings are in charge and their subjects obey them. What's an area of your life where you find it fairly easy to obey Jesus?



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- Where's an area in your life in which obedience is hard? Why do you think it's tough?
- Where will you place your palm branch so you'll see it often and remember Jesus is King?

Have everyone close their eyes and hold their palm branches. Invite them to imagine themselves in Jerusalem as Jesus comes into view. Their hearts race and the crowd pushes them forward, out into the busy street. Now they're waving palm branches. (*Encourage them to do so.*) They're shouting, "Praise God in highest heaven!" (*Encourage them to join you in repeating this.*) Say, "Now Jesus is passing by you, so close you're afraid the colt will step on your toes. Jesus looks straight at you and smiles. It's a smile you'll remember forever."

Ask participants to open their eyes and talk about this:

- How does it feel to know your King isn't some distant ruler, but a King who actually knows your name and loves you?