

Unit 26 • Session 1
Jesus' Triumphal Entry

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 21; Mark 11;
Luke 19; John 12

STORY POINT:

People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

APPLY THE STORY

(25–30 minutes)

LEADER Bible Study

Leading into the last week of Jesus' ministry before His death and resurrection, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings. 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." (See 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. Help kids 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!

The BIBLE Story

Bible Storytelling Tips

Assign roles: Assign volunteers roles of disciples, Jesus, and members of the crowd. Encourage kids to act out the story as you tell it.

Set the scene: Search online or in biblical resources for pictures of ancient and modern-day Jerusalem. Show drawings of Jerusalem during Jesus' time and explain where Jesus might have entered the city. Then show pictures of Jerusalem today.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John

12

It was time to celebrate Passover, a special time to remember how God had freed His people from slavery in

Egypt. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate God's amazing rescue.

Jesus and His disciples were among the people who **traveled to Jerusalem**. When they neared Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, **Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead into a village. "As soon as you enter the 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.'"**

The disciples did as Jesus asked. As they untied the donkey, its owners asked why. "The Lord needs it," they said. Then **they brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get onto it. People spread their robes along the road for Jesus, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields.**

The whole crowd praised God with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. **"Hosanna!" they said. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"** The word *hosanna* means "save now." The people welcomed Jesus as their promised King. They hoped He would save them from the Romans.

Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus answered, "If they did not praise Me, the rocks would praise Me!"

While Jesus was in the temple complex, people who were blind and people who were lame came to Him. Jesus healed them. The blind and lame would not have been allowed to worship in the temple.

Other religious leaders saw Jesus' miracles and heard the children saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They were very angry and asked Jesus, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" They were saying Jesus is the king.

"Yes," Jesus told them. The writer of the Psalms had said, "You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants."

Jesus left them and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.

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.

APPLY THE STORY

Session Title: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Bible Passage: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

Story Point: People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

Key Passage: Philippians 2:8

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster

Assign each kid a word from the key passage. Encourage the kids to say their words in the correct order. Challenge them to see how quickly they can say the whole key passage.

Say • **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.** Jesus was not the earthly king they expected; He is the King of heaven and earth. Jesus is God the Son, yet He became a human and obeyed God's plan to die on the cross. Jesus is the perfect picture of humility and love. He gave up His rightful place in heaven to be treated like a criminal so we could live with God forever. ***What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.***

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid

Story Point Poster

Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 21. Ask which Bible division Matthew is in. (*the Gospels*) Remind kids that Bible divisions are ways people have organized the Bible

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

to help us study God's Word more easily. Consider showing Jerusalem on the New Testament Israel Map. (H4)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why did Jesus send His disciples to get a donkey for Him to ride? (*to fulfill prophecy, Matt. 21:4-5*)

What word did the people and the children say in praise of Jesus? (*Hosanna, Matt. 21:9,15*)

Where did Jesus go to spend the night? (*Bethany, Matt. 21:17*)

Why do you think they people welcomed Jesus with such excitement? *Remind the kids that the people in Jesus' day were looking for an earthly king to conquer their enemies and give them back control of their land. They believed Jesus was the promised King but misunderstood what kind of king He'd be.*

When do you feel most excited to worship Jesus? *Guide kids to think through the various ways we worship God, like singing praise, obeying our leaders, and doing our best work in school or sports. Remind them that anything done for God's glory is worship.*

Why do you think some people reject Jesus? *Help kids connect this idea to the religious leaders in Jesus' day. They hated Jesus because they did not want to believe they needed help, and they feared losing control over the religious practices of the people. Today, it is much the same. People want to believe they are good on their own. They don't want to believe that their sin is so bad it required Jesus' death, and they don't want to surrender control of their lives to Him.*

Say • **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.** When we have faith in Jesus, He is the King of our lives. Someday He will come back and set up His perfect kingdom on earth forever.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Special places

"Special Places" printable
globe

Print and cut apart the "Special Places" printable. Invite volunteers to come help you point out each country on a globe while you read the three

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

strips. You may select strong readers to read the strips for you.

Say • Those were some places that were important in Eric Liddell's life. In our lives, different places will end up being important. Think about where you live, go to school, or visit on vacation.

God wants everyone in every nation to hear about Him and believe. Jesus died on the cross to rescue everyone who trusts in Him. The places we go and the places we live are important to God because people everywhere need to hear about Jesus. **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**, and someday He will return to set up His eternal kingdom on earth. Everyone who trusts in Him will live in His kingdom forever.

Option 2: "Palm" branches

green construction paper
markers
scissors
tape
paint stirrers, 1 per kid

Provide each kid with green construction paper and a paint stirrer. Instruct kids to trace their hand onto their papers as many times as they can fit it. Help the kids cut out their handprints. Kids will need between six

and eight handprint cutouts. Show them how to tape the handprints to the paint stirrer in an overlapping manner, with fingers pointed away from the stirrer. When they are finished, it will look like a palm branch.

Say • **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**. The people laid down their robes and palm branches to cover the ground in front of Jesus. They sang songs and worshiped Him. But Jesus was not the earthly king they expected. Jesus had come to set up God's heavenly kingdom.

We can join God's heavenly kingdom by trusting in Jesus. When we have faith that He lived a perfect life for us and died the death we deserve, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. When we understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us, we will want to worship Him as King, too!

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

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

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.

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



People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.



**He has delivered us from
the domain of darkness and
transferred us to the kingdom
of his beloved Son, in whom
we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:13-14



What did Jesus do to save us?



What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a
sinless life, died on
the cross, and rose
from the dead.



Silly Pictures

INSTRUCTIONS: Find and circle at least seven things that don't belong in the Bible story picture.



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BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus traveled to Jerusalem.
- He sent Peter and John to find a donkey for Him to ride into the city as prophecy said.
- People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.
- The religious leaders were angry that people praised Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- **What did Jesus do to save us?** Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How is Jesus our perfect King?
- What does it mean to worship Jesus as King?
- What are ways we can show Jesus is our King?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Play a game like “King of the Hill” with your kids. Talk to them about Jesus’ kingdom and how we can become part of it.
- Organize a mock parade on your street. Invite neighbors to participate. Discuss the ways Jesus’ triumphal entry was like a parade.



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LIFEWAY KIDS APP**



**STORY POINT: PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS
TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.**

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