

Jesus's Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44

MAIN POINT: People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (CSB)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from our sin.

1st – 3rd Grade Small Group

Leader BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings the week of Passover. Many of God's people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem as well. Near Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into a village.

Jesus told them, “You will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” Jesus would fulfill Zechariah's prophecy: “Look, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city. He rode a donkey, and people laid branches and their robes on the ground in front of Him. The people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem believed He was the promised Messiah, but they expected Him to overthrow Roman oppression and set up an earthly throne. Jesus sent a different message.

The next day, Jesus entered the temple and turned over the tables of the money changers and those selling doves. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7, declaring that His kingship would not just be over the Jews but over all people. While Jesus was in the temple, He healed the blind and the lame. Jesus' actions declared, “I am not just your King; I am also your God” (Isa. 35:4-6).

Finally, the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshiping Jesus as their King. “Do You hear what these children are saying?” they asked. Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2. Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise. Jesus is the Son of God who came to overthrow sin and set up an eternal throne.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help kids connect the dots between God’s promises of a Messiah and Jesus’ coming. Help them understand why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Welcome

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Ask kids to share about their favorite way to travel—on a bike? In an airplane? On a horse? Would any of the kids like to travel on a donkey?

Activity page

Invite kids to complete the “Journey to Jerusalem” activity page. Kids will complete the maze to lead Jesus into the city of Jerusalem.

SAY We will learn that a man was traveling toward Jerusalem, and people were excited to greet Him. He rode a donkey, and people praised Him as He entered. Who do you think our story might be about?

Palm Tree Match

Use the sets of the “Palm Tree Match” cards. Help kids pair up and give each pair a set of cards. Kids will arrange the cards into a 4-by-3 grid, and then take turns flipping over two cards to find a match. When a kid finds a match, she will keep the pair and take another turn. If she fails to turn over matching cards, she will turn them facedown and the other player will take a turn.

SAY • In our story today, people welcomed Jesus by waving palm branches and laying them on the ground for His donkey to walk over. Does that seem like a strange way to greet someone? How might you welcome someone special to your town or home?

TRANSITION TO LARGE GROUP

Walk across hall and sit as a group on risers.

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Paper Bag Robes

Give each kid a paper bag “robe.” Help kids as needed. Provide crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate their robes. Write Jesus saves us from sin on the back of each bag. Invite kids to play out putting their completed robes on the donkey and colt (use chairs) for Jesus to sit on or laying them on the road before Jesus.

SAY • Jesus’ friends put their robes on the donkey and colt for Jesus to sit on. Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. The people were so happy to see Jesus, they laid their robes on the road in front of Him. The people welcomed Jesus as their King. Have you welcomed Jesus as your King? When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

Pray

Take prayer requests. Pray, asking God to help your group trust Him more each day, even in unexpected or difficult circumstances.

JOIN WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY

Pass out palm branches! When prompted wrap up and line up in to get ready to enter the sanctuary.