

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.

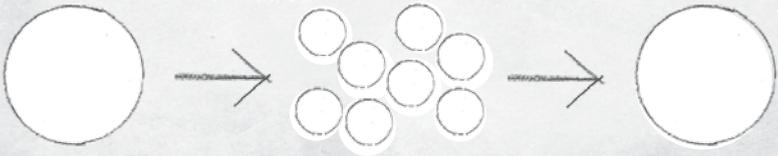
KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

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

**LARGE GROUP
WORSHIP**
(15–20 MINUTES)
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**SMALL GROUP
ACTIVITIES**
(25–30 MINUTES)
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**LARGE GROUP
CLOSING**
(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, gentle, and mounted 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: “Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?” Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise.

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

- **Wave palm branches and coats:** Bring palm branches and coats to lay out at the appropriate part of the Bible story. Consider providing one for each preschooler to lay down as you tell the story.
- **Play out the crowd:** When you read about palm branches, invite children to raise their hands in the air. Invite preschoolers to shout hosanna too. When you read that Jesus healed the people in the temple, invite children to praise Jesus.

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 entered 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 was God's Son!

Jesus went to the temple and drove out the money

changers there. While Jesus was at the temple complex, 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)

Large Group WORSHIP

SESSION TITLE: 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 10:9

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

Welcome and worship with song

- “Resurrected” song
- “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” song

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

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 • Today is a special day! Today we are celebrating Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is celebrated the Sunday before Easter Sunday. Does anyone know why it is called Palm Sunday? [*Allow for responses.*] Listen to today’s Bible story to find out if you are right.

Open your Bible to Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; or John 12. 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
- construction paper
- scissors (adult use)
- Key Passage Poster
- “If You Confess” song

Cut out a cross shape from construction paper. Place the cross cutout at Romans 10:9 in your Bible. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage aloud. Break the key passage into phrases and invite preschoolers to repeat each

phrase after you.

SAY • Our key passage tells us how we can be saved from our sin. We must agree that Jesus is God the Son, and He is in charge. We must believe that He died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead. We do not have to work hard to be saved. Jesus did the work for us when He died and rose again. We only need to turn from our sin and follow Him.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Palm Sunday got its name from when people laid palm branches on the ground before Jesus. **People welcomed Jesus as their King** and called out “Hosanna.” The word *hosanna* means “Save now!”
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.** They were happy to see Jesus. 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.

Sing “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” and “Christ Died for Us” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Alive Forever.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our King. Thank You for making a way for us to be saved through Your Son, Jesus. We love You. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” song
• “Christ Died for Us” song
• “Alive Forever” song
• offering basket

Transition to small groups

• countdown video (optional)

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Play “The King is here!” game

Guide the preschoolers to sit in a circle on the floor with their eyes closed. Explain that you will gently tap one child on the shoulder and she will jump up and cheer, “The King is here!” All children will then jump up and parade one lap around the room cheering, “The King is here!” Then they will sit back down with their eyes closed. Play until each child has been tapped.

SAY • People welcomed Jesus as their King. Children like you shouted, “The King is here! The King is here!”

Ride “donkeys” and “horses”

Provide a pool noodle for each preschooler. Encourage preschoolers to pretend their pool noodle is a donkey or a horse as they ride around the room.

SAY • People welcomed Jesus as their King. They were happy to see Jesus. 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.

Make palm branches

On a green sheet of construction paper, trace each child's

- pool noodles, 1 per child
- hobby horses (optional)

- empty paper towel tubes, 1 per child
- green construction paper
- blunt-tipped scissors
- tape or glue

hands. Guide preschoolers to cut out the hands. Tape or glue them to empty paper towel tubes. Invite preschoolers to play out waving the branches in the air and laying them on the ground to welcome Jesus.

SAY • People used palm branches to praise Jesus because they knew He was their King. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.**

Sort rocks

Provide sorting bins and an assortment of rocks. Invite preschoolers to sort the rocks by size, color, or other category. Challenge preschoolers to count the rocks.

- bins
- rocks

SAY • The religious teachers did not like the people praising Jesus. 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 comes back as King over everything, all people will praise Him!

Make footprint donkeys

Paint a preschooler’s foot with gray or brown paint. Help her press her foot onto white paper. Wipe off her foot. Then paint her hands with green paint. Help her press her hands along the bottom of the paper several times to create palm leaves. When the painting dries, demonstrate how to draw nostrils on the heel and big ears on the big toe and pinkie toe. Help children stick googly eyes on the ball of the foot, and place black yarn hair on the middle toes. Write the main point on each preschooler’s artwork.

- gray, brown, and green washable paint
- white paper
- markers
- googly eyes
- black yarn
- glue or sticky dots

SAY • Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.** One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

Transition to large group closing

Large Group CLOSING

SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

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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. Where did Jesus and His friends travel? (*Jerusalem*)
2. What animal did Jesus ride into the city? (*donkey*)
3. What did people lay on the road when Jesus entered the city? (*robes and palm branches*)
4. What did Jesus say would happen if the people didn't praise Him? (*The rocks would praise Him.*)
5. Whom did Jesus heal in the temple? (*people who could not see and people who could not walk*)
6. ***Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from our sin.***

SAY • Jesus went to Jerusalem at Passover, and the people praised Him. **People welcomed Jesus as 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.

Sing the key passage song or unit theme song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "If You Confess" song
- "Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our King.
Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sin.
You have promised that He will come back again as
the King over everything. We cannot wait! 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 important it is to tell people about Jesus so they can follow Him as their King. You may also show the “A True Story” video.

SAY • The story from our video is a true story! The man had a dream many years ago that God would send visitors to him, and God did! The visitors were missionaries. They told the old man the true stories from the Bible. The man believed the true words of the Bible, and now he is a follower of King Jesus! To whom can you tell the true stories from the Bible?

- “A True Story” missions video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

Make palm leaf rubbings

Place several palm leaves (real or artificial) of various sizes on the table. Demonstrate how to lay a sheet of paper over the leaf and use the side of a crayon to create a leaf rubbing on the paper.

SAY • People cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road in front of Jesus. They were happy to see Jesus. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.**

- paper
- crayons
- several palm branches (real or artificial)