

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

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

John 12:12-19

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.

The Bible Story

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

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

Jesus and His friends were going to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Long ago, one of God's messengers said God's special King would ride a donkey into Jerusalem. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats on the ground in front of Jesus. They put palm branches on the ground too. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted "Hosanna!" Jesus went to the temple. Some people were not treating the temple the right way, so Jesus made them leave. Sick people came to Jesus, and He healed them. Even children shouted, "Hosanna!" They knew Jesus was their King.

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- * Jesus is God's Son.
- * God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.
- * People praised Jesus as their King.

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Babies Activities



LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Provide hand-size Bibles. Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems. Read the key passage card.

SAY: People praised Jesus as their King. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE.** [*Pray for the babies.*]



SING A SONG

Sing the chorus of “Alive, Alive”:

“Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah!

My Jesus is alive forevermore!

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah! My Jesus is alive!”

If you are unfamiliar with the tune, check it out online before class.

SAY: Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



MARCH IN A PARADE

Hold the babies and gently bounce them as you “march” in a praise parade. Babies may shake rattles or scarves. Repeat the Main Point several times in a cheerful voice as you march with the babies.

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. People praised Jesus as their King. Even children praised Jesus! **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



EXPLORE SENSORY ITEMS

Place items such as a toy donkey, a Jesus figure, a palm branch, a doll’s coat, and a cross in a small basket or on the floor within babies’ reach. Make sure the items do not have small pieces.

SAY: Jesus is God’s Son! People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

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 Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

Toddler Activities



CIRCLE TIME (5 MINUTES)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the Main Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.



CUT PALM LEAVES

Before class, cut large leaf shapes out of construction paper. Provide blunt-tipped scissors for toddlers to cut the edge of the leaf.

Toddlers may also tear the leaves if they are not ready to cut fringe.

SAY: People praised Jesus as their King by putting palm branches in front of His donkey. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**



WAVE HANDS

Play joyful music and invite toddlers to lift their hands and wave their palms like palm branches. Invite toddlers to say "hosanna!"

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. People said "hosanna" to praise Jesus. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



SPREAD OUT AND FOLD COATS

Provide several jackets or adult button-down shirts. Invite toddlers to take turns spreading out the "cloaks" for Jesus and folding them.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son. People praised Jesus as their King by putting their coats in front of His donkey. **JESUS IS ALIVE.**



EXAMINE LEAVES

Post an allergy alert. Provide several different leaves for toddlers to examine with magnifying glasses, including palm leaves. Talk about how a palm leaf looks like a person's hand.

SAY: People praised Jesus as their King by putting palm branches in front of Him. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Bonus Teaching Hour

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John 12:12-19

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

MAIN POINT: Jesus is alive.



TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MATCH THE LEAVES

Before class, cut leaves from construction paper in various sizes and shapes. Trace the palm leaves with a permanent marker on clear contact plastic. Tape the contact plastic sticky-side-out to the window or wall at toddlers' height. Invite toddlers to stick the leaves on the plastic according to size or shape.

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus was ready to go to Jerusalem. People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O":

"Jesus came to be our King, and this is how we praise Him!

The *rocks said, **[make no sound]. [Repeat three times.]

King Jesus is alive!"

Substitute in other rounds *donkey, people and **hee-haw, hosanna.

SAY: God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY

Provide Bible people figures and a toy donkey for toddlers to play out the Bible story. Briefly retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son. People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

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, Main Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.