

## WELCOMING THE KING

by John Cosper

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A group of children discover that the family donkey is carrying Jesus into Jerusalem, so they and their friends get palm branches to welcome him.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 10

**TOPIC:** Easter, Biblical Times, Palm Sunday

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 19:28-38

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Children's Service, Worship Service

**CHARACTERS:**

Naphtali—a kid selling palm branches  
Aaron—the little boy whose donkey Jesus borrows  
Gloria, Hannah, Diana—Aaron's sisters  
John, Dan, Mary, Michael and Adam—other kids

**PROPS:** Palm branches

**COSTUMES:** Biblical dress

**SOUND:** 2 wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** The streets of Jerusalem

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### Director's Tip:

Knowing how to direct the focus of an audience is an essential tool for clarity in drama. A scene cannot be communicated clearly if an audience is confused as to where to look or who is speaking. Welcoming the King offers a wonderful opportunity for a director to really practice the skill of directing focus. This drama has a lot of characters, and actors will have to be given specific timing to know when they will go from being background spectators to principle players. Actors tend to want to be in the limelight the entire time on stage, so they may have to be lovingly reminded to keep their movements small and their voices hushed while they are not delivering lines in the script. However, they will have to be acutely aware of the timing of the drama to be ready to turn into the scene as soon as their lines begin. Eventually, blocking should become so fluid that the transition as one group of actors enters while another turns away will look like a ballet. Just keep in mind that some prima donnas may need more reminding than others that if they try to steal focus they will end up robbing the audience of a concise, clear drama.

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*NAPHTALI is selling a basket full of palm branches. GLORIA and her sisters enter.*

**NAPHTALI:** Palm branches! Palm branches for sale! Get your palm leaves right here.

**GLORIA:** Naphtali?

**NAPHTALI:** Hi, Gloria, wanna buy a palm branch?

**GLORIA:** Why would I want to buy a palm branch?

**NAPHTALI:** Why wouldn't you want one? They're beautiful, aesthetically pleasing and they are a symbol of peace.

**HANNAH:** What's "aesthetically" mean?

**DIANA:** I dunno.

**GLORIA:** That may all be true, Naphtali, but considering palm trees grow around this area, why would I want to buy one?

**NAPHTALI:** Aha! Because all the palm branches are on palm trees just south of town. You'd have to walk an hour to get one for yourself, or for a small coin, you could get one from me. I'm simply bringing the product to the people.

**GLORIA:** Ha! Good luck selling a single one.

*AARON enters.*

**GLORIA:** There he is. Come on, girls.