



UNIT 25 | SESSION 1

PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS AS KING

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is the good King who rescues His people.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: We can listen to Jesus. Deuteronomy 18:15

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

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

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Jesus and His friends went to Jerusalem. Jesus rode on a donkey. Long ago, the prophet Zechariah said God's special King would ride to Jerusalem on a donkey. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted "Hosanna!" Then Jesus went to the temple and healed people who were sick. Even children praised Jesus. They knew Jesus was their King.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

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 picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“Yes, we can listen to Jesus.
Yes, we can listen to Jesus.
Yes, we can listen to Jesus.
He is the King of kings.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase states that we can listen to Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus is the good King who rescues His people. ”

2 CLAP HOSANNA

Raise each baby’s hands in the air and say (with excitement) “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” Clap baby’s hands together. Repeat several times.

SAY “ People welcomed Jesus as their King. The people shouted ‘Hosanna!’ Jesus is the good King who rescues His people. ”

3 PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY

Bring a stuffed or toy donkey for babies to hold and play with in class. As babies are playing with the donkey, talk to them about how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

SAY “ Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people welcomed Jesus as their King. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. ”

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.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture 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 picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 TRACE A HANDPRINT PALM BRANCH

Fold a piece of green construction paper in half and then in half again. Trace a toddler's hand onto the folded construction paper. Cut out the four handprints. Glue or staple the handprints to a craft stick to make a palm branch.

SAY “ What did the crowd lay on the ground as Jesus rode by on the donkey? Yes! The crowd laid palm branches and coats on the ground. The people welcomed Jesus as their King. ”

3 SING HOSANNA

Sing the chorus of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” Look up the song before class if you are unfamiliar with the tune.

“Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King of kings.

Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King.”

SAY “ Who is the King of kings we were just singing about in our song? Yes, Jesus is the King of kings. Jesus is the good King who rescues His people. ”

4 ACT OUT THE STORY

Choose volunteers to take turns acting out the Bible story. Select toddlers to be the crowd, Jesus, and His friends. Lay coats or pieces of cloth and artificial palm branches on the ground as Jesus and His friends walk into Jerusalem. Instruct the crowd to shout “Hosanna” as they walk in. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers act out the story.

SAY “ What did the crowd shout as Jesus came into Jerusalem? ‘Hosanna!’ Yes, the people shouted ‘Hosanna!’ They treated Jesus like a king. ”

5 EXPLORE A FIRST AID KIT

Provide an age-appropriate first aid kit for toddlers to explore. Explain how the different bandages and tools are used to help people who are sick. Monitor closely to ensure safety.

SAY “ Jesus and His friends went to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple and healed people who were sick. Did Jesus have a first aid kit? No. Jesus did not need a first aid kit to heal people because He is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to the earth because He loves us. ”

PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS AS KING

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is the good King who rescues His people.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: We can listen to Jesus. Deuteronomy 18:15

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE KING

Call on one toddler to be the “king.” Instruct him to lead the other toddlers around the room. Guide the toddlers to follow the king, mimicking his movements. Challenge the king to walk slowly, walk quickly, jump, or even crawl around the room. Choose a new volunteer and play as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Who did we follow in our game? The king! In our Bible story, Jesus was welcomed by the people as their king. Jesus is the good King who rescues His people. We can follow Jesus because we know He loves us. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing and clap along to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”: “J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S / Yes, Jesus is the good King.” Repeat several times.

3 PALM BRANCH RUBBINGS

Place a palm branch leaf under a sheet of white paper. Tape the branch and paper down so that the paper does not move around. Demonstrate how to use crayons to rub over the paper to reveal the shape of the palm branch. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers color.

SAY “ How did the people in our Bible story welcome Jesus as their King? Yes! They put coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus. Jesus is the good King who rescues His people. ”

4 LEARN DONKEY FACTS

Gather various toy donkeys for toddlers to examine. Allow toddlers to observe characteristics of donkeys (short hair that sticks up, bushy tail, very long and tall ears, etc.). Share some fun facts such as: Donkeys can see all four of their feet at the same time; donkeys can vary in size from 26–68 inches tall; a donkey is stronger than a horse of the same size; a healthy donkey can live to be 50 years old. Revisit some of the Bible story facts.

SAY “ What did Jesus ride on when He entered Jerusalem? Yes, a donkey! Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. ”

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, or gospel gems throughout the week.