

# EASTER ASSEMBLY 4b:

## The Donkey's Story (Play Script Version)

*All material by S. Ross © 2010 Learn2soar Limited.*

- THEMES: Palm Sunday / Bravery
- AIM: To learn about Palm Sunday and to learn about overcoming our fears when trying something new
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be performed by a class of children. It consists of an introduction, a play, summary and prayer. A story version of the same assembly, which can be delivered by an adult, is also included above.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text* = text that can be read straight out.
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SONG 1: Take Jesus To Jerusalem

INTRO:

CHILD 1: *The Sunday before Easter is known as Palm Sunday. This is the day when Christians remember how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.*

CHILD 2: *As he rode, a large crowd of people welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting 'hosanna', which means 'save us'.*

CHILD 3: *If you don't know the story of how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, listen now as we tell it to you. But we're going to tell it from a different viewpoint... this is 'The Donkey's Story'!*

PLAY: The Donkey's Story

[Enter Little Donkey and his mother – NOTE: Two printable donkey masks are included below, one for Little Donkey and one for his mother.]

CHILD 4: *It was a hot day in Bethany, which was a small village on the way to Jerusalem. On the road next to the market stood a mother donkey and next to her was her young son who was simply called Little Donkey.*

CHILD 5: *Little Donkey was a colt who was close to his first birthday. He liked to play with his older brothers and sisters, he liked to trot around the market, and he loved it when passers-by ruffled his head, patted him and gave him nice things to eat, saying things like, 'what a cute donkey'. He'd smile back and give them a loud 'EE-AW', which always seemed to make people chuckle.*

L. DONKEY: *EE-AW!*

CHILD 6: *But now that Little Donkey was nearly one, he was starting to feel very nervous. The problem was that very soon Little Donkey would have to let a person ride him for the very first time.*

L. DONKEY: *Mummy? Very soon I'll have to carry someone on my back for the first time? But, what if I'm not strong enough?*

M. DONKEY: *Don't worry, dear, you're already strong enough to carry someone.*

L. DONKEY: *But what if I don't like it? What if I get scared or sore?*

M. DONKEY: *There, there little one. The first time you let someone ride you, I'll be there with you all the way. That's the donkey way. That's how it's been done for centuries.*

L. DONKEY: *Mummy, can you remember the first time you were ridden?*

M.DONKEY: *I can indeed, and I can remember being scared and talking to my mother about it just like we're talking now. Your grandmother told me how when she was young, she took a young lady called Mary all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That's around eighty miles!*

L.DONKEY: *WOW! Eighty miles?*

M.DONKEY: *Then she took Mary and her husband, Joseph and their new baby, Jesus all the way to Egypt and then all the way back to Nazareth again.*

L.DONKEY: *EGYPT? WOOOAAAH! That must be a thousand, million miles away? I bet she was very sore after that?*

M.DONKEY: *Well that's the important thing... your grandmother said she didn't feel sore or tired at all. In fact, she said she loved it! You see God made creatures like donkeys, horses and camels to be able to carry people without feeling sore. Anyway, then it was my turn to let someone ride me.*

L.DONKEY: *Who was it mummy? Who rode you?*

M.DONKEY: *It was Jesus! He was about eleven years old and I was about your age. I let him ride me all the way from Nazareth to Jerusalem. That's the big city along the road from here.*

L.DONKEY: *And did you like it?*

M.DONKEY: *Absolutely! It didn't hurt at all and Jesus was very kind to me. After we got back to Nazareth, I helped Jesus and his dad all the time. Then when Jesus grew up, he started teaching everyone about God. He gave me to our new master, but said that one day, when I'd had a child of my own, he'd need me again.*

#### WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this story (around another two pages in length)
2. It suggests then singing a further song: 'Ho-San-Ho'
3. It then concludes with a summary and a prayer.