

EASTER BONUS SESSION 1

# JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12



**KEY PASSAGE:** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death.

**STORY POINT:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

All four Gospels offer a glimpse into the joy that overtook the crowds of Jerusalem as King Jesus made His way through the city gates. The events that would take place in the city just one week later would starkly contrast to the high-spirited festivities of Jesus' triumphal entry. In His sovereignty, Christ knew He would face crucifixion at the hands of His own people; yet He willingly approached the cross for our salvation.

What was the significance of the people's shouts for the King and His coming kingdom? What do we learn about Christ's heart for the lost?

Crowds poured into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, and many of them participated in creating a grand entrance for Jesus. They waved palm branches, a symbol of pride for the Jews, and called out for their new King to usher in a new reign for God's people. They had heard reports of how He raised Lazarus from the dead and were eager to see His next miracle. Yet, they misunderstood the purpose of His entry into the holy city—it was not to overthrow their oppressors but to offer salvation to all who would turn to Him in faith. They sought a mighty conqueror in Jesus, not knowing that the Father would instead send a Suffering Servant to be sacrificed on their behalf. They wanted an earthly king to reign amid their difficult circumstances, not a Messiah who would be publicly humiliated on a cross. Despite what His people desired, God knew what His people needed and sent His Son to save them.

As Jesus approached the city, He wept for it—knowing the fate that would soon befall Him and the great price He would pay to establish peace between God and man. We later see His heart for the lost as He pleaded for the Father to forgive the people's sins. What God's people didn't know then is the story we get to proclaim now: Christ died for sinners! Lead boys and girls to see that Jesus is greater than our earthly rulers and worldly desires. He is the sovereign Savior and Lord who has already paid the price for our greatest need: salvation!



#### PREPARE

##### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



#### WELCOME

##### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

# GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Through the City" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- plastic tablecloths
- air-dry clay or modeling clay, 1 small canister per kid
- leaves
- paint
- paintbrushes

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- crown made from cardstock



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- crown sticker

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- index cards, 1 per kid

#### Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- "Finish the Story" activity page



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "Jesus' Triumphal Entry" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- biblical clothes (optional)

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- poster board
- sticky notes



## WELCOME Kids

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Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “ How would you prepare for a visit from someone very important like a president or a king? Would you tidy up your room or prepare a special meal? ”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Through the City” activity page.

**SAY** “ In today’s story, we will see how **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.** ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

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#### OPTION 2: CAPTURE THE CROWN



Form kids into two teams. Place a crown made from cardstock in the center of the room. Assign kids on each team their own number, making sure both teams have a kid with each number. Line up teams on either side of the crown. Then call out a number such as “3” and challenge the two kids assigned the number three to capture the crown. The kid who captures the crown and brings it back to their team earns a point. Repeat as time allows and declare the team with the most points as the winner.

**SAY** “ Today, we will learn how the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.** They thought Jesus had come to be an earthly king who would defeat Roman rule. However, we’ll see that Jesus came for much more than physical rescue. We’ll see that Jesus is the eternal King who rescues people from sin and death. ”





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

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### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

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

**SAY** “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to spending time studying God’s Word together. Today is a special day because we’ll be learning about an event that happened just before Jesus’ death on the cross. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.] Let’s turn to the New Testament.

In our story today, we will see how the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s ask God to open our hearts as we prepare to hear a story from His Word: ‘Lord, thank You for Your Word. Help us focus on what You want to show us today and be obedient to what You tell us to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “ Today, we will discuss our big picture question: **What is repentance?** What is the answer we’ve learned? [Allow responses.] **Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

Throughout our story today, we will see how many people in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as their King, but they did not see Him as the One who had come to save them from their sins. Every person is a sinner. We can either repent of our sin and turn to Jesus, asking Him to be our Savior, or suffer the punishment of our sin—eternal destruction in hell. Jesus came to call people to repent and trust in Him by faith. When we do, we are forgiven of our sin and are given eternal life with Him. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

**SAY** “ Because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience toward God in the garden of Eden, all people now sin and need a Savior. In the Old Testament, we learn how God promised to send a Savior to rescue His people from sin. God told Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through his family. Over time, God’s people—the Israelites—sinned against God and turned away from Him. But God is faithful to His promises despite His people’s unfaithfulness. At the right time, God faithfully provided His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up and began a three-year ministry, calling people to repent for the kingdom of God had come. Today, we will see how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem before His death on the cross. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### JESUS’ TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

“ Jesus and His disciples were approaching Bethphage and Bethany, two villages on the way to the great city of Jerusalem. He sent two of the disciples ahead, saying, “As you enter the village, you will find a young donkey tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

They went ahead and found it just as Jesus had told them. When the owners said, “Why are you untying the donkey?”, they replied, “The Lord needs it.”

This took place so that the prophecy would be fulfilled that says, “See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey.”

The two disciples brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their clothes on it, and helped Jesus get on it. As He was going along, a large crowd of people spread their clothes on the road and cut palm branches from trees to place on the road as well. They said, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees were upset and asked Jesus to tell the people to be quiet. Jesus replied, “If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out.”

As Jesus approached the city, He cried for it. He said, “Because you will not recognize the time when God visits you, sad days will come. Enemies will build a barricade around you and will crush you and destroy the city.” He was sad for the people because of the consequences that would come for not recognizing Him as God and Savior.

The Pharisees saw the way the people praised Jesus as King because they had seen Him do miracles like raising Lazarus from the dead. They said to one another, “See? We have accomplished nothing to stop the people from following Jesus. The world has gone after Him!”

Christ Connection: The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Dress up:** Dress up and tell the story as if you were a person in the crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.

**Define it:** Tell kids that Hosanna means “save, please” or “save us now.” Remind kids that the people’s idea of salvation was different than the salvation Jesus came to offer.



## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ As Jesus neared the end of His earthly ministry, He and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem. Outside of Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of His disciples to find a young donkey on which Jesus would ride into Jerusalem. Why was this event important? Look at Zechariah 9:9. **[Choose a volunteer to read Zechariah 9:9 aloud.]** In the book of Zechariah, the Old Testament Scriptures testified to this event, and it acted as a sign for the coming King. Jesus came as the promised Messiah. God always keeps His promises, and Jesus rode into Jerusalem just as the Scriptures prophesied.

As Jesus entered the city, people began to gather. The **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**. They had heard about Jesus and all the miracles He had performed throughout His ministry. What did the people shout as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem? Look at Mark 11:9. **[Choose a volunteer to read Mark 11:9 aloud.]** The people shouted, ‘Hosanna,’ and they laid their clothes on the ground. The people placed palm branches on the ground as a sign of victory for their chosen King. They thought Jesus had come to give them victory from the Romans who ruled over the Jewish people. But Jesus came to bring greater freedom: He came to rescue people from sin and death.

When Jesus was in Jerusalem, He cried for the city. Why did Jesus cry for Jerusalem? Look at Luke 19:41-44. **[Choose a volunteer read Luke 19:41-44 aloud.]** The people eagerly welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as a king, but they missed the most important part; He is the Savior of the world. God the Son had entered their city, and they missed it. Even the most ‘religious’ people, the Pharisees, didn’t see Jesus as their Savior. Rather, they wanted to stop Jesus’ ministry and quiet the praise of the people. Sadly, this happens today. People may know about Jesus and see Him as a good teacher but refuse to trust Him as their Savior. It is the mission of believers to share the reason why He came: to rescue people from their sin.

The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ The people of Jerusalem knew about all Jesus’ miracles and good teaching. They knew He had power. But they didn’t truly see Jesus for who He is: God’s Son who came to be their Savior. To be saved from our sin, we must go beyond just knowing about Jesus. We must trust in Him as Savior and Lord. If you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior, I would love to share more with you. ”



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 4 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write out each word of the key passage on a poster board. Cover each word with a sticky note. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 together.

**SAY** “ Our key passage reminds us that when we repent and turn to God, He is faithful to forgive our sin. Let’s continue memorizing this important verse. ”

Challenge kids to shout out the first word of the key passage. Once they have said the correct word, remove the sticky note. Then challenge them to shout out the last word of the key passage. Continue pointing to sticky notes, challenging them to shout out the correct word, and removing the sticky notes until the entire key passage is revealed.

Lead kids to sing “If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 5 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us share this good news with others, so that they can experience the forgiveness, joy, and peace that comes from following You. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 12. Explain that the Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Tell kids these books contain stories from Jesus' life and ministry and were written by men who were either disciples of Jesus, like Matthew and John, or people who interviewed eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and miracles, like Luke and Mark.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 12:17-18 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ Before Jesus entered Jerusalem, He had raised a man named Lazarus from the dead. The people heard about this amazing miracle, and they recognized the power of Jesus. They followed Him because of His miracles, not because they trusted in Him as their Savior.

The people wanted something from Jesus, but they didn't want to give their hearts to Jesus. Jesus is the true King who is worthy of our worship and praise because of who He is—not because we think He has the power to give us what we want in this world. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, He gives us something greater than our earthly desires: He gives us Himself. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and trusting in Him as Savior? ”

Remind kids that the people of Jerusalem knew about Jesus and all the miracles He performed throughout His ministry, but they didn't know Him for who He truly was: the Savior of the world. We can know all about Jesus, go to church, and even read the Bible, but still not have a saving relationship with Jesus. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, we are saved from sin and made right with God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:10-13.)

| **SAY** “ How can we make Jesus the King of our lives? ”

Explain that once we have trusted in Jesus as Savior, we must surrender to His lordship in our life. This means we follow where He leads and are obedient to what He says. We no longer desire to be in control of our life, but we trust God to show us how to live to bring Him glory. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 2:20.)

| **SAY** “ Why is it important for believers to share Jesus with others? ”

Discuss how the consequence of sin is eternal punishment in hell. Jesus preached the good news and called people to repent. When we follow Him, we also are called to share the gospel. The only way for people to be saved is by trusting in Jesus. If we don't share the gospel with them, how will they hear? (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 10:14-15.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: MUSICAL THRONE



Set up chairs in a large circle, with the seats of the chairs facing out. Provide enough seats for everyone. Place a crown sticker on one chair. Direct kids to begin walking in a circle around the chairs as you begin playing music. After several seconds, stop the music and challenge the kids to sit down in an empty chair. The kid who sits in the chair with the crown sticker is out. Continue the game, removing a chair without the sticker after each round, until there is one kid remaining.

**SAY** “ Today, we saw that **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**. But ultimately they rejected Him as their Savior. Like the kid who sat in the ‘crown’ chair was ejected from the game, the people turned against Jesus one week later and nailed Him to a cross. However, Jesus—the true King—was raised to life, and now He sits at the right hand of the Father, where God has exalted Him above every name. ”

##### OPTION 2: I HAVE ... WHO HAS?

Distribute an index card to each kid. Beginning from Exodus, discretely assign a book of the Bible to each kid and lead them to write the book name on their card. For example, kid one would be assigned “Exodus,” kid two “Leviticus,” kid three “Deuteronomy,” and so on.

Challenge kids to determine if they have the card for the book of the Bible that comes after Genesis. The kid with the Exodus will stand up and say, “I have Exodus... Who has...” The kid with the book after Exodus will then stand up and say, “I have Leviticus... Who has...” Repeat, until the group has made it through the books of the Bible assigned to them. Allow kids to use a Bible’s Table of Contents if they need help.

**SAY** “ The Old Testament books were written before Jesus came to earth, but they all testified about Him. The whole Bible is one story of how God saves people through faith in Jesus. ”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- 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 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?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, asking God to give us strength and courage to share the good news of Jesus with those around us this week. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Finish the Story” on the activity page.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



theGOSPELPROJECT



## Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21; Mark 11;  
Luke 19; John 12

### STORY POINT:

People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death.

### KEY PASSAGE:

2 Chronicles 7:14

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

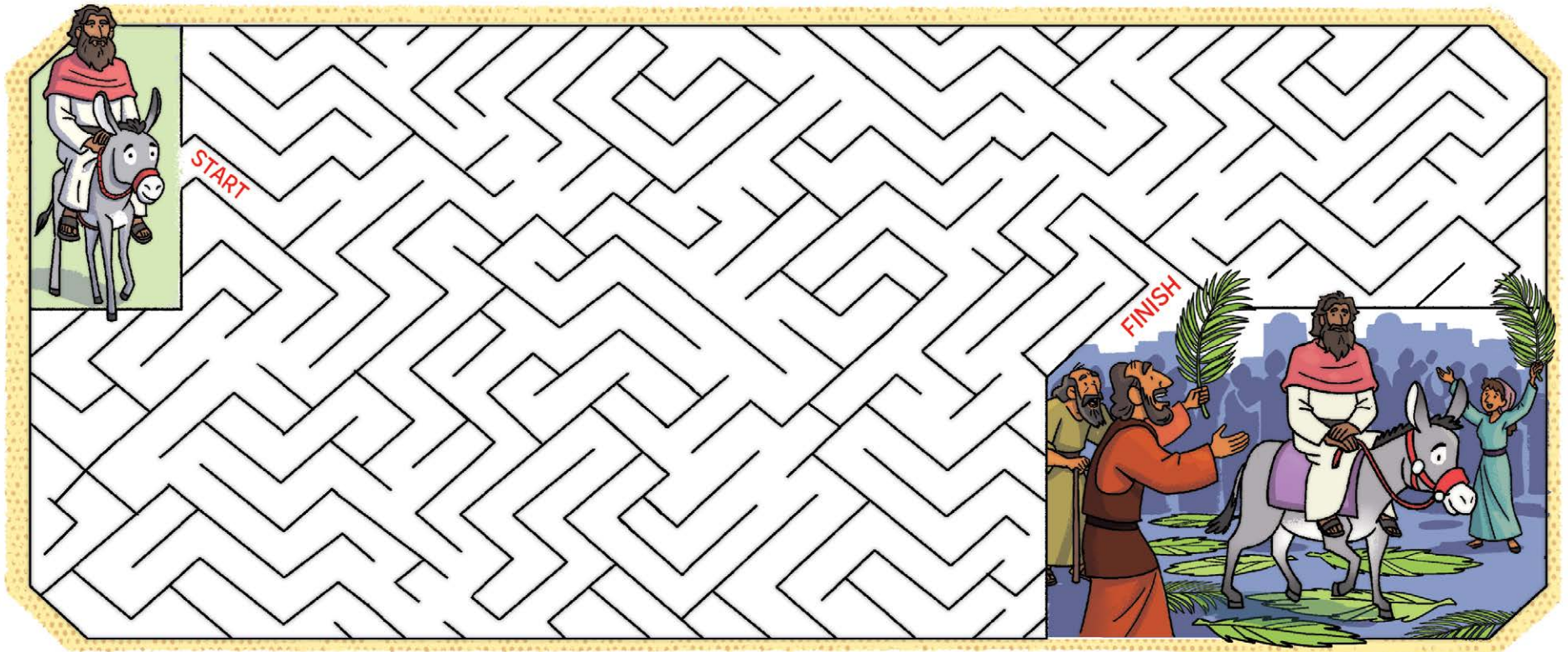
What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Scan the QR code  
for resources to  
use at home!



Younger Kids Activity Pages  
Easter Bonus Session 1

# Through the City | Trace the path from Jesus through the city of Jerusalem.



- Hosanna
- clothes
- palm
- donkey
- prophecy
- Lord
- Jerusalem

## Finish the Story | Fill in the missing words to help retell today's Bible story.

Jesus and His disciples were on the way to \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus told two of the disciples to go and untie a \_\_\_\_\_ and tell the owner, "The \_\_\_\_\_ needs it." This fulfilled a \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus from the Old Testament. Jesus sat on the donkey, and as He was going along, a large crowd spread their \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground. The crowd placed \_\_\_\_\_ branches on the road too. The people shouted, "\_\_\_\_\_!"



JOURNAL PAGE

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



Easter Bonus Session 1

## JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

### WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

#### REPENTANCE IS TURNING AWAY FROM SIN AND TURNING TO JESUS.

Jesus and His disciples were approaching the great city of Jerusalem. He sent two of the disciples ahead, saying you will find a young donkey, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.

They went ahead and found it just as Jesus had told them. When the owners said, "Why are you untying the donkey?", they replied, "The Lord needs it."

This took place so that the prophecy would be fulfilled that says, "See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey."

The two disciples brought the donkey to Jesus and helped Jesus get on it. As He was going along, a large crowd of people spread their clothes on the road and cut palm branches from trees to place on the road as well. They said, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees asked Jesus to tell the people to be quiet. Jesus replied, "If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."

As Jesus approached the city, He cried for it. He was sad for the people because of the consequences that would come for not recognizing Him as God and Savior.

The Pharisees saw the way the people praised Jesus as King because they had seen Him do miracles. They said, "We have accomplished nothing to stop the people from following Jesus. The world has gone after Him!"

**Christ Connection:** The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!