

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

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

Main Point: People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King

Key Passage: Romans 6:9

Big Question: Who saves us from our sins? Jesus saves us from our sins.

Worship Songs

Opening Question

Ask kids if they've ever attended or participated in a parade in someone's honor. Talk about who was honored and why.

SAY • Jesus rode into town on a donkey. God's prophet Zechariah had predicted in Old Testament times that the Messiah would come riding on a donkey. Jesus was the King whom God had promised to send. People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

Bible Story Video

Bible Story Review Questions

Distribute a Bible to each person. Ask the following questions. If they are incorrect, help them find the appropriate verses in Scripture.

1. Why had many Israelites traveled to Jerusalem? (to celebrate Passover, John 12:12)
2. How many disciples did Jesus send into a village ahead of them? (two, Matt. 21:1)
3. What did the disciples find in the village? (a young donkey, Mark 11:2)
4. What did people spread on the road in front of Jesus? (their robes and palm branches, Mark 11:8)
5. What word did the people say that means "save now"? (hosanna, Mark 11:9-10)
6. Who asked Jesus to quiet the disciples? (the religious leaders, Luke 19:39)
7. Jesus said if the disciples were quiet, what would praise Him? (the rocks, Luke 19:40)
8. Whom did Jesus heal in the temple complex? (people who were blind and lame, Matt. 21:14)
9. Where did Jesus go to spend the night? (Bethany, Matt. 21:17)
10. Which prophet said Jesus would come, riding on a donkey? (Zechariah, Zech, 9:9)

Activity: Donkey Races

Form two teams. Give each team a stick horse (or a broomstick). Teams will line up at one end of the room. The first player on each team will run to one end of the room and back, pretending to ride the stick horse like a donkey. When he returns, he will pass the stick horse to the next person, who must run down and back in the same way. The first team to cycle all players through the race wins.

SAY • Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, but He wasn't racing to get there. He was arriving at just the right time. The people were happy to see Him. Why do you think they welcomed Him to Jerusalem?

Activity: Play with Blocks

Invite kids to build the temple and play out Jesus riding toward it. Use people figures, donkeys, and trees if you have them available.

SAY • People welcomed Jesus as their King. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went to the temple area. People who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them. One day, Jesus will come back to earth, riding on a white horse as King over everything. When He does, He will end pain and sickness forever.

Activity: Hunt for Rocks

Take a walk outside if weather permits. Lead children to look for rocks on their nature walk. Remind children that Jesus said if people did not praise Him, the rocks would cry out. Allow children to choose a rock to bring back inside. (Added bonus: decorate the rocks as a family and then re-hide them in your community)

SAY • The religious leaders did not like that people welcomed Jesus as their King. They thought people should not praise Jesus. They did not believe Jesus is God's Son, but they were wrong. 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.

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" (Zechariah 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)

Activity Page

Guide the kids to complete the activity page