

EXPERIENCE The Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

STORY 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.

LOW PREP

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.

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.

Praise with maracas

Guide a preschooler to spoon dry rice into one side of a plastic egg. Close the egg and put it between the heads of two plastic spoons. Invite the preschooler to wrap colorful tape around the egg and spoons. Then invite her to wrap the bottom of the spoon handles together with tape. Play music while preschoolers shake their maracas.

SAY • We praised Jesus with music and instruments. The children in our Bible story praised Jesus saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" **People welcomed Jesus as their King**. Jesus is worthy of our praise.

- plastic eggs
- dry rice
- bowl
- plastic spoons
- colorful tape
- worship music

He is our King. One day, King Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

Play with blocks

Set out people figures, plastic donkeys, and small plastic palm trees in an area with blocks. Invite preschoolers to build the temple and play out Jesus riding toward it.

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.

- blocks
- people figures
- plastic donkeys
- small plastic palm trees

Play “Follow the Robes”

Designate one side of the room to be Jerusalem. Choose a child to be the donkey while the rest of the group is the crowd. Lead a child from the crowd to lay a shirt on the floor. The donkey will crawl to the shirt. Then another child will lay down another shirt for the donkey to move to. Children will continue laying down shirts for the donkey to follow to Jerusalem.

SAY • Jesus came riding on a donkey to Jerusalem, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. The crowd laid their robes on the road in front of Him. **People welcomed Jesus as their King.** The people were happy to see Jesus. One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

- T-shirts

LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils
- markers

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Storytelling stations

Set up three stations for kids to practice sharing the story of Jesus' triumphal entry. At the first station, provide paper and markers for kids to draw pictures to share the story. At the second station, provide paper and pencils for kids to write a few sentences to tell the story. At the third station, set up a chair for a volunteer or adult leader to sit in. Kids should tell the story to the volunteer.

Form three groups of kids and guide them to rotate through the storytelling stations, spending a few minutes at each station. Provide Bible for kids to read and review Matthew 21:1-17.

SAY • Traveling to faraway places to share the good news about Jesus is not always easy, but missionaries who obey God's call to go and tell the nations about Jesus want everyone to hear and believe the good news.

We too can share the good news about Jesus with people wherever we are. God can use us for His glory in our neighborhoods, in cities across the country, and in countries around the world!

OPTION 2: Rocks cry out

Before class, gather smooth, hand-sized stones. It may be helpful to rinse them with water and dry them before the activity.

During class, give each kid a stone and markers. Invite the kids to draw faces on the stones. As kids draw on the stones, read Luke 19:37-40. Talk about what the word *rebuke* means and ask kids why the Pharisees did not want the disciples to praise Jesus.

SAY • **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King,**

- smooth stones
- markers
- water and towels (optional)

and that made the Pharisees angry. The Pharisees were religious leaders who believed that in order for God to be happy with them, they had to follow all of God's laws and some other laws they made for themselves, too. They didn't like Jesus. He taught that no one can keep God's laws perfectly except for Him and that salvation is based only on trusting in Jesus, not what a person can do for God.

Jesus—the only One who has never sinned—died on the cross and rose again so we could be forgiven of our sin when we trust in Him. *Who saves us from our sins? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Service project

Involve your kids in a simple service project in the church. Here are some ideas: sort cans in the food pantry, clean toys in the nursery, pick up trash around the church building, sweep the hallways, or clean up the kitchen. Consider asking your church staff about a simple task for kids to complete.

SAY • You are a part of God's plan right now. You are also an important part of this church. Everyone in the church can be a part of God's mission by doing things that serve others. Let's spend a few minutes doing a project in the church that serves others. Our mission as a church is to lead others to Jesus; so when we serve at church, we are a part of the mission.

OPTION 2: Hot seat

Assign three volunteers the following roles: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Choose one role player to sit at the front of the room. Invite kids to interview the player, asking questions about the Bible story as if they are conducting an investigation.

Suggest kids ask "who, what, when, where, and how" questions. The player should respond as that person. Provide Bibles and allow players to refer to Luke 2:39-52.

Players may be creative with their answers, but strive for biblical accuracy. After several questions, select another role player to take the "hot seat."

SAY • I wonder if Mary and Joseph asked Jesus more questions as they traveled home together. Remember our big picture question: *Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully*

LOW PREP

• Bibles
• chair