



Use Week of:

Easter • Session 1

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

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

STORY POINT: Jesus is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9a

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is our
King who rescues us.

Bible Story for Toddlers

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.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- * People praised Jesus as their King.
- * God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to the Bible passage of your choice. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY • Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus went there to do God's plan. People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE.** [*Pray.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing the chorus of "Oh, How I Love Jesus" :

"Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!

Oh, how I love Jesus because He *first loved me."

*Substitute *died for me, rose again*, and *is alive* in subsequent rounds.

SAY • Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People praised Jesus as their King. Jesus is our King who rescues us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Make palm branch art

Paint washable green finger paint on a baby's hand and gently press her open palm on heavyweight paper. Wipe her hand immediately. Use a green marker to draw the stalk of the palm branch. Write the story point on her paper and set it aside to dry. Repeat with each child.

SAY • You made a palm branch! People praised Jesus as their King and waved palm branches when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus is our King who rescues us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Practice waving

Sit with a baby in a bouncer or on your lap facing you. Demonstrate how to wave your hand and cheer as you say the story point. Encourage the baby to wave his hands too. Gently guide the baby's hand if he needs assistance.

SAY • People praised Jesus as their King. God sent Jesus because He loves [*baby's name*]. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the gospel gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

TODDLER Activities

Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to the Bible passage of your choice. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Shout for joy

Play music and invite toddlers to move freely around the room. Stop the music, guide the toddlers to freeze, and help them shout, “Hosanna!” Start the music and play again as time allows.

SAY • *Hosanna* means “save now.” Only Jesus can save. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Pin the tail on the donkey

Tape a large sheet of paper to one wall and draw a donkey profile on it. Cut a strip of gray paper to be the donkey’s tail. Guide each toddler to close her eyes and try to pin the tail on the donkey. Praise each child’s attempt and play as time allows.

SAY • Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and people praised Jesus as their King. Jesus is our King who rescues us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Read a book

Assemble the “Jesus Is Alive Book” printable. Read the book to toddlers in class, pointing to Jesus in each picture. Remind children that Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died on the cross and rose again to save us.

SAY • The Bible is the best book! The Bible tells us Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Make a palm leaf rubbing

Post an allergy alert. Tape a real or artificial palm leaf to the table. Provide paper and unwrapped crayons. Show toddlers how to make a rubbing. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers work.

SAY • People praised Jesus as their King with palm branches. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

BONUS Teaching Hour

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

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

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9a

STORY POINT: Jesus is alive.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is our King who rescues us.

Transition activity: Make donkey ears

Provide long paper strips to make a headband for each toddler. Cut donkey ears from gray felt and attach them to the headband with craft glue or adhesive dots.

Write the first gospel gem on each child's headband. Briefly review the Bible story as toddlers pretend to be donkeys.

SAY • Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and people praised Jesus as their King. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus is our King who rescues us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Sing songs about Jesus

Provide rhythm instruments or invite toddlers to dance and clap their hands as you sing songs about Jesus, such as "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "Jesus Loves Me," and "I Love You, Lord."

SAY • People praised Jesus as their King. Even children praised Jesus, and you can praise Jesus too. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Work puzzles

Provide puzzles featuring Jesus. If you do not have puzzles, print the Bible story picture and cut it into four pieces.

SAY • Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus is our King who rescues us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, story point, or gospel gems throughout the week.