

January 14
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS AS KING
MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. (Zechariah 9:9) One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 53:3

Key Passage Phrase: People were unkind to Jesus.

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

SAY In today's Bible story, Jesus asks His friends to bring Him a donkey. Why do you think Jesus wanted a donkey? Sometimes donkeys don't want to go where you want them to go. Horses are much better to ride. Listen closely to find out why Jesus wanted to ride on a donkey. .

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date
(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY We have a new big picture question and answer today. The question is, **How is Jesus the perfect Prophet?** The answer is, **God speaks to us through Jesus.** A prophet is someone who delivers messages from God. Jesus is the perfect Prophet. He never disobeyed God and told people what God wanted them to know.

4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Deuteronomy 18:15. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Highlight the verse. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration. Read the verse a few times, prompting preschoolers to do the motions with you. Invite one child at a time to touch the highlighted verse in the Bible.

SAY In today's Bible story, we learned that the people welcomed Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem. They wanted to see God's Son, the Savior of the world. Jesus is the prophet mentioned in today's key passage. We can learn about God through Jesus' words and actions.

5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Why did the people want to see Jesus and praise Him? (*Jesus is God's Son. He is the King over everything.*)
3. How can we praise Jesus? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary and might include we can pray and tell Jesus how much we love Him and tell others about Jesus.*)
4. Who is the King over everything? (*Jesus*)
5. **How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.**

SAY *As Jesus rode a donkey on His way into Jerusalem, people followed Him. They wanted to see and welcome Him because Jesus is God's Son. They laid palm branches and their robes on the road as Jesus passed by. They shouted 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' The religious leaders did not like this. They did not believe that Jesus is God's Son. They did not want the people to praise Jesus. Jesus told them that even the rocks would praise Him. The children also shouted and praised Jesus by saying, 'The king is here.' 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.*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *God, we love You! Thank You for sending Jesus, the perfect Prophet. We praise You that Jesus is King over everything! Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

MAKE HANDPRINT PALM LEAVES

Lay out **green construction paper, pencils, scissors, craft sticks, and tape** on a table. Invite children to trace their hands on the paper, cut them out, then tape them on a craft stick to make a palm leaf. Assist younger preschoolers as needed. Preschoolers will need a few cut-out hands to make a palm leaf. Write the child's name on the craft stick and set it aside. These will be used in the "Celebrate Jesus" activity.

SAY *Today we will learn about the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people were so excited to welcome Jesus that they waved palm branches and laid some on the road ahead of Him. Have you ever been excited to welcome someone to your home?*

CELEBRATE JESUS

Gather the **handprint palm leaves from the above activity** and distribute them to the children. If these were not made, then distribute artificial palm branches. Invite children to march around the classroom to music. Consider playing the key passage song, "Listen to Him (Deuteronomy 18:15)" or another worship song of your choice. Organize the children into two parallel lines with a path in the middle. Instruct the children to wave their palm leaves and shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and then "The King is here!" Instruct the children to place their palm leaves on the path and sit down.

SAY *How do you think the people felt seeing Jesus riding on a donkey? How would you feel if you got to see Jesus face-to-face? The people believed that Jesus was the true King of Israel who had come to rescue them. We know that Jesus is much more. Jesus is the King of everything. Jesus rescued us from sin. One day we will see Jesus face-to-face. Jesus will come back riding on a white horse.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the **THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER**

SAY *We have a new big picture question and answer today. The question is, **How is Jesus the perfect Prophet?** The answer is, **God speaks to us through Jesus.** A prophet is someone who delivers messages from God. Jesus is the perfect Prophet. He never disobeyed God and told people what God wanted them to know.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Matthew 21. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS AS KING

Raise hands: Tell preschoolers to raise their hands when hearing one of the following praise words or sentences in the story: "Hosanna" and "The king is here!" Review by talking about ways the people praised Jesus.

Show props: Give each child a prop to hold. Props may include pieces of material to represent robes, palm branches (real or cut from construction paper), or rocks. As you read the story each child will hold up his assigned prop when hearing it mentioned in the story.

Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem. He sent two of them ahead to a village. Jesus said, "Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey and her colt tied up. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you should say that the Lord needs them."

The disciples did what Jesus said. They laid their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus got closer to Jerusalem, people walked behind Him and in front of Him. The people laid their robes on the road. They laid palm branches on the road, too. The people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One—the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The religious leaders did not like this. They told Jesus to make His disciples be quiet. "If they were silent," Jesus said, "the rocks would cry out with praise!"

Jesus went to the temple, and people who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them.

The religious leaders at the temple heard children shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The leaders asked Jesus, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" The children were saying, "The king is here! The king is here!"

Jesus said, "Yes. Even the children will praise Me." Then Jesus left and went to spend the night in the town of Bethany.

Christ Connection: Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. (Zechariah 9:9) One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

January 14
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS AS KING
MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is the good King who rescues His people.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus tells us God's message.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: We can listen to Jesus. Deuteronomy 18:15

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE KING

Call on one toddler to be the "king." Instruct him to lead the other toddlers around the room. Guide the toddlers to follow the king, mimicking his movements. Challenge the king to walk slowly, walk quickly, jump, or even crawl around the room. Choose a new volunteer and play as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

SAY *Who did we follow in our game? The king! Listen to today's Bible story to hear how Jesus was welcomed by the people as their king.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date
(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Open your Bible to Matthew 21. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you.
Pray for the toddlers.

ACTIVITIES

TRACE A HANDPRINT PALM BRANCH

Fold a piece of green construction paper in half and then in half again. Trace a toddler's hand onto the folded construction paper. Cut out the four handprints. Glue or staple the handprints to a craft stick to make a palm branch.

SAY *What did the crowd lay on the ground as Jesus rode by on the donkey? Yes! The crowd laid palm branches and coats on the ground. The people welcomed Jesus as their King.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *How did the people in our Bible story welcome Jesus as their King? Yes! They put coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus. Jesus is the good King who rescues His people.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Jesus and His friends went to Jerusalem. Jesus rode on a donkey. Long ago, the prophet Zechariah said God's special King would ride to Jerusalem on a donkey. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted "Hosanna!" Then Jesus went to the temple and healed people who were sick. Even children praised Jesus. They knew Jesus was their King.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.