

JESUS ENTERED JERUSALEM



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

1s–2s: Place the snack on the tables.

3s–5s: Choose children to help serve the snack. Ask a volunteer to pray. Remind preschoolers to clean their snack areas.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

1s–2s: Tell the Bible story as the children snack. Then allow the children to play in the room.

3s–5s: Lead the preschoolers to move in a single-file line to the group-time area as they say “Hosanna.”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

JESUS ENTERED JERUSALEM—BASED ON MATTHEW 21:1-11; MARK 11:1-11

- Ask the children to name ways they celebrate people. Mention that today’s Bible story is about a time when people celebrated Jesus. Open a Bible to Matthew 21. Tell the Bible story.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

*(Use words in **bold** for babies–2s; all words for 3s–5s.)*

- Jesus and His disciples (helpers) were on their way to Jerusalem.
- **Jesus sent two disciples to the next village to find a donkey and colt.**
- **The disciples brought the donkeys to Jesus. They laid their coats on the donkey’s back. Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem.**
- **People spread their coats and leafy branches on the road.**
- **As Jesus rode by, the people shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”**
- Some people asked who this man was. Jesus’ followers said, “This is Jesus from Nazareth.”

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- What did Jesus ride on as He went into Jerusalem?
- What did the people lay on the road?
- What did the people shout as Jesus rode by?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- Comment that God sent Jesus because He loves us.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus is God’s Son.

LIFE POINT

God sent Jesus because He loves us.

UNIT VERSE

God sent Jesus to teach the good news. Luke 4:18

WEEKLY VERSE

Hosanna! We praise Jesus!
Mark 11:9

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

God loves us so. God loves us so.

God loves us so and He sent His Son.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open a Bible to Mark 11:9. Read aloud the verse.

Invite the kids to repeat the verse using different voices—loud, quiet, singing, robot, high-pitched, and deep. Mention that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people shouted, “Hosanna.”

PRAY

Guide the preschoolers to tell prayer requests.

Invite volunteers to pray aloud. Encourage kids to thank God for loving us and sending Jesus for us.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: God sent Jesus because He loves us.

- 1. Decorate coats.** Draw a simple Bible times robe outline on a sheet of white paper. Make copies, one per child. Provide markers, crayons, and stickers for the children to decorate their coats. Briefly review the Bible story, reminding the kids that when Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey, people put their coats and leafy branches on the road. Invite the preschoolers to lay their papers down in a row after they finish decorating them.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Spread a coat(s) or towel(s) on the floor for the kids to crawl over. Lay infants on tummies by the coats for them to touch, pat, and grab.

- 2. Explore musical instruments.** Provide a variety of children’s rhythm instruments (maracas, hand drums, shakers, cymbals, wood blocks, wood sticks, and so forth). Play “We Love to Learn About Jesus.” Encourage kids to use the instruments to play along with the beat of the music. Remind the kids that the people in the Bible story praised Jesus, and shouted, “Hosanna!” as He rode into Jerusalem.

Suggest the kids march in a parade playing the instruments and singing to “God Sent Jesus”.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Play with toys that make music or noise (rattles, shakers).

- 3. Ride a donkey through a course.** Bend one end of a swim foam noodle over and securely tape it in place with sturdy tape creating a “donkey head.” Arrange chairs, tables, and other pieces of furniture into a short obstacle course around the room. Give the foam noodle donkey to a child. Encourage the child to straddle the foam noodle like a donkey and to ride it through the obstacle course. Remind the child that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Tell that the people praised Him because they believed that He was the King that God had promised.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Make shorter foam noodle donkeys or play with toy donkeys.

- 4. Blow bubbles.** Post an “Allergy Alert” (Printables). Blow bubbles for the kids to chase and pop or catch on their hands. Invite older preschoolers to blow bubbles with their own wands. Hold wands for younger preschoolers to blow bubbles. Encourage the kids to stomp on the bubbles. Mention that the people moved their feet to lay coats and leafy branches on the road for Jesus to ride over on the donkey. Lead the kids to pop bubbles as you say the Weekly Verse, one bubble/word at a time.

CLEAN UP

Set a timer and lead the children to clean up their activities in the given amount of time. Reset the timer if needed. Thank them for working together and following directions.

FIND THE DONKEY

Show kids a small donkey figure or a beanbag. Invite kids to be seated, to bow their heads, and to close their eyes. Hide the donkey figure in the room while kids close their eyes. Prompt kids to open their eyes, search for the donkey figure, and bring it to you. Play the game again as time allows.

DISMISS

Help the kids gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind the parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.