

Lesson 3

Jesus Triumphant Entry

Matthew
21:1-7

Memory Verse
The next day John seeth
Jesus coming unto him,
and saith, Behold the
Lamb of God, which
taketh away the sin of the
world
(John 1:29)

Teacher's Objective
At the end of the session,
the students should
be able to:

1. Define in their own words what the confrontation was between Jesus and the Jewish leaders
2. Locate where in the story Jesus was pleased with the praise He received from the children
3. Describe how Jesus' triumphal entry was a declaration of His messiahship
4. Express with words or drawing how Jesus was a strong man of leadership

Materials Needed

Teacher's Bible Study

It was expected that Jesus would be in Jerusalem for the various festivals. People would wait to see whether Jesus would come and keep the feasts, especially when His life was in danger (John 7:1; 11:55-57). In addition to His last Passover, He came to Jerusalem on at least one other Passover (John 2:13), as well as spending one in the region of Galilee (John 6:1-4).

The response of the people when Jesus entered Jerusalem was a magnificent illustration of praise. There are many Hebrew words that express praise: Halal means to glory in. This would be used when exalting God for His wonderful acts and taking satisfaction in His qualities. Yadah would be used when praising God in thanksgiving. Zamar means to sing praise. Emphasize with your students the importance of responding to God with praise. Praise Him because He is our Creator and Lord of all. Read Revelation 4:11: Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Give God all your praise, and show Him your love. Read during the week Psalm 138, 149, and 150.

Many books and children's stories today, have a tendency to show Jesus as a frail and gentle person. Seldom do we see Him as He was a strong man of leadership, authority, and servanthood. Being gentle does not mean you are weak. Having compassion is becoming even to a King.

While telling this story, portray to your students how Jesus came face to face with His enemies. He did not run from conflict. In this story Jesus is dauntless and He certainly displays His authority. Jesus knew when to be gentle and kind to little ones, and He knew when to be bold.

Make copies of the activity pages for each age group, enough for all your students. Make copies of the donkey pattern; have enough cardboard, scissors, brown construction paper, pencils, felt-tip pens, paper fasteners (two for each donkey), and yarn for the donkey tail.

Presenting the Bible Story

Matthew 21:1 5

Jesus was traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem. Jesus sent two of the disciples to borrow a donkey and its colt. The village called Bethphage means the place of unripened figs. This is a fulfilling of prophecy. Read Zechariah 9:9: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. During this time, a donkey was the usual animal for travel in Palestine. Jesus would come humbly into Jerusalem on a humble animal without pomp. Jerusalem can be seen from the Mount of Olives. There is a two-mile rise with three peaks. Imagine the magnificent view Jesus must have had as He traveled down the slopes, crossing the Xystus Bridge and entering the Golden Gate.

Matthew 21:6 8

Review the important points of the Passover, as kept by the children of Israel. God set them free from slavery and protected them from the death angel. The firstborn of every family would die if the instructions given to Moses and Aaron were not followed. Ask your students what those instructions were. In order to escape death, they had to kill a lamb and put the blood on their door posts. On this particular day, we have a crowd of people who are enthusiastic for Jesus, praising His name. By placing their garments under Jesus, they showed a submission to His royal authority. Little did they know, that as they saw many lambs prepared for sacrifice, the one true Passover Lamb, Jesus, would soon be sacrificed. Discuss the memory verse John 1:29. Before the week was over, His blood would pay the penalty of their sins and our sins.

Matthew 21:9

Hosanna means save us now. There were many in the crowd who thought that Jesus had come to claim His throne. They felt this way because they had seen the miracles of Jesus. Their minds were on becoming free from the oppression of Rome, not on becoming free from sin. Their desires were self-centered. They wanted to be healed, and fed. They praised Jesus because of what He could do for them. They did not praise Him because of who He was. They did not realize that Jesus was God. Read Colossians 1:16,17: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. The lesson in this verse is not to be as this crowd do not just praise Jesus for the miracles He has done, but give Him praise and glory for who He is, LORD OF ALL.

Matthew 21:10 16

As Jesus headed toward the Temple, He had a purpose. The court of the Temple was reserved for prayer. As we have discussed in other stories, there were strict rules with regard to the fact that only unblemished animals were to be sacrificed. Well, the priests had set up a lucrative business in the Temple. They would inspect the animals brought in for sacrifice; if they did not approve of the animal, then the worshiper who brought the animal was forced to purchase one of their animals. You can understand now why Jesus was very angry. This was to be a place of prayer and it had turned into a den of thieves. This is an example of the boldness of Jesus. He certainly was not weak. Once the Temple had

Read Psalm 71:8
Matthew 21:17

been cleansed, a compassionate Jesus went about healing the blind and the lame. The children praised Jesus. What did Jesus say about the children? Verse 16 Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise ?. Jesus welcomed the praise from the children. The priests and scribes were indignant. Their hearts were hardened against Jesus. They did not see Him as their King.

Art and Activity

Students may
select one
of the three
activities listed

Jesus went out of the city and lodged in a village called Bethany. Bethany means house of dates or house of figs. There Jesus began to prepare the disciples for His death.

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Make a pattern on heavy cardboard of the donkey parts which are on the Art Activity page. If you have a large class, you may want to make several patterns. Give each student a piece of brown construction paper. Have your students trace the donkey pattern on brown construction paper. They are then to cut out the donkey. Give each student two paper fasteners to attach the legs of the donkey to the donkey body.

There are two activity pages for this group. Work the word search puzzle entitled Jesus Triumphant Entry. You may want to give definitions for the words before your students begin. For the Praise Branches have your students color the picture. Explain what Hosanna means.

Older Children

Same as for younger children.

Make a comparison of Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. Do an activity page. You may want your students to work in a group, or you may want to help direct them. While you tell the story, you may want to give hints to the answers on the activity page.

Explore with
your students
the following
questions:

Explore the Subject

Always close your
class with prayer

1. What was the response of the people when Jesus entered Jerusalem?
2. What does Hosanna mean?
3. Where in the Old Testament is it prophesied about what took place in Matthew 21:5?

Respond and Reinforce

1. President Harry S. Truman said, If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen. Jesus rode into Jerusalem, into the heat of the kitchen. Write one paragraph on how you handle confrontation, and discuss how Jesus handled the confrontation in Jerusalem.

2. Compare the confrontation Jesus and the Jewish leaders had with a confrontation you as a Christian may have or have had with your friends.

Activity

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-17

Jesus had traveled to Jerusalem on a donkey. There was a crowd of people who were very happy to see Jesus, and they sang praises as He rode into Jerusalem. Find the words below in the puzzle.

Y	Y	C	Q	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	S	S	D	S
R	H	A	R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	C	B	J	N
T	G	O	D	L	T	C	D	Z	R	A	M	A	Z	R
N	P	T	U	A	A	N	N	A	S	O	H	G	E	D
E	P	I	H	S	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	N	L	P
L	C	H	G	U	E	S	H	L	E	P	P	I	B	K
A	A	O	P	R	E	O	A	I	N	E	R	V	I	J
H	Y	M	E	E	K	V	F	V	D	T	A	I	B	M
P	R	S	B	J	I	J	O	F	N	B	Y	G	M	P
M	O	U	N	T	O	F	O	L	I	V	E	S	A	D
U	L	S	S	Y	G	Y	C	H	K	G	R	K	A	F
I	G	E	S	I	A	R	P	G	N	I	S	N	G	M
R	F	J	B	H	U	V	E	E	L	I	L	A	G	U
T	K	T	O	C	H	R	V	P	L	H	C	H	T	M
I	X	G	A	Q	V	J	P	Y	N	A	H	T	E	B

Bethany
Galilee
Hosanna
Jesus
Kindness
Meek
Mount of Olives
Praise
Sing praise
Yadah

Bible
Glory
House of figs
John
Lamb
Messiahship
Passover
Prayer
Thanksgiving

Zamar
Festivals
God
Jerusalem
Joy
Love
Miracles
Peace
Sin
Triumphal Entry

Activity Page

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1–17

Look up the Old Testament scriptures listed below. In your own words, tell the significance of these Old Testament scriptures with what you read in Matthew 21:1–17.

1. Exodus 30:13

2. Leviticus 1:14

3. II Kings 9:13

4. Psalm 8:2

5. Psalm 118:26

6. Isaiah 56:7

7. Jeremiah 7:11

8. Zechariah 9:9

Activity

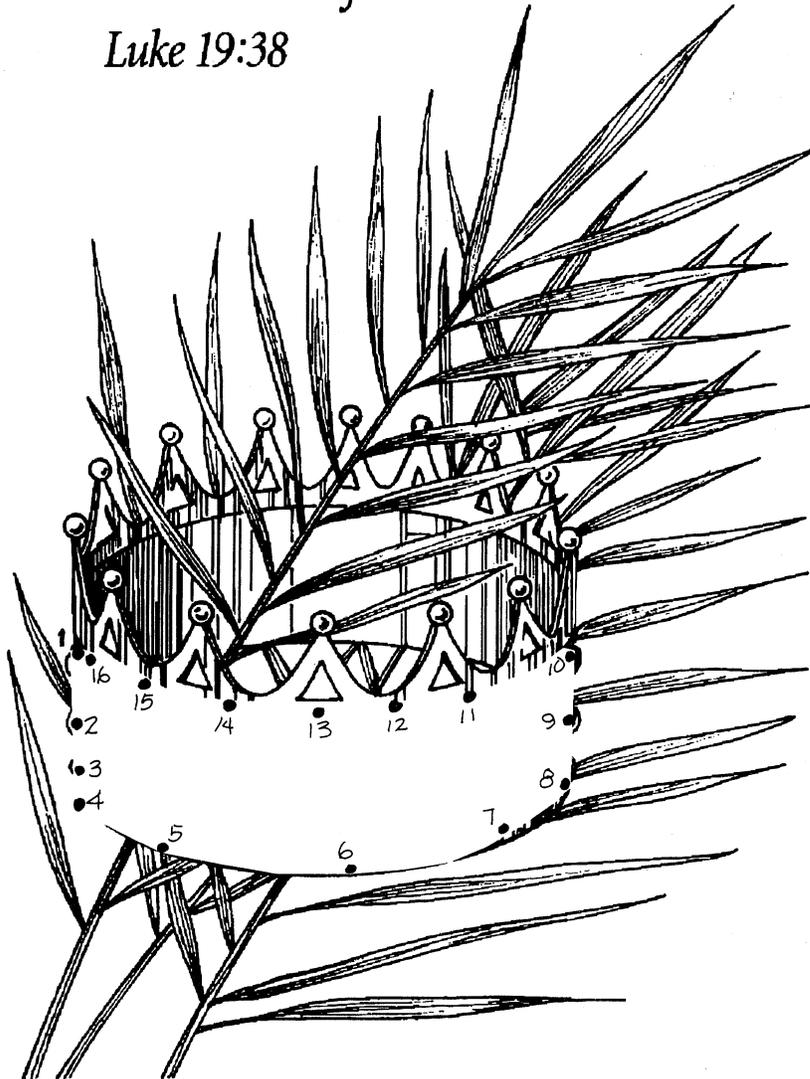
Sing Praises

Matthew 21:1-17

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, people lined the streets to praise and welcome Him. They shouted “Hosanna” and threw their coats in the road for Him to walk on. By doing this they showed a submission to His royal authority. Complete the dot-to-dot below and then color the picture.

*“Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord!”*

Luke 19:38



Activity

Donkey

Copies of pattern on cardboard
Scissors, brown or gray construction paper
Pencils, felt tip pens
Two paper fasteners for each student
Yarn for tail

Cut out one body
Cut two of each leg

