

## Going on a Journey

- Volunteers to go on a journey with me:
  - as they come up, give each a piece of equipment to wear or hold;
  - why might this piece of equipment be needed?
- Sometimes we want to do things that can be risky, or a little dangerous
  - maybe some of you have risky things to do as part of your jobs
- If we do have something dangerous to do, we tend to protect ourselves!
  - all the bits of equipment...!

### What is today?

- Palm Sunday
- Time when Jesus did something risky, with very little to protect him
- *Hint at the story, with emphasis on risks Jesus was taking coming up to Jerusalem*

### Prayer

- Take risks for God...

### Equipment

- Fireman: toy fireman gear: tabbard; helmet?
- Cooking: Oven gloves; apron
- Gardening: goggles, gloves
- Cycling gear: helmet, goggles, trousers, trouser clips, lights, fluorescent jacket, gloves
- Building: hard hat, steel-toed boots?

## Coming up to Jerusalem

- I've got some pictures which I hope will help you discover more about the story of Jesus coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

### 1. Gradient

- What does sign mean?
- Jesus knew he had to go up to Jerusalem
- **Literally up hill; also something difficult** - hard work climbing hills!

### 2. Danger

- What does sign mean?
- Jesus knew that his life would be in danger - turned out true too!
- But he still went on; brave!
  - **we can learn courage to do the right thing too...**

### 3. Animals

- What does sign mean?
- Jesus sent two of his friends to borrow a donkey for him to ride on
- Crowds treated him like a king, even though some were just caught up in the holiday mood and didn't really know what was happening
  - donkey actually a sign of humility, like Queen turning up in a mini!
  - **(how will William and Kate be travelling to Westminster Abbey in a couple of weeks?)**

### 4. Stones Falling

- What does sign mean?
- Religious leaders try to get him to silence the crowds, to shut people up
- But Jesus knows that the truth of who he really is - God's promised one, God's Son, Messiah - can't be hidden
- Uses picture language - **"even the stones will shout out"!**
  - what is about to happen in Jerusalem is so amazing it will shake the world even more than the biggest earthquake!

### 5. Give Way

- What does sign mean?
- Sometimes the strongest people are the ones who do what they know to be right, and not just what they would like to do;
  - that's real courage and self-control
- Jesus knows that his Father in heaven wants him to go into Jerusalem, and allow himself to be killed, so that we can get to know God;
  - and he has the strength to give way to his Father's will; to go God's way rather than avoiding the pain

## 6. No U-Turn

- What does sign mean?
- There's no turning back for Jesus - this is the beginning of the last week of his life on earth
- He could have protected himself - he had all the power of heaven at his disposal - but he chose not to:
  - so that people like us could be rescued from danger for ever;
  - we are in danger, because we've done wrong things that God doesn't like;
  - we're in danger of God saying "you don't live the way you should - I can't be your friend";
- God doesn't want that to happen, so he sent Jesus to protect us from the consequence of the wrong things we have done
- That's why we can enjoy worshipping him today, though we may feel sad at the things Jesus had to go through which we'll remember particularly in the week to come