

1 Jesus' Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;
John 12:12-19

MAIN POINT: People welcomed Jesus as their King.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 6:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
(15–20 MINUTES)
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**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
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**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

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. While Jesus was in the temple, He healed the blind and the lame. Jesus’ actions declared, “I am not just your King; I am also your God” (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 preschoolers 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!



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/the-gospel-project>.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• **Animate the art:**

Choose a volunteer to hold the Bible story picture and walk it slowly across the room as you tell the story.

• **Make it**

interactive:

Instruct preschoolers to perform simple actions when you say specific words in the story. Children may put on an imaginary crown when you say *Jesus*, they may bray when you say *donkey*, and they may shout *hosanna* when you say *hosanna*.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;
John 12:12-19*

It was the time of year that the Israelites celebrated Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to remember what God had done when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

Jesus and His friends also traveled to Jerusalem. He sent two of them ahead to a village. Jesus said, “Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey and her colt tied up. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you should say that the Lord needs them.”

The friends did what Jesus said. They put their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too. The crowds walked ahead of Jesus, and **those who followed Him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One—the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” The word hosanna means “Save now!”**

The religious teachers didn't like it. They asked Jesus to tell His friends to be quiet. “If they didn't praise Me,” Jesus said, “the rocks would cry out!”

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, people asked, “Who is this?” The crowds replied, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!” They were only half right. Jesus wasn't just a prophet of God—He is God's Son!

Jesus went to the temple and made the people who were

selling things there leave. While Jesus was at the temple area, people who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them.

The priests and the scribes at the temple heard children shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” The priests and scribes asked Jesus, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” The children were saying, “The king is here! The king is here!”

Jesus said, “Yes. Even the children will praise Me.” Then Jesus left and went to spend the night in the town of Bethany.

Christ Connection: The people were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was their King. Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. (Zechariah 9:9) One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)

Teach THE STORY

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” song
- “Jesus, Thank You” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “Jesus, Thank You.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Jesus’Triumphal Entry” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people welcomed Him as their King. They laid down big leaves called palm branches, and shouted, “Hosanna!” Does anyone know what *hosanna* means? [*save now*] Let’s listen to our Bible story and find out!

Open your Bible to one of the Bible passages. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- green strips of paper, 1 per child
- Key Passage Poster
- “We Know” song

Place a green strip of paper at Romans 6:9. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Give each preschooler a green strip of paper. Guide children to wave their “branches” high and

say the verse two times. Encourage children to wave their branches low as they say the verse three times.

SAY • The people were right to welcome Jesus as their King.
We know that Jesus died and rose again to save us
from our sin. Jesus is alive and will never die again.
He is our King forever!

Sing the key passage song “We Know” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He knew that soon He would die on the cross and rise again. Jesus died for us and rose again because it was the way God planned to save us from our sin. *Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **People welcomed Jesus as their King.** The people were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was their King. Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

• Main Point Poster
• “Jesus, Thank You” song
• “If You Confess” song
• “God’s Love” song
• offering basket

Sing “Jesus, Thank You” and “If You Confess” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “God’s Love.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our King!
Thank You for making a way to save us from our sin through Jesus. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

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LOW PREP

- “Jesus, Thank You” song (optional)
- “We Know” song (optional)

Play musical chairs

Set up chairs for one less than the number of preschoolers in your group in an outward-facing circle. Play music while preschoolers march around the chairs. When the music stops, each preschooler should sit in a chair. The preschooler who does not have a chair gets to shout out, “Hosanna!” Then resume play.

SAY • Remember the word *hosanna* means “Save now!” You were like the children in today’s story who praised Jesus. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.**

Match pictures

Print two copies of the “Triumphal Entry Match” and cut out the cards. Invite preschoolers to look at the cards as you arrange them in a grid. Flip the cards facedown and guide the preschoolers to take turns flipping two cards at a time to find a match. Play several rounds.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, the people of Jerusalem laid down their robes and palm branches to show Jesus how happy they were to see Him. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.** One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

Play out welcoming Jesus

Before class, cut out palm leaves from green construction paper and robes from brown construction paper. Choose one volunteer to be “Jesus” and give him a stick horse. Distribute a leaf or robe to the other preschoolers. When the other preschoolers see “Jesus,” they will shout “hosanna” and lay down their leaves and robes. Play again as time allows, choosing a new volunteer to be Jesus.

SAY • When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people shouted hosanna, which means “save now!” ***Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.***

- green and brown construction paper
- scissors
- stick horse

Tear and glue to make a palm branch

Provide a “Palm Branch Template” printable for each child. Set out the two shades of green construction paper. Lead children to tear and glue the green paper to the template.

SAY • The people of Jerusalem laid down palm branches because they knew Jesus was their King. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.**

- “Palm Branch Template” printable, 1 per child
- light green construction paper
- dark green construction paper
- glue stick

Play “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”

Draw a tail-less donkey image on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper. Cut a gray strip of paper to be the donkey’s tail. Blindfold a child or invite her to close her eyes. Gently spin her around and help her tape the tail to the donkey.

SAY • Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and **people welcomed Jesus as their King.** One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

- large sheet of paper or dry erase board
- marker
- gray strip of paper
- tape
- blindfold (optional)

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

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Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Jesus ride on? (*a donkey*)
2. What did people lay down on the ground in front of Jesus? (*robes and palm branches*)
3. What did the people shout? (*Hosanna!*)
4. Who didn't like the people praising Jesus? (*the religious teachers*)
5. Who welcomed Jesus? (**People welcomed Jesus as their King.**)
6. *Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.*

SAY • The people were happy to see Jesus. They welcomed Jesus as their King by shouting hosanna and laying down palm branches. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be our King!
People welcomed Jesus as their King. Help us to welcome Jesus as our King and Savior. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how God can use children to help others hear the good news about Jesus. You may also show the "Prayer for Jerusalem" video.

SAY • These images are from Jerusalem. In today's Bible story, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey.
People welcomed Jesus as their King, but many people in Jerusalem today do not believe Jesus is the King. They do not believe that Jesus is the Savior. Let's pray for them to believe the truth about Jesus.

- "Prayer for Jerusalem" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printables, 1 per child

Practice the big picture question

Invite the preschoolers to sit in a circle on the floor. Pass a beanbag to a preschooler and ask him the big picture question. Help the preschooler give the big picture answer. Lead him to toss the beanbag to another preschooler and ask her the big picture question. Play as time allows, making sure each child gets a chance to ask and answer the big picture question.

- beanbag

SAY • **People welcomed Jesus as their King.** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. Jesus did everything needed to save us from sin. *Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.*