

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.

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
chalkboard or dry erase board
chalk or marker

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Philippians 2:8 aloud together.

Write the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Lead kids to read the key passage together. Erase a couple of words and challenge kids to read the key passage again, saying the missing words from memory. See how many words you can erase with the kids still saying the verse correctly.

If time allows, repeat the whole challenge and continue until the class says the whole verse without any words on the board.

Say • Great job! In our Bible story today, **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**. Just days later, Jesus would be arrested, tried, and crucified. All this was because of the Father's great love for us and Jesus' obedience "to the point of death—even to death on a cross."

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid
Story Point Poster
Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys to open their Bibles to Matthew 21 and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 19. Explain that the story of Jesus' triumphal entry is found in all four Gospels. Ask kids to name the four Gospels. (*Matthew*,

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

Mark, Luke, John) Remind them that the Gospels tell of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Choose volunteers to read aloud Matthew 21:9 and Luke 19:38.

Say • All four of the accounts of the triumphal entry bring different details to the story. Because our Bible story today, as well as many others, are recorded in many of the Gospels, we can have a deeper insight into Jesus' life and ministry.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why do you think the people welcomed Jesus as King? *Help kids recognize that the people knew the prophecies and believed Jesus was the Messiah who was promised long ago.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 118:26.)

What type of Messiah were the Jewish people expecting? *Help kids recognize that many were expecting the Messiah to be the conqueror of the Roman Empire, but God had another plan—a plan to save people from sin.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 55:9.)

What are some things you can trust God with in your life, knowing that His plans are best? *Help kids recognize that God is trustworthy and that we can trust Him in all areas of our life.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:5-6.)

Say • Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, and **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**. One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse and reign as King over everything for eternity.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Special places

world map or globe
"Special Places" printable

Say • God wants people of every nation to hear about Him so they might believe. Jesus died on the cross to rescue everyone who trusts in Him. The places we go and live are important to God because people there need to hear about Jesus. Let's look at some of the

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

important places in missionary Eric Liddell's life.

Distribute the three "Special Places" strips describing the significant places of Eric Liddell's life. Display the world map or globe and point out each country (China, Scotland, and France) as volunteers read the statements.

Discuss with kids places that they have lived and places that they go and how they can share Jesus. For example, when they visit their grandmother in another city each summer, they can make new friends in her neighborhood and tell them about believing in Jesus.

Option 2: Make invitations

colored paper
markers
crayons
stickers
envelopes
stamps (optional)

Provide supplies for kids to create invitations for people they would like to invite to church next week to learn about King Jesus.

Prepare a sample note on the board for kids to use as a template:

Dear _____, I have been having a really great time learning about Jesus' life at my church, and I

would really like for you to join me next week as we learn more. Will you come with me? Sincerely,

Say • We have talked about how **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King** and how He will one day come again and rule as King for all eternity. Do you have any friends or family members you would like to invite to learn more about Jesus?

Encourage kids to use the supplies to make a card to either mail or hand deliver to friends, neighbors, or family members.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils
Journal Page
"Hosanna!" activity 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.

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page: What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as the Messiah and for the promise of eternal life that we have through Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Hosanna!" on the activity page. Kids should number the events in the order they happened. Encourage kids to read Matthew 21:1-17 if they need help.



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.



Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What was unusual about Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem?
- What did the people expect Jesus to do for them?
- Why does Jesus deserve our praise?

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

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

Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem. 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.'"

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Where Jesus Walked

Unscramble the names of places Jesus lived in or visited. Then trace Jesus' journey by drawing lines on the map between the places in order.

1. Jesus was born in **LEEHHMTHEB**.

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2. Jesus' parents dedicated Him at the temple in **MEJERLASU**.

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3. Jesus grew up in **ZAARENHT**.

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4. Jesus called disciples by the **ASE FO LEELIAG**.

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5. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in **TBEYANH**.

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Hosanna!

Number the events in the order they happened. Read Matthew 21:1-17 if you need help.

