

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12



CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to be our King. When we believe in Him, He will save us from our sins.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: If we pray, God will hear and forgive our sins. 2 Chronicles 7:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus' followers laid their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them.
- Jesus rode into Jerusalem as people laid their robes and palm branches on the road and shouted, "Hosanna!"
- The leaders wanted the people to be quiet. Jesus said if the people were silent, rocks would praise.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Jesus and His followers were on the way to Jerusalem. Jesus told two of them to find a donkey and her colt tied up, untie them, and bring them to Him. They found the donkey and laid their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus got closer to Jerusalem, people laid their robes and palm branches on the road. The people shouted, "Hosanna!" The religious leaders told Jesus to make the people be quiet. "If they were silent," Jesus said, "the rocks would cry out with praise!" Even the children in Jerusalem praised Jesus! Then Jesus left Jerusalem and spent the night in the town of Bethany.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 21. Show the **Bible Story Poster** as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **Key Passage Phrase Card**. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sit babies on leaders' laps with legs stretched out long. Bounce legs gently up and down, alternating knees while singing to the familiar tune of "Are You Sleeping, Brother John?":

"Jesus rode a donkey, Jesus rode a donkey,
Into Jerusalem, into Jerusalem.
People shout, 'Hosanna!' People shout, 'Hosanna!'
Son of David, Son of David."

SAY "What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? Yes, a donkey! Jesus' followers laid their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them."

2 COMPARE LOUD AND QUIET

Read the gospel gems in a whisper. Then, read the gospel gems in a loud voice. Say each baby's name in a whisper and then a loud voice. Acknowledge if you are talking quietly or talking loud. Repeat as time permits.

SAY "Were Jesus' followers quiet? No! Even though the leaders wanted the people to be quiet, they continued to praise Jesus, shouting, 'Hosanna!' Jesus said if they were silent, even the rocks would cry out in praise."

3 PAINT PALM LEAVES

Provide **painting smocks** for each baby and **green washable finger paint**. Tape a **brown chenille stem** in the middle of a sheet of **copy paper** (one per baby). Paint each baby's hand and stamp the handprint along the chenille stem to create a palm leaf branch. Write Hosanna! across the top of each paper. Keep **baby wipes** nearby for easy cleanup.

SAY "Were the people shouting, 'Hosanna!' as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Yes! The people were praising Jesus as He rode on the donkey. The people even laid down their robes and palm branches along the road."

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 Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 21. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PREPARE THE ROAD

Tape an 8½-by-11-inch piece of clear contact plastic, sticky side up, to a table (one per toddler). Gather half pieces of brown construction paper and write Hosanna! across each paper (one per toddler). Attach sheets to the middle of each toddler's plastic pieces, words down. Encourage toddlers to cover the sticky side of their contact plastic with small squares of various fabrics and green leaves. Remove tape to allow toddlers to see their prepared roads!

SAY “ What did people lay on the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem? Yes! The people laid their robes and palm branches on the road. They shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ ”

3 SHAKE MARACAS

Place small rocks or pebbles inside plastic bottles (one per toddler). Close the lid and secure with glue and duct tape. Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Encourage toddlers to shake the bottles and play along. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ Can rocks talk? No! When Jesus said the rocks will cry out, He meant that keeping His followers from praising Him was impossible. All creation praises God, even rocks! ”

4 RETELL THE STORY

Provide fabric scraps, small green leaves, and people and donkey figurines. Invite toddlers to set up a “road.” Allow some toddlers to “walk” the donkeys along the road while the other toddlers cheer. Instruct toddlers to switch roles. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ Did Jesus walk into Jerusalem? No, He rode on a donkey and colt with robes across their backs. Jesus’ followers laid their robes and branches along the road for Him. Jesus entered Jerusalem as they shouted and cheered. Even the children praised Him! ”

5 PIN THE ROBE

Print or draw a simple donkey figure on a large sheet of butcher paper. Display on the wall at toddler's eye level. Give each child a fabric scrap with a prepared tape loop on the back. Call on a toddler to pin the robe on the donkey's back. Allow all toddlers to have a turn. If desired, provide a blindfold and invite toddlers to pin the “robe” on the donkey's back while blindfolded. Monitor safety when any child is blindfolded. Review the story as toddlers play.

SAY “ Where did the people place their robes on the donkey? That's right, on its back! Jesus sat on top of those robes as He rode into Jerusalem. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: WHISPER AND SHOUT

Invite toddlers to form two groups. Encourage the first group to whisper, "Hosanna." Ask the second group if they could hear what the first group said. Invite the second group to whisper, "Hosanna" a little louder. Repeat, alternating groups and volume until both groups are shouting, "Hosanna!" Repeat as time permits. Tell the Bible story.

SAY "The religious leaders wanted the people to be quiet as Jesus entered the town of Jerusalem. Were they quiet? No! The people could not stay quiet! Even the children in Jerusalem praised Jesus! The people shouted, 'Hosanna!'"

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the familiar tune of "Are You Sleeping, Brother John?":

"Jesus rode a donkey, Jesus rode a donkey,
Into Jerusalem, into Jerusalem.
People shout, 'Hosanna!' People shout, 'Hosanna!'
Son of David, Son of David."

3 WALK THE ROAD

Place two rows of tape on the floor to resemble a road. Provide brown and green construction paper. Draw a simple leaf shape with a line down the middle on the papers for each toddler. Provide child-safe scissors for toddlers to cut jagged slits in their "leaves" to resemble palm branches. Line up toddlers along the "road." Allow toddlers to place their leaves along the road as they cheer, "Hosanna!" Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY "How did the people prepare the road for Jesus? Yes, they laid down their robes and palm branches just like we did. They shouted 'Hosanna!'"

4 MAKE PALM BRANCHES

Prepare strips of green paper and jumbo craft sticks. Write Hosanna on each green strip. Invite toddlers to glue their strips to their sticks. Assist as needed. Review the Bible story as the toddlers make their palm branches.

SAY "God sent Jesus to be our King. When He entered Jerusalem, the people laid palm branches along the road at His feet. Did the people silently welcome Jesus? No! They shouted loud praises! Even the children in Jerusalem praised Jesus!"

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, and gospel gems throughout the week.