

# Jesus' Triumphal Entry

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

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus is alive!

**GOSPEL GEMS:**

- Jesus is God's Son.
- God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.
- People praised Jesus as their King.

## FREE PLAY

Have Bible Story coloring pages and crayons out as an option during free play.

## LESSON

### INTRODUCE THE STORY

#### Gathering Song

Invite toddlers from free play to join you on the puzzle mats with the song. To the tune of "Are You Sleeping"

*To the rug, to the rug  
Right now, right now,  
It's time for our story,  
It's time for our story,  
Right now, right now.*

*To the rug, to the rug  
Right now, right now,  
[name] to the rug,  
[name] to the rug, (repeat as necessary to invite all toddlers)  
Right now, right now.*

#### Welcome Song

Invite toddlers to join you in our weekly welcome song. To the tune of the "Farmer in the Dell".

*I like to come to church [arms over head in triangle]  
I like to come to church [arms over head in triangle]  
With all the other boys and girls [point to all the children]  
I like to come to church*

*I like to come to church [arms over head in triangle]  
I like to come to church [arms over head in triangle]  
I learn about how Jesus loves me [hug yourself]  
I like to come to church. [arms over head in triangle]*

### Transition to Bible study

Pass out laminated Bible Story picture cards and set out Bible story picture. Have the page with the Bible story you read inside a Bible.

## TEACH THE STORY

Introduce the Bible story

**SAY • Today is a special day! Ask if they know what special Sunday this is? [invite responses]. Last week we learned about Jesus being born. God sent Him to us as a baby and when he grew up Jesus had a very important job to do. Today is Palm Sunday!**

**The Bible is the most special book of all. God gave us His words in the Bible. Everything in the Bible really happened.**

### Read Bible Story

Have story nestled inside Bible as you read.

**Jesus and His friends were going to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Long ago, one of God's messengers said God's special King would ride a donkey into Jerusalem. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats on the ground in front of Jesus. They put palm branches on the ground too. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted "Hosanna!" Jesus went to the temple. Some people were not treating the temple the right way, so Jesus made them leave. Sick people came to Jesus, and He healed them. Even children shouted, "Hosanna!" They knew Jesus was their King.**

Collect Story Cards (this will be sent home on a ring with all the stories at the end of the quarter)

## Sing a Song

Invite toddlers to join you singing the Unit Main Point Song. Repeat several times singing it faster, slower, louder, quieter. To the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”

*Jesus came to be our King, and this is how we praise Him!*

*The \*rocks said, \*\*[make no sound] 3x*

*King Jesus is alive!*

Substitute in other rounds *\*donkey, people* and *\*\* hee-haw, hosanna*

**SAY God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus is alive!**

## Pray

Let the toddlers know that we are going to pray before we play with something fun! Invite them to reach their hands up high over their head, shake their arms out, clap their hands together and bring them down into their laps to rest nice and quiet.

**SAY • God, thank you for listening to us when we pray. Thank you  
Thank you for sending your Only Son, Jesus to earth to  
rescue us from sin. Help us to know how much to love us!  
Be with us this week. Amen!**

## EXPERIENCE THE STORY

### Cut palm leaves

Pass palm leaf shapes and scissors. Invite toddlers to cut a fringe around the edge.

**SAY • People praised Jesus as their King by putting palm branches in front of His donkey. Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus is alive.**

### Praise Parade/Dance Party

Pass out regular palm branches and invite preschoolers to follow you around the room and wave the palms and dance to “Hosanna Rock”

**SAY • God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. People praised Jesus as their King. Even children praised Jesus! Jesus is alive.**

### Serve Snack (Gorilla Munch & Water)

### Play find the donkey

Choose two toddlers at a time to cover their eyes while you hide a toy donkey in the classroom. Direct them to stay together and look as a team. Other toddlers may give clues like saying “hot” when close or “cold” when far away. After they have found the donkey pick two other toddlers to look for the donkeys. Play as time allows.

**SAY • Jesus rode into a Jerusalem like a king on a donkey. Jesus friends found the donkey for him to ride. Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus is alive.**

### Free Play Until Pick-up

Be sure every child goes home with a coloring page even if they did not color one.