

Unit 26 • Session 1

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Bible Passage:

Matthew 21; Mark 11;
Luke 19; John 12

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.

Activities

Throw a parade

Instruct your group to line up and march around the room or through the halls of your church's meeting place. If appropriate, consider providing noisemakers so the parade feels more like a celebration.

SAY • Watching a parade is fun. Walking in a parade can be even more fun! Today we will learn about a time Jesus entered into Jerusalem. It was a lot like a victory parade. We'll learn more soon.

Crown toss

Help the kids make paper crowns from yellow construction paper by cutting a zig-zag pattern down the length of the sheet and then taping it into a loop. Crowns do not need to be large enough for kids to wear. Set a traffic cone at one end of the room. Challenge the kids to toss their crowns to see if they can land them on the cone.

Say • Crowns are often used as a symbol of royalty, like a king or a queen. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus was treated like a king as He entered Jerusalem. He didn't wear a golden crown, but He did have a big parade celebrating His arrival.

"Palm" branches

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!

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

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 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.