

Jesus Enters Jerusalmen

Luke 19:29-44, Mark 11:1-11, Matt 21:1-11, John 12:9-19

Lesson Highlights: We introduce the idea of King Jesus young because later on it will help us understand both Jesus' mission and his death. Jesus reigns not over a place on a map, but over a group who trust him and who decide to live together on earth as if God really does reign. Meanwhile, we see how this makes Jesus a threat to religious leaders ("How dare he claim this-- only God is king?") and Roman leaders ("Cesar is the only king, this man is a threat"). Are these big kid concepts? Yes, but this is how we start a small, spiral later.

STORY POEM

Hosanna! Hosanna!
The people shout and sing!
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Jesus is the king!

*Punch fist straight up
Wave your arms back and forth.
Punch fist straight up
Hands on head like a crown.*

STORY : PRESCHOOL

One day, Jesus was walking with his friends. They were going to visit a city called Jerusalem and Jesus wanted to ride into the city on a donkey. Jesus told his friends where they could find the donkey and the friends went to look for it.

When the friends found the donkey, they took it to Jesus. Jesus' two friends took their coats off and put them on the donkey's back so that it would be soft for Jesus and easy to ride on. Jesus sat on the donkey and started to ride into town.

Let's make the sound of the donkey walking. *Pat your hands on your knees and say*

Clippity-Clop.
Clippity-Clop.
Clippity-Clop.
Clippity-Clop.

Many people heard that Jesus was coming and they knew that Jesus was special. The people had been waiting and hoping for a good king to care for them. Jesus listened to them (hands behind ears), he helped them (reach hands out), and he loved them (hug yourself).

The people wanted Jesus to be their king (hands on head like a crown). They wanted to show love to Jesus and tell him how great a king he was, so they had a parade for Jesus. When I think of a parade I think of marching bands, floats, and dancing. They are so much fun!

But the people at Jesus' parade didn't have big bands and huge floats. Instead, they did many other things to show that they thought Jesus was a great king.

One way they did this was by putting their coats on the ground for the donkey to walk on. They were showing love to Jesus. They made a special road for him to ride on. Let's pretend to put our coats on the ground.

Hold up your coat. (Hold two hands in the air) and lay it on the ground for Jesus. (Wwwwppppshhhhh.) Do it again. Hold up your coat. (Hold two hands in the air) and lay it on the ground for Jesus. (Wwwwppppshhhhh.) Do it again. Hold up your coat. (Hold two hands in the air) and lay it on the ground for Jesus. (Wwwwppppshhhhh.)

But the people didn't stop there. They wanted to show more love to Jesus because they thought of Jesus as a King. (Hands on head like a crown). The people got some special palm leaves to wave at Jesus. In the parade the people waved their branches at Jesus. Let's wave our arms back and forth like palm branches (wave arms back and forth over head). And then, the people sang special words too. They sang "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is a King!" The people sang these words to show their love to Jesus! The people loved Jesus so much they used their voices to sing and shout to Jesus, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is King" The people sang, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is King!"

Say that with me...Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is King!

The people showed love to Jesus by having a parade for him!

WONDER QUESTIONS

1. I wonder what the donkey smelled like?
2. I wonder how Jesus felt during the parade?
3. I wonder if it was fun to be in the crowd?

STORY: ELEMENTARY

One day, Jesus was walking with his friends. They were going to visit a city called Jerusalem and Jesus wanted to ride into the city on a donkey. Jesus told his friends where they could find the donkey and the friends went to look for it. The friends who went to go and find the donkeys were two disciples, the disciples were 12 men that spent a lot of time learning and listening to Jesus. Can you name another disciple? (Maybe Peter, John or Judas)

Back to our story. The friends of Jesus who were called _____ (*the disciples*) did exactly what Jesus had asked. They found a donkey and put their jackets on the donkey so Jesus had a comfy seat to ride one. There were a lot of people waiting for Jesus to show up because they had heard about Jesus at this point. You see, Jesus had been doing a lot of miracles and healings. While Jesus often told people who he was, sometimes people were pretty confused including his good friends and family of what that meant. Crowds were collecting because they were anticipating the arrival of a KING!

Why do you think that they thought Jesus would be a King? The Israelites had been promised that someone was coming that would make their life better and they had waited MANY years for that person to show up. They expected someone really powerful, maybe someone who had great military leadership or a lot of horses. But that wasn't who Jesus was. He was incredibly amazing, but he didn't exactly act like a King.

As Jesus rode down the road on a donkey, some put their coats on the road for Jesus' donkey as he passed by while others waved palm branches. You see, while people didn't understand who Jesus was exactly yet, they knew he was important. So important that they believed that his donkey shouldn't even touch the road. This was treatment like a King.

As Jesus rode down the road on the donkey people shouted "Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!" Hosanna is a word used in the Bible that was used to describe deep praise or adoration. Saying this to Jesus would have been a huge recognition of his role and respect.

When Jesus showed up in Jerusalem those that didn't know who Jesus ask began to ask "Who is this?" The crowds joyfully responded with "It's Jesus, from Nazareth!"

Using your skill of curiosity, what are some questions you have from this story?

WONDER QUESTIONS:

1. I wonder why people laid down their cloaks?
2. I wonder if Jesus was surprised by how many people knew who he was? or if Jesus was uncomfortable with all the attention?
3. I wonder how different people felt about this procession—like grown ups, or kids, or Jesus' friends, or leaders, or people just watching?
4. I wonder what the singing and cheering was like? Did everyone know the song or make it up?
5. I wonder when the disciples began to realize how important Jesus would be?

Wonder Questions As you think about today's story, what did you notice about who God is or what God is like?

ACTIVITIES:

1. CREATE YOUR OWN PALM BRANCHES

Supplies: scissors and green paper, or green markers and white paper

Create and decorate a palm branch. Invite your child to write something that they love about Jesus on the paper leaf, or simply the word "Hosanna".

2. HAVE A PARADE

Put on some fun music and have a parade around your home or a dance party together. If you made them, wave your leaves!

3. GUMMY BEAR STORY

Supplies: Graham crackers, frosting, gummy bears, green sour straws

Using a graham cracker road, create your own reenactment of Jesus' entry and parade with gummy bear people, frosting coats, green sour straw palm leaves.

Allow kiddos to use their imagination of what they think the scene looked like and then eat it after they are done creating! Keep it simple by just using the basic supplies or add more if that's your style.

PRAYER:

Imagination prayer

Get comfy, close your eyes if you'd like, and take a big breath. Use your awesome imagination and picture this: what's it like when Jesus is King? How do you feel inside? How do people treat people? How do people treat creation? What else do you imagine?

Jesus, help us see your kingdom all around us. Thanks that we can live there with you. Amen.