

April 5, 2020 PreK – Palm Sunday

Bible Passage: Jesus' Triumphal Entry / Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12
Story Point: People welcomed Jesus as their king.

Key Passage/Memory Verse: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5 ESV

Big Picture Question: Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.

Christ Connection: *The people were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was their King. 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. (Revelation 19:11)*

*** BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings the week of Passover. 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 worshipping 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.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help preschoolers 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!

*** BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Matthew 21.

Say • The Bible is the most important book there is because the Bible is the only book that has God’s words in it. All God’s words are true. Today’s Bible story comes from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—all four Gospels. The Gospels tell about Jesus’ life on earth.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips, or both! You can use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Option to make it interactive: Instruct preschoolers to perform simple actions when you say specific words in the story. Children may put on an imaginary crown when you say Jesus, they may bray when you say donkey, and they may shout hosanna when you say hosanna.

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry: Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12

It was the time of year that the Israelites celebrated Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to remember what God had done when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

Jesus and His friends also 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 friends did what Jesus said. They put their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too. The crowds walked ahead of Jesus, and those who followed Him 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 word hosanna means “Save now!”

The religious teachers didn’t like it. They asked Jesus to tell His friends to be quiet. “If they didn’t praise Me,” Jesus said, “the rocks would cry out!”

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, people asked, “Who is this?” The crowds replied, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!” They were only half right. Jesus wasn’t just a prophet of God—He is God’s Son! Jesus went to the temple and made the people who were selling things there leave. While Jesus was at the temple area, people who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them.

The priests and the scribes at the temple heard children shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” The priests and scribes 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: *The people were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was their King. 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. (Revelation 19:11)*

SAY • People welcomed Jesus as their King. The children were correct when they said, “The king is here!” Jesus is the King who rescues His people from sin. One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

KEY PASSAGE

Key Passage: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5 ESV

MOVEMENTS:

Trust in: arms crossed over chest

The Lord: point up

With all your heart: make a heart with hands

And do not lean: start with hands crossed in the middle and then push out

On your own understanding: point to head with both fingers

Proverbs 3:5: Open and close book with hands

SAY • We can trust in the Lord because he loves us. Jesus is Lord and he did all the work to save us when He died on the cross and rose again.

*** PRAYER**

*** ACTIVITIES:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:

Invite preschoolers to complete the maze to get Jesus to the hill called Calvary and to color the picture of Jesus riding a donkey.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Jesus and His friends were traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too.

PALM LEAF COLORING PAGE

Print out the black and white palm leaf page from the Activities section. Kids can color it in, cut it out and use it to wave around as they are hearing the Bible story for today! Encourage them to wave it around saying, "Hosanna, Hosanna" (means "Save now").

HUNT FOR ROCKS

Take a walk outside if weather permits. Lead children to look for rocks on their nature walk. Remind children that Jesus said if people did not praise Him, the rocks would cry out. Allow children to choose a rock to bring back inside.

If you would like have your child draw with a marker or paint a face on the rock.

SAY • The religious leaders did not like that people welcomed Jesus as their King. They thought people should not praise Jesus. They did not believe Jesus is God's Son, but they were wrong. 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.

PRAISE WITH INSTRUMENTS

Supplies: rice or small rocks, plastic easter eggs, two plastic spoons, masking or painters tape. (*Alternative: empty water bottle or musical instruments*)

Help your preschooler to spoon dry rice or small rocks into one side of a plastic egg. Close the egg and put it between the heads of two plastic spoons. Help your preschooler to wrap tape around the egg and spoons. Then invite her to wrap the bottom of the spoon handles together with tape. Play upbeat worship music while preschoolers shake their maracas (You can use the Emergence Worship Wednesday music or the kids playlist).

Alternatively, you can fill dry rice or small rocks into an empty water bottle and have your child decorate the water bottle OR you can play instruments you already have at home 😊

SAY • We praised Jesus with music and instruments. The children in our Bible story praised Jesus saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" People welcomed Jesus as their King. Jesus is worthy of our praise. He is our King. One day, King Jesus will come back,

riding on a white horse as King over everything.

PLAY WITH BLOCKS

Supplies: blocks, people figures, plastic donkey (or other animal like a horse), small plastic trees

Set out people figures, plastic donkeys, and small plastic palm trees in the block area. Invite preschoolers to build the temple and play out Jesus riding toward it.

SAY • People welcomed Jesus as their King. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went to the temple area.

People who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them. One day, Jesus will come back to earth, riding on a white horse as King over everything. When He does, He will end pain and sickness forever.

PLAY “FOLLOW THE ROBES”

Supplies: two t-shirts or towels that can be crawled on

Designate one side of the room to be Jerusalem. Have your child be the donkey that Jesus rode on. Explain the crowd laid down their robes on the road in front of Jesus. Lay down a shirt or towel for your child to crawl on, continue to lay down a shirt or towel, until you get to Jerusalem. You can use palm leaves from previous activity as well.

SAY • Jesus came riding on a donkey to Jerusalem, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. The crowd laid their robes on the road in front of Him. People welcomed Jesus as their King. The people were happy to see Jesus. One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus ask two of His friends to bring to Him? (a donkey and her colt)
2. What did the people lay on the road in front of Jesus? (their robes and palm branches)
3. What does the word hosanna mean? (save now)
4. What did Jesus say would cry out if people didn't praise Him? (the rocks)
5. Who saves us from our sin? Jesus saves us from sin.