

Use Week of: **March 16/17/20**

Easter • Session 1

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

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

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

TEACH THE STORY

APPLY THE STORY



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 ... humble and riding 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. In the temple, Jesus healed the blind and the lame. Jesus’ actions declared, “I am not just your King; I am also your God.” (See 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!

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

It was time to celebrate Passover, a special time to remember how God had freed His people from slavery in Egypt. **Many Jews had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate** God's amazing rescue.

Jesus and His disciples were among the people who traveled to Jerusalem. When they neared

Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, **Jesus sent two of**

His disciples ahead into a village. "As soon as you enter the 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?'

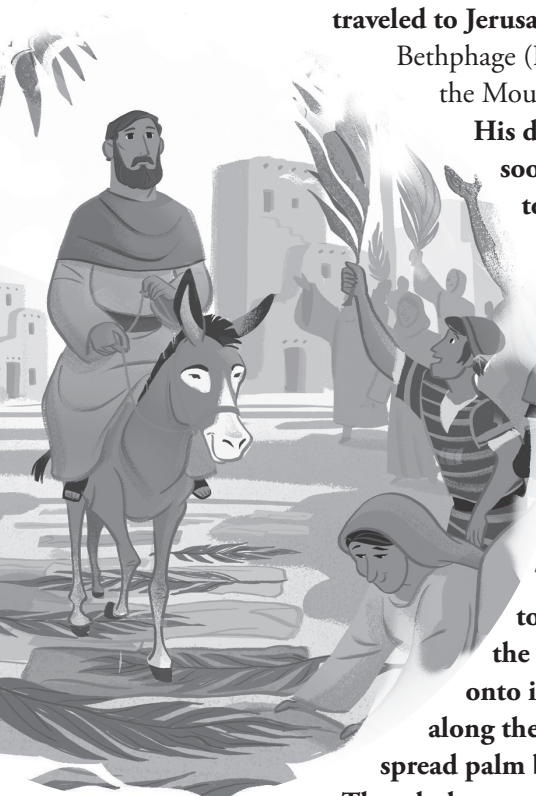
say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

The disciples did as Jesus asked. As they untied the donkey, its owners asked why.

"The Lord needs it," they said.

Then they brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get onto it. People spread their robes along the road for Jesus, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields.

The whole crowd praised God with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. "Hosanna!" they said. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The word *hosanna* means "save now." The people welcomed



Jesus as their promised King. They hoped He would save them from the Romans.

Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus answered, “If they did not praise Me, the rocks would praise Me!”

While Jesus was in the temple complex, people who were blind and people who were lame came to Him. Jesus healed them. The blind and lame would not have been allowed to worship in the temple.

Other religious leaders saw Jesus’ miracles and heard the children saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They were very angry and asked Jesus, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” They were saying Jesus is a king.

“Yes,” Jesus told them. The writer of the Psalms had said, “You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants.”

Jesus left them and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.

Christ Connection: During Jesus’ triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as King. Jesus was the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: “Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Animate the art:** Choose a volunteer to hold the Bible story picture and walk it slowly across the room as you tell the story.
- **Call for response:** When you talk about the crowd praising God, call for kids to shout together, “Hosanna!”

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

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

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt each kid to think about the last time someone came to his or her house. Did kids do anything to make that person feel welcome?

SAY • Today's Bible story is about how people welcomed Jesus when He entered Jerusalem about a week before He died on the cross.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "The Lord Needs It" on the activity page. Kids should connect the dots to discover what Jesus told His disciples to bring Him.

SAY • Jesus was outside of Jerusalem when He told His disciples to bring Him a colt, or young donkey. What an unusual way for Jesus to enter Jerusalem! Let's find out more.

- "The Lord Needs It" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

OPTION 2: Word wonder

Form two teams of kids. On a chalkboard or dry erase board, draw seven blanks (for the word *hosanna*). Invite the first team to guess a letter.

· chalkboard or dry
erase board
· chalk or marker

If the letter is in the word, write it in its blank and give the team another guess. If the letter is not in the word, draw an *X* on the left side of the board to indicate a strike. Play passes to the second team. Teams are out if they earn three strikes. For each word a team guesses, award a point.

Play additional rounds with related words. The team to score the most points wins. (Suggested words: *Jesus*, *triumphal*, *Jerusalem*, *donkey*)

SAY • Have you heard all of these words before? Listen carefully to our Bible story today to see what these words have to do with Jesus.

Transition to teach the story (LARGE GROUP)

TEACH the Story



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BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

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

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Decorate for Easter. Place Easter lilies or palm branches around the stage and incorporate bright spring colors into the other decorations. Display a cross or crown of thorns.

Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire
· Bible

LEADER • Hey there, everyone! It's good to see you. If you're new here, I'm [*your name*].

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

Now, have any of you ever ridden a donkey? [*Allow responses. Then hold up a Bible.*]

I've never ridden a donkey, but did you know Jesus did? I think it's about time to hear our Bible story.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • First, let's hear our big picture question: *Who saves us from our sin?* Do any of you know the answer? [*Pause for kids to respond.*]

Good ideas! Say our big picture question and answer with me: *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

LEADER •

Today we will hear the story of “Jesus’ Triumphant Entry” because we are celebrating Easter. This Bible story is about what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem, about a week before His death and resurrection. Listen closely.

Play The Lesson Video

- Bibles
- “Jesus’ Triumphant Entry” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

LEADER • When Jesus entered the city, were the people happy to see Him? Yes! Can you imagine that parade of people? The Jews were so happy to see Jesus.

People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

Did you hear what the people shouted when Jesus entered the city? They shouted, “Hosanna!” The word *hosanna* means “save now!” The Jews expected Jesus to be their earthly king and free them from the Romans, who were ruling over them. Jesus had come to save the people, but His kingdom is not an earthly kingdom like the people imagined.

Notice that Jesus did not come to save His people by bringing a big army with lots of horses and weapons. Jesus came for a much greater purpose: to save people from sin!

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. A donkey! That doesn't seem to me like the type of animal a victorious king would ride. Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy from the Book of Zechariah in the Old Testament. [*Open your Bible and read Zechariah 9:9 aloud.*]

The people saw Jesus on a donkey and knew that He was showing them that He was the promised King! However, the other reason Jesus rode a donkey instead of some big, brave warhorse is that Jesus wasn't coming to be the kind of king the people expected. He came humbly, not to save them from their Roman enemies but for a much greater purpose: to save people from sin.

Christ connection

LEADER • Just one week after the people gladly welcomed Jesus, they would mock Him and kill Him on a cross. Jesus the King gave up everything—even His own life—so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. He is our only hope for salvation! *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.* On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. One day, He will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Easter, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why the people of Jerusalem killed Jesus. Guide them to discuss how we can welcome Jesus into our lives today.

• “Easter, Session 1”
questions from kids
video

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 10:9.

LEADER • A week after **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**, they killed Him on a cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. If we believe this is true, God saves us from sin. Jesus will never die again. Death has no power over Him. The greatest power sin has is death. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that He conquered the power of sin and death.

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, only You can save. Thank You for coming into the world to rescue us from sin. Help us to live to bring You glory. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

RETURN TO CLASS

APPLY the Story



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BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- sticky notes
- marker

Write the key passage in words or phrases on separate sticky notes. Prepare one per kid. Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read the key passage together two or three times. Then remove or cover the poster.

Distribute the sticky notes in random order and instruct kids to stick the notes to their foreheads. Challenge kids to arrange themselves in order without talking. When kids finish, prompt each kid to read her sticky note so kids say the key passage collectively.

SAY • Great job! Let's work on memorizing our key passage over the next week. Then next time, I'll see who can say it from memory.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Provide Bibles and instruct kids to open to the New Testament. Ask them to name the first four books of the New Testament. (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*)

Remind kids that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Everything in the Bible is true. God gave us the Gospels so we can know about Jesus, and today's Bible story is found in all four Gospels.

SAY • We saw in our Bible story today that **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.** [*Point to Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map.*] They celebrated Him! But Jesus was not the type of king the people expected. They hoped for a king who would overthrow the Romans.

Later that week, Jesus was arrested and killed. But we know the whole story—Jesus did not stay dead! We will hear more about what happened next time.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why is it important that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey? *Lead kids to conclude that Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies was evidence that Jesus was God's Son, the promised Messiah. Discuss how Jesus' entry on a donkey showed His humility. He didn't enter the city on a warhorse, like people might expect a victorious king to do.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:17.)

2. Have you learned anything about Jesus that surprises you? *Guide kids to identify attributes of Jesus that they did not expect from a king. Help them consider the ways in which the kingdom of God is "upside down" from kingdoms of the world.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 18:36.)

3. What do you think it will be like when King Jesus returns? *Invite kids to share their ideas.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 65:17-19.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Activity:

Empty hands ball toss

small foam or rubber balls

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Lead the kids in playing several rounds of tossing games.

- Round 1: Give one player a ball and instruct him to pass it to his left. Kids should pass the ball around the circle as quickly as they can.
- Round 2: Give one player two balls. She should pass one to her left and the other to her right. Challenge kids to race and see which ball returns to the original player first.
- Round 3: Instruct kids to hold their hands flat and pass the ball around the circle without cupping their hands or using their fingers to hold the ball.
- Round 4: Give one player a ball and direct him to

toss the ball to any other player. Kids can continue passing the ball across the circle. Then add a second ball. Kids must pay attention and be ready to catch the ball. Add a third or fourth ball depending on the size of your group.

SAY • You have to have empty hands to catch a ball. That reminds me of what we need to welcome Jesus into our lives: nothing but empty hands of faith! We heard in our Bible story today how **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**. We can welcome Jesus into our lives as King by turning away from our sin and turning to Him.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to soften kids' hearts so they would welcome Him into their hearts and their lives.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Who Said It?" on the activity page. Kids should follow the maze to discover who said what in today's Bible story.

• pencils
• Journal Page
• "Who Said It?" activity page,
1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
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- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What kind of King did people expect Jesus to be?
- What kind of King is Jesus?
- How can we welcome Jesus into our own lives?

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

STORY POINT: PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.

Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus and His disciples went too. When they neared Bethphage, Jesus sent two of His 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."

The disciples brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get on. People spread their robes along the road, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields.

"Hosanna!" the people said.

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus answered, "If they did not praise Me, the rocks would praise Me!"

While Jesus was in the temple, people who were blind and people who were lame came to Him. Jesus healed them. Other religious leaders heard the children saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They were very angry and asked Jesus, "Do You hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," Jesus told them. The writer of the Psalms had said, "You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants." Jesus left them and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.



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The Lord Needs It

Connect the dots to discover what Jesus told His disciples to bring Him.



Who Said It?

Follow the maze to discover who said what.

- the crowd
- the religious leaders
- the children
- the prophet Zechariah
- Jesus
- Jesus' disciples



- “The Lord needs it,” _____ said.
- “Hosanna to the Son of David!” _____ said.
- “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” _____ said.
- “Teacher, rebuke your disciples,” _____ said.
- “You will find a young donkey tied there,” _____ said.
- “Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt,” _____ said.

**STORY POINT: PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM
AS THEIR KING.**

Jesus' Triumphant Entry
Matt. 21; Mark 11; Luke 19

