

Dan the Donkey



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-easter-palm-sunday-dan-the-donkey/zsc2dp3>

Play your chosen music.

2. Introduction

Distribute the paper slips and display the image of the cheering crowd:

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/cheering_crowd_bbc_teach.jpg

Look at the picture of the people with their arms raised. What do you think is happening? [Allow time for responses.] The people look like are celebrating - they could be cheering 'Hooray!' for someone or something - but who...or what? [Allow time.] Some of the grown-ups here today are going to tell us who they would cheer 'Hooray!' for and why... [Allow time.]

3. Your introduction to the video

I wonder who you would cheer 'Hooray!' for? Think about that as we watch a story based on one from the Bible. It's about a young donkey called Dan - a donkey who dreams of one day doing an important job. His chance to do that special job happens on a day we now call Palm Sunday. And watch carefully to see who the people at the end of the story are cheering for...

4. Play the video

Click on the 'Play video' button to load the video page. The video should play automatically. Display the video full-size using the toolbar buttons. The duration is 5' 33". The end is a donkey braying - 'Hee-hawww!' - and music (fades).

5. Time to talk

- Where does Dan live and how is he different from the other donkeys?
- Why do the other donkeys tease Dan?
- What do the two men say to Dan's owner about why they need him?
- What does Dan see on his journey?
- What do the people in Jerusalem do and say?

6. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song. The BBC 'Come and Praise' collection includes 'The donkey trotted through the town'.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

Today we've thought about how Dan the donkey was chosen for a really important job... Even though he felt small and unimportant... We've also thought about the things that make us cheer with happiness... [Recall some of them from the introductory activity.] Sometimes things are so amazing we want to shout out loud about them to anyone and everyone...! I wonder what you would cheer 'Hooray!' for..? Think about that now... The people who saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem felt the same way - they shouted 'Hosanna! Praise the King!' Christians all over the world will do the same as they remember the story of Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

8. Opportunity for prayer

Dear God - Thank you for the many special times - like Palm Sunday - to celebrate. / Help us all to dream big - just like Dan in the story... / And to enjoy taking part when we have the chance to do special things.