

People Welcomed Jesus as King

Matthew 21, Mark 11,
Luke 19, John 12

How is Jesus the perfect Priest?

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
Hebrews 4:15



PREPARE HEARTS

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome | "The Lord Needs It" Activity Page | 5 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session Starter | Word Baseball | 5-10 minutes |



ACTIVE HEARTS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:20 - Whole Group Lesson in LG2 | | 20 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups | Review and Discuss Bible Story | 10 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups | Reflection and Prayer | 5 minutes |



ENGAGE HEARTS

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key Passage Activity | Easter Egg Scramble | 10 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Activity | Rocks Cry Out | 10 minutes |

REMINDERS

The VIP meeting will be 8:30-8:40 in C1. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus is our King! He rescues and saves us from our sin.
- *RECOGNIZE their need for Jesus to save them.
- *PRAISE Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

March 24, 2024
1st Service

SHEPHERD GUIDE

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!



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



PREPARE HEARTS

WELCOME

The Lord Needs It

activity
page,
pencils,
markers

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Think about the last time someone came to your house. Did you do anything to make that person feel welcome?

Invite kids to complete “The Lord Needs It” on the activity page.

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



STARTER

Word Baseball

Dry erase markers

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.

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.

*****Timing for the Whole Group Lesson might be different because of the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders waving palm branches in the service. Check your weekly email for more details!*****



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by Large Group Shepherd:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

9:20 – K – 3rd Grade
take class to LG2

2nd and 3rd graders –
bring Bibles

Hey, everyone. I love all kinds of board games, but one of my favorites is chess. There's so much strategy involved, and it takes a lot of brain power to be good at it. My favorite piece in chess is the knight. It's shaped like a horse, which is pretty cool, but even more than that, it's the only piece in the game that can move over occupied spaces. The knight allows you to set up some sneaky plays if your opponent isn't paying close attention. In chess, the pieces are all supposed to reflect different parts of a kingdom: kings, queens, knights, and so forth. The knight is shaped like a horse because a knight would ride a big, powerful warhorse. So you can imagine what a king might ride! But today we will learn about a King who rode a young donkey! I'll tell you all about it.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Jesus came to be our perfect Priest. **How is Jesus the perfect Priest?** Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.** Jesus knew He had come to earth to eventually die on the cross. He prophesied His death and resurrection numerous times to His disciples.

As our perfect Priest, Jesus is sinless. Unlike the priests of the Old Testament who sinned and had to offer sacrifices for their sins, Jesus is perfect and holy. Yet, Jesus chose to follow God's plan and die for the sins of the world.

Let's take a look at our timeline to see where we are. Remember, all the smaller stories in the Bible fit together to tell one big story—the story of how people turned away from God and how He brought us back to Himself by sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.

REVIEW THE TIMELINE

Today we are going back to hear the story of "Jesus' Triumphal 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. We remember this event now on Palm Sunday.

People Welcomed Jesus as King

continued.....

Bibles, Powerpoint
slides

Open your Bible to Matthew 21, Mark 11 and/or Luke 19, John 12
You can use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Call for response: When you talk about the crowd praising God, call for kids to shout together, "Hosanna!"

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" One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)

****End of Large Group Time - Take children back to individual classrooms for small group discussions****



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process – however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

**

In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

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!

What did Jesus enter Jerusalem on? A donkey! That doesn’t seem to me like the type of animal a victorious king would ride. **What does a King normally ride on?** **Why do you think Jesus did that and entered on a donkey instead?** The main reason is that 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! 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.

How do you think the people reacted when they started to see that Jesus wasn’t planning on being the earthy conqueror they wanted? (Allow responses)



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions: Or, just talk about it together.

• **What does this story teach me about God?**

(Jesus is our King! He saves us from our sin. That one day Jesus will return as King over everything.)

• **What does this story teach me about myself?**

(That we need a King to save us from our sins.)

• **Who can I tell about this story?**

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page.



Key Passage Activity:

Easter Egg Scramble

Key Passage Poster,
plastic easter eggs with slips of paper inside

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Hebrews 4:15 together.

Say: Let's continue to practice our key passage to help us remember that Jesus is our perfect Priest who died for our sins.

Divide the class into groups of four or 5. Give each group a set of easter eggs. Have them work together to open each egg, take out the slip of paper with part of the verse, and then lay out the verse in order. *Extra Challenge - Set a timer and have them race to put the verse together. Whoever finishes first, wins.

Pray together:

SAY: Dear God, we thank You for Jesus. Thank You that Jesus obeyed You perfectly, even when it was hard, and died in our place. Help us remember that Jesus paid for our sin and that in Him we have forgiveness. Amen.



Rocks Cry Out

Rocks, markers

Give each kid a stone and markers. Invite the kids to draw faces on the stones. As kids draw on the stones, read Luke 19:37-40. Talk about what the word rebuke means and ask kids why the Pharisees did not want the disciples to praise Jesus.

SAY: People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King and that made the Pharisees angry. The Pharisees were religious leaders who believed that in order for God to be happy with them, they had to follow all of God's laws and some other laws they made for themselves, too. They didn't like Jesus. He taught that no one can keep God's laws perfectly except for Him and that salvation is based only on trusting in Jesus, not what a person can do for God.

Jesus—the only One who has never sinned—died on the cross and rose again so we could be forgiven of our sin when we trust in Him. Who saves us from our sins? Only Jesus saves us from sin.