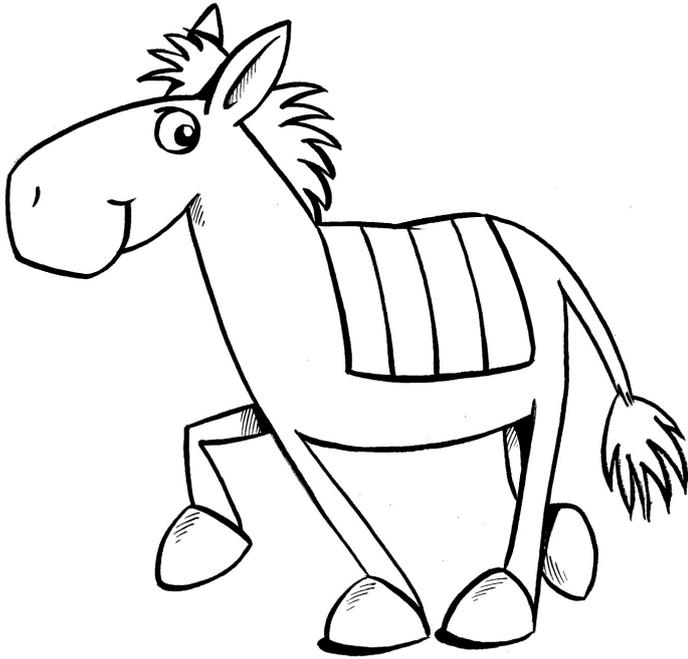


Duncan the Donkey (Grown Ups Guide)



The Story

Duncan the donkey was outside the door
Just standing there gazing at dust on the floor,
When two men came along who looked happy to see
A donkey just standing there. Who could they be?
They smiled and told those who came over to see
That their special friend Jesus had told them there'd be
A donkey just waiting in this spot, and so
The owners agree that young Duncan could go.

"Look Jesus," said one man, "it's just like you said."
And then Jesus was smiling, he stroked Duncan's head.

"Hello little donkey, I hope you don't mind,
It's just a short journey if you'd be so kind."
But Duncan thought he was so happy he'd burst,
He'd never been ridden and Jesus was first.
He'd heard this man Jesus was sent from above
He could help people, heal people, show them real love.
With coats on his back, and then Jesus all ready
The donkey was trotting and trying to keep steady.

In just a short while Duncan saw all around
Huge crowds either side putting coats on the ground.
They made him a path that was soft like a bed
And they all picked up palm leaves to wave overhead.
He normally didn't like noises this near
But with Jesus so close Duncan didn't feel fear.
They called out, "Hosanna", they shouted out, "Blessed!"
How exciting that everyone knew what was best.
And now near to Jerusalem, Duncan saw more
People waving and laying down coats on the floor.

Jesus climbed down and his eyes looked so kind,
There was just one big question in young Duncan's mind:
If all of these people knew Jesus was King
Then why choose a donkey, so humble a thing?
He could have had horses and chariots tall
But he chose little Duncan, though Duncan was small.

The Easter story is a an emotional one for Christians and difficult to share with young children. Use the cartoon (or the little knitted donkey if in school) to give the children something to focus on then read the story of Palm Sunday. The significance of Jesus choosing a donkey showed his humility and it was also written about in the Old Testament as a prophecy of a king arriving.

The first activity sheet helps to introduce the children to Easter words. Their previous experience of Easter might be eggs and chocolate, perhaps Spring and daffodils. As we introduce Biblical words like cross and Jerusalem, chat about how the egg and spring represent new life and that Christians believe Easter is a time of new life.

The second activity sheet goes further into the story and mentions the death and resurrection of Jesus. Help the children to think about emotions. Perhaps discuss how our faces change when our feelings change. This may raise other questions about why Jesus died and if he really came alive again. Please feel free to contact NISCU if you would like a Christian perspective to help answer these questions!

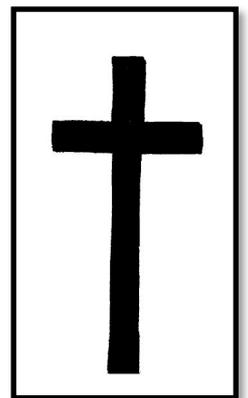
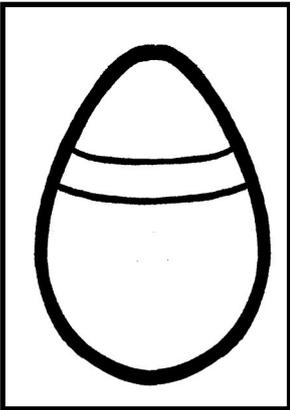
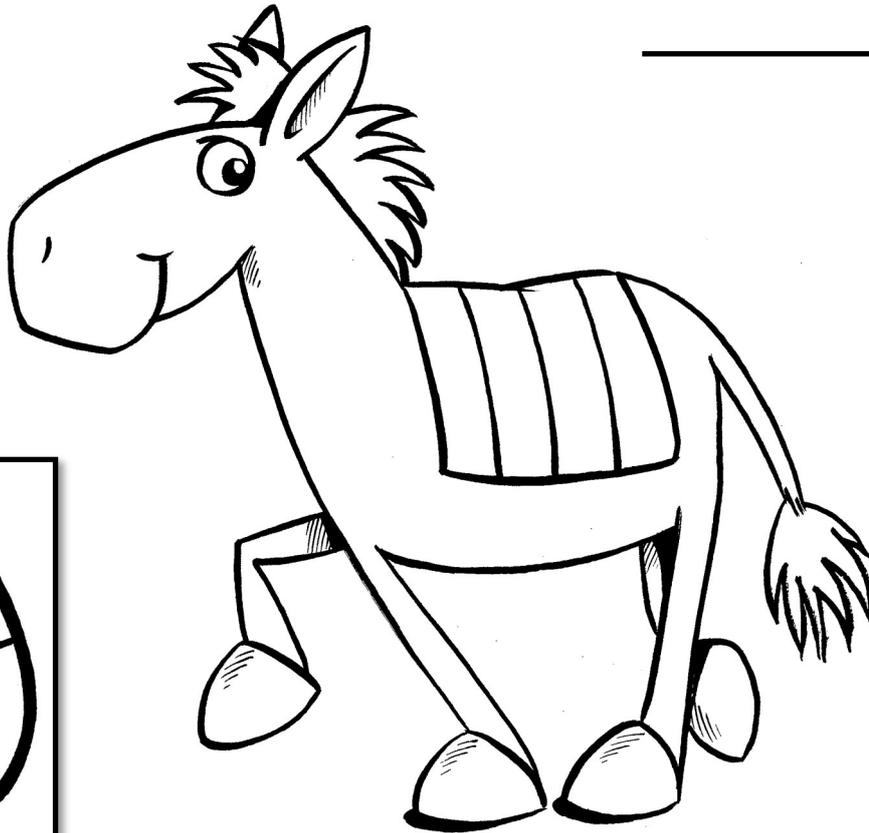
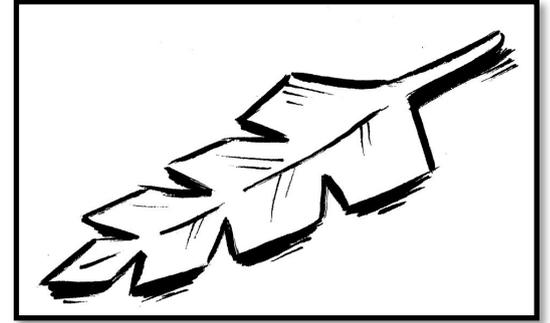
Matthew ch 21 v1-11; Mark ch 11 v1-11; Luke ch 19 v28-40;
John ch 12 v12-19; Zechariah ch9 v9 biblegateway.com

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Easter words

Choose the right words from the bottom and write them underneath the picture.



egg

rabbit

donkey

cross

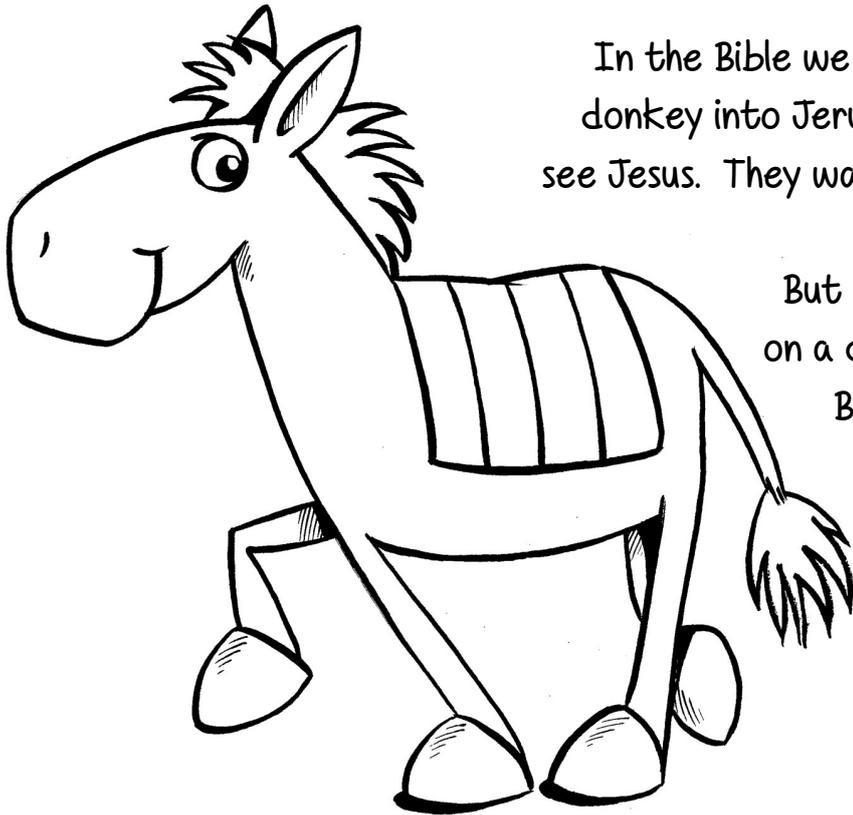
Spring

palm leaf

Jerusalem

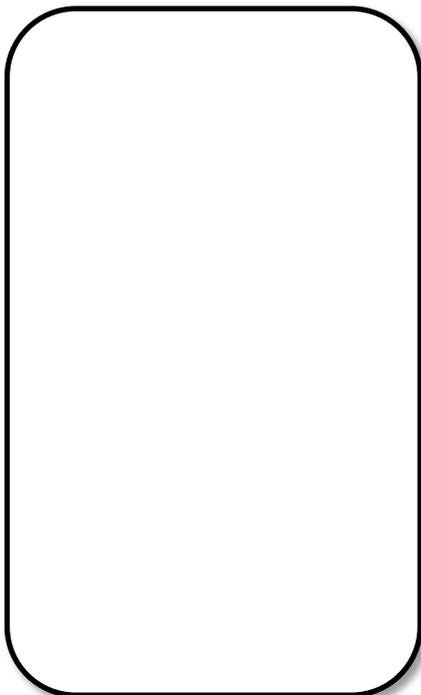
Now colour it in. Give Duncan the donkey a brightly coloured blanket.

Easter feelings

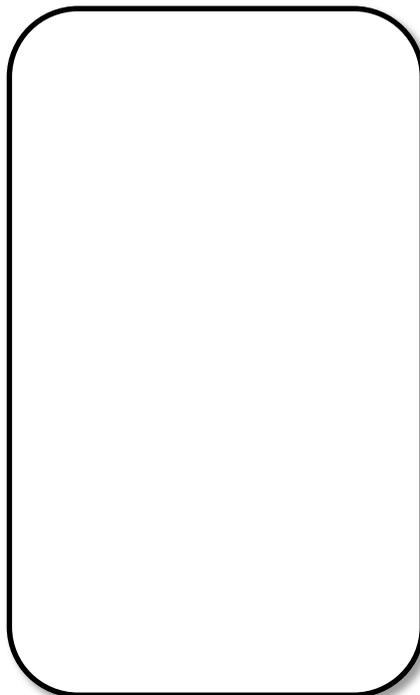


In the Bible we read that Jesus rode on a little donkey into Jerusalem. Everyone was pleased to see Jesus. They waved palm leaves and shouted out "Hosanna" (like hooray!).

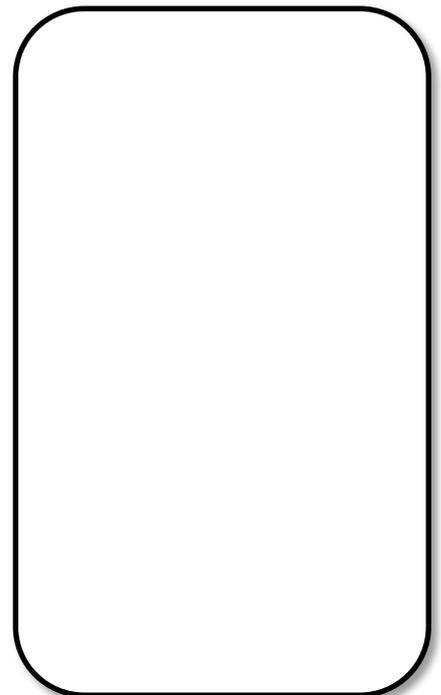
But a few days later Jesus would die on a cross. It was very sad. Then the Bible says Jesus came alive again 3 days later! Christians believe this is the most important story in the whole Bible and that it shows how much Jesus loves people.



Draw someone, or take a photo of yourself, looking excited to see Jesus arriving.



Draw someone, or take a photo of yourself, looking very sad because Jesus has died.



Draw someone, or take a photo of yourself, looking shocked because Jesus has come back to life!

