

VOLUME 7 | EASTER BONUS SESSION 1

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12



CHRIST CONNECTION: When people turn from their sin and trust in Jesus, God forgives them and gives them life with Him forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God loved the world and gave his only Son to all who believe in him.
John 3:16

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

Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”:

“God loved the world and gave His Son.
God loved the world and gave His Son.
To all who would believe in Him.
To all who would believe in Him.
God loved the world and gave His Son.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘God loved the world and gave his Son to all who would believe in him.’ To whom did God give His Son? To all who would believe in Him. ”

2 PAINT A PALM BRANCH

Sit babies in **high chairs**. Provide the “**Palm Branch**” printable. Squirt **green washable paint** on each paper. Slide the papers into **gallon-size ziplock bags** and seal. Encourage the babies to use their fingers and hands to cover the palm branch with paint. Review the gospel gems as the babies paint. Remove sheets from the bags and set aside to dry.

SAY “ What did the people lay on the ground as Jesus entered Jerusalem? People laid their coats and palm branches on the road as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The people shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna!’ ”

3 CRAWL ON BLANKETS

Gather **blankets or fabric** and **plastic donkeys** (if available). Lay the blankets or fabric on the ground. Encourage the babies to crawl on the blankets or fabric to the donkeys. Display the **Bible Story Poster** and review the gospel gems as the babies crawl. For less mobile babies, sit babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Assist babies in waving their arms in the air as you shout, “Hosanna!” as others crawl.

SAY “ What did people put on the road as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? The people laid their coats and palm branches on the road as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. What did the people shout as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Yes, ‘Hosanna!’ ”

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 PRETEND TO BE A DONKEY

Brainstorm facts about a donkeys (strong, smart, usually white to gray or black, long ears, and so forth). Discuss how a donkey moves. Demonstrate the noise a donkey makes (or look it up and play the sound from an electronic device). Encourage the toddlers to pretend to be a donkey and move around the room. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

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 JOIN A PRAISE PARADE

Provide toddlers with rhythm instruments (maracas, egg shakers, rhythm sticks, or two unsharpened pencils). Invite the toddlers to follow one another around the room while playing instruments. Encourage the toddlers to listen for you to shout the word, “Praise!” Allow the toddlers to shout out, “Hosanna!” when they hear you shout the word, “Praise!”

SAY “ What did people shout as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Yes, the people shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ Some leaders wanted the people to be quiet. Jesus said, ‘If they are quiet, the rocks will praise.’ We can praise Jesus too! ”

4 DECORATE A ROCK

Gather smooth rocks (one per toddler). Provide painting smocks and washable paint. Squirt the paint on a paper plate. Encourage toddlers to use their fingers to “paint” the rocks. Review the Bible story with the toddlers as they paint. Provide baby wipes for easy clean up.

SAY “ What did Jesus say would happen if the people were quiet? Jesus said, ‘If they are quiet, the rocks will praise!’ We should always praise Jesus. ”

5 EXPLORE PALM BRANCHES

If possible, look up and display pictures of palm branches for toddlers to see. Discuss what a palm branch looks like. Gather real or artificial palm branches and nonbreakable magnifying glasses for toddlers to examine. Demonstrate how to place a palm branch on the ground. Allow toddlers to do the same.

SAY “ What did the people do with the palm branches when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? The people laid palm branches on the road and shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH

Provide play dough, rolling pins, and plastic cookie cutters. Display the Bible Story Poster and retell the story. Encourage the toddlers to use the tools to create a palm branch or a rock. Offer a real palm branch and rock. Invite the toddlers to press the palm branch or rock into the play dough. Examine the impression. Tell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people cried out, ‘Hosanna!’ What did Jesus say would happen if the people were quiet? Jesus said that the rocks would praise. We can praise God too! ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”: “God loved the world and gave His Son. / God loved the world and gave His Son. / To all who would believe in Him. / To all who would believe in Him. / God loved the world and gave His Son.”

SAY “ Who does our key passage phrase say that God sent for us? Yes, God sent Jesus! God sent Jesus to be our King. When we believe in Him, He will save us from our sins! ”

3 CHOOSE TO BE LOUD OR QUIET

Invite toddlers to demonstrate praising God by saying, “Hosanna!” Say “loud” or “quiet,” and encourage toddlers to follow the direction. Allow toddlers to stand when they are loud and to sit down when they are quiet. Continue as time allows.

SAY “ Jesus said that if the people were silent then the rocks would cry out with praise! We should praise God, so the rocks don’t have to do it for us! How can we praise God? We can praise God and say, ‘Hosanna!’ ”

4 ACT OUT THE STORY

Display the Bible Story Poster and open your Bible to Matthew 21. Encourage the toddlers to act out the story as you read it aloud. Allow the toddlers to demonstrate looking for a donkey (cup hands above eyes), riding a donkey (bounce up and down), laying down palm branches (touch the ground), and shouting, “Hosanna!”

SAY “ What did the people shout when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Yes! The people shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ The people praised Jesus. We can love and praise Jesus too! ”

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.