



Week 1: The Triumphal Entry

Overview of the Lesson

Video: Be sure to check out the video above for a brief introduction to the study and some brief reflections on the passage.

Scripture: *Primary text:* Matt 21:1-11

Supporting texts: Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-15

Age Specific Breakdown:

- **Preschool – Page 2**
- **Children – Page 3**
- **Avenue 56 – Page 4**
- **Youth – Page 5**
- **College – Pages 6-7**
- **Activity Pages – 8-18**

Family Activity/Prayer: Today we invite your family to recite out loud Dr. Barnette's weekly benediction. As you know, the end is always tailored to the message from the sermon. So, we've added a little piece at the end related to Jesus's triumphal entry.

Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father.

And as you go remember:

That by the goodness of God you were born into this world,
And by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long,
Even until this very hour.

And by the love of God fully revealed in the face of Jesus Christ,
You have been redeemed and you are being redeemed

And so go,
proclaiming the triumphant, victorious, and humble Jesus. Amen.

Preschool

Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-38 Read the scripture from a Bible, Bible Storybook or the lessons noted below (note scan attached below)

Follow up questions: Why were the people so excited about Jesus coming into town? They had heard of His miracles. What miracles did Jesus do when He was on earth? Let the children name some miracles. What did the people shout as Jesus passed by? Hosanna- How can we say hooray to Jesus? Songs, Prayers...

Reinforcing Activities:

- To make a palm frond use a paint stirrer or stick from the yard and tape to the top four green handprints cut from paper (colored computer paper or green construction paper) (note scan attached below)
- Print and color the coloring sheet of Jesus' entry (note scanned coloring sheet attached below)

Family activities:

- Go to *Hosanna Rock*, Matt Turner, YouTube. Have all family members play follow the leader around the house waving their palm fronds and singing *Hosanna Rock*.
- Play pin Jesus on the donkey's back (note scan attached below). Unless you have a Pin the Tail on the Donkey game, get a poster board, and let your preschooler sketch and color a donkey. Then draw and cut a Jesus. Blindfold the child and spin them around and let them see how close they can tape Jesus on the back of the donkey. Then continue with the rest of the family members.
- Begin the creation of your set of resurrection eggs (note scan attached below). These eggs can be used for all six Easter lessons, as repetition is the key in a preschooler's heart grasping God's truths.

Prayer:

Before praying, explain that when we thank God we are praising Him. Ask each family member to name people and things that they are thankful for. Then lead in prayer: Dear Jesus, we are glad to praise You for Your love. We love You, and we thank You for (name items mentioned) Amen.

Children

After reading the scripture (Matthew 21:1-11) together, do one or more of the following activities to review and/or reflect: (there is also an activity sheet that can be printed out if desired attached below)

Bible skills development:

Help your child find the book of Matthew in a Bible. Ask whether Matthew is in the Old or New Testament (New). Matthew is one of the 4 Gospels (tells the story of the life of Jesus). Name the other Gospels (Mark, Luke, John)

Bible story review: (do ONE of the following to review the story)

- Ask the following review questions from the story:
 1. What did Jesus command 2 of his disciples to do? (go to the village & get a donkey with a colt)
 2. What did the disciples place on the animals for Jesus to sit on? (their robes)
 3. How did the people respond to Jesus entry into Jerusalem? (laid their robes and branches on the road; shouted praises of "Hosanna")
 4. What did the people in the city ask? (Who is this??)
 5. What prophecy (word of God) from the past did this event fulfill? (prophets had written that the king would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey - Zechariah 9:9)
- Do the following activity to review:
 1. Choose one person from the family to begin the activity and tell him/her that you need an item that is in the room. Do NOT name the item.
 2. Give hints of what the item is by telling what the item can do (example: something that can help me clean up a spill on the floor – broom).
 3. Give each person in the family an opportunity to find an item.
 4. Ask the following questions:
 - Who in the Bible story sent for something (Jesus)
 - Who did He send to get the item? (disciples)
 - What were they going in the village to get? (donkey with a colt)
 - What did Jesus tell them to say if anyone asked why they were taking it? (the Lord needs them)
 5. Help your child open his/her Bible to Zechariah 9:9 and read the verse together. The fulfillment of this prophecy was another way to show that Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one) promised by God.
 6. Pray, thanking God for having a plan to send Jesus to be the only Savior of the world.

Live it Out:

- Ask your child his/her favorite ways to praise Jesus (examples: Bible reading, singing, prayer, etc) Make a list of those items.
- Plan how you can incorporate one or more of those into a family devotion time this week.

Avenue 56

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud with your child. Encourage them to read portions of the scripture aloud and help with words or phrases they might be confused on.

2 W and an H Questions:

Review with your Student **What** was in the story? Ask general questions for a recap of the scripture you just read. Some examples would be...

- Why were the disciples and Jesus heading to Jerusalem? (Passover, give a recap of the celebration to your students if they don't remember)
- What were the disciples sent to get for Jesus? (a donkey for him to ride into town on)
- When Jesus entered town, what did the people put on the road? (palm branches and clothes)

The people also said a certain word, what was it? (Hosanna)

Explain to you student what Hosanna means. Hosanna was a word the Jewish people used to proclaim praise or adoration towards a specific person or event. The people saying this towards Jesus means that they were happy their Messiah had finally come to save them.

Ask your students **Why** this story is important to the overall story of the Bible.

This story begins the week leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. It shows us that Jesus was the promised Messiah and fulfilled the prophecies found in the Old Testament.

Open your Bibles to Zechariah 9:9. Ask your student to read it aloud and discuss how this scripture is the prophecy of what occurred in the main scripture of today's lesson.

Finally ask your student **How** this story applies to their life today.

Reflection: This story shows us that Jesus is the promised Messiah and that he is worthy to be praised.

- How can your student praise Jesus in their everyday lives?
- Jesus commanded his disciples and they immediately obeyed. What commands of Jesus can you be obedient to in your daily life?

Youth

You can see my devotional thoughts in the video above. Two things I want to highlight again before starting. First, I can't stress how important families are in the life of faith. As the Fuller Youth Institute says, "we can't out teach what you teach at home." Students need you to share the journey of faith with them. Second, the story you are reading today is a remarkable reminder that Jesus brings about a kingdom that turns the world upside down. In a world of chaos, Jesus is the king of peace. May his peace fill your home as you walk through this passage together.

Introductory Questions:

1. What's your favorite parade you watch or attend as a family? (Having lived in Pasadena, we LOVE the Rose Parade). What is it about a parade or a processional that's so fun? (for you college football lovers, what's so exciting about the moments leading up to the players' entrance onto the field?)

Digging Deep: Take some time as a family to read each of the accounts of Jesus's triumphal entry. Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-15. It's only 36 verses, you can do it, I believe in you!

Ask:

1. What stands out when you read these stories? What are some differences you notice between the four accounts? (might be a great opportunity to talk about the ways each Gospel account has it's own "flavor." One of the more unique parts of our Scripture is the appreciation the Bible has for four different perspectives on this incredible story!)
2. What do you think it means that Jesus enters Jerusalem this way?
3. What do you think, is this the same crowd who shouts "crucify him" only a few days later? Or do you think these are different crowds? Why or why not?
4. Why do we call this the "triumphal entry"? What makes Jesus triumphant? (might want to revisit Zechariah 9:9-11 here).

Reflect: the Gospel accounts invite us to slow down and experience the text. Read the story and imagine yourself in the scene. Where are you? What do you see? Feel? Hear?

College

Greetings! Thanks for taking time to go through the BBC Student Minister's "Weekly Word!" Over the next few weeks, we will be walking through the Easter story in preparation for Easter Sunday. My hope and prayer for you is that your journey through Lent and to the cross would not become routine or about "going through the motions." I hope that we all can engage the Easter story in a fresh, and perhaps surprising way, especially as we live in the midst of uncertain, anxious, and unprecedented times. My challenge for you over the next few weeks is this: what does the Easter story have to say to me, *today*? Why is it worth believing? What will I *do* with the greatest story the world has ever known?

My hope is that in the coming weeks, you will engage the Scripture passages well and be led to ask (maybe new or hard?) questions, worship our Lord, and grow in your faith. I know it will be difficult in the coming weeks, but I hope that you might have the opportunity to share your thoughts and reflections with others and in community as much as you're able, whether that be family, friends, or whomever. I will offer questions and a reflection to consider, but by all means, please use what we all have provided to "go off on your own" as you journey through the Easter story!

Know that I am praying for you and that I'm looking forward to the time when we can meet and see each other again. Blessings!

Mark

Scripture: If you haven't already read Mark 11:1-11, go ahead and read it now.

Review:

1. Where are we in Jesus' life story? What's going on right before and right after our passage?
2. Take note, write down, and/or reflect on whatever sticks out to you from the passage.

Each of the four gospels has the account of the Triumphal Entry. Read through the other three if you want to get a better feel for the Mark passage. Does anything from those passages stick out to you that didn't in Mark's gospel? (Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, and John 12:12-15)

Questions to Consider:

1. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a colt? What was the point? (Hint: Reading Matthew's account might help here!)
2. Look at verse 3. Is Jesus' response helpful for thinking about the above question?
3. What's the bigger significance of the colt?
4. In verse 8, "many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches..." What do you think of the crowd's response to Jesus?
5. Why do you think the crowd started shouting, "Hosanna!" as Jesus came riding in on the colt? Do you think that was an expected or unexpected reaction by them?

Reflection:

As Christians, we begin Holy Week by taking the time to observe Palm Sunday. While we're not quite to Palm Sunday, I think it's worth considering how we "travel" to Easter Sunday, especially as we remember and observe Lent in the days ahead. It's interesting to think about how people on Palm Sunday were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the names of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (vv. 9-10) but was shouting

“crucify him” on Good Friday (Mark 15:14). In the course of five days, people had completely shifted their attitudes and opinions of Jesus.

It would be easy to ask, “What happened? How could people possibly shift their thoughts about Jesus in that short of time?” A closer look at the gospels reveals Jesus said and did a lot of surprising and offensive things in the final week before he was put to death. No doubt, that definitely had something to do with it. More than anything, however, I think it says more about us. How many times has your opinion changed of someone, whether good or bad, on a whim or based off one or two things they did? Unfortunately, we are prone to be easily persuaded. We’d rather not give each other a fair shot because it’s much easier, convenient, and comfortable to form opinions and judgments without giving each other a “fair shake.”

It’s so interesting that the crowds shouted, “Hosanna!” The crowd had it right- they knew exactly *what* to say, but they didn’t fully know the “why” or “how.” Jesus would come to save, but he wasn’t about to be a ruler that gave the Jewish people power on earth and save them from the Romans. Jesus would inaugurate his kingdom and restore the nation of Israel, but it wouldn’t look like the kingdoms of the world. Christ’s kingdom was going to be of peace, redemption, mercy, grace, and love. As we move through Lent, we are called to lean in- “to come and see” (John 1:39) how much better the “Jesus Way” is from all other ways.

Palm Sunday marks the “beginning of the end” for Jesus’ journey to the cross. I’m amazed though, that nothing jeopardized Jesus’ fulfillment of this mission. Jesus knew what Scripture said concerning him and about what he must do to reconcile the whole world to himself- even riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus was committed to following through on every detail of his mission. Much in the same way, we need to ask ourselves: do we trust the Lord’s provision for us- that he would provide everything we need in order to live for him? In our present time, that might be difficult for us to believe. And yet, even something like a colt can be, and is, used to meet our needs to help us live into the calling the Lord has for us. What great news!

More Questions to Consider:

1. What kinds of details do you tend to stress over or become anxious about as you reflect on where you are in your walk with the Lord? Think about school, work, relationships, etc.
2. What’s an example of a “colt” that the Lord has provided with you on your journey?
3. How has the Lord used unexpected things, places, circumstances, and people to help you persevere as you go on your journey?
4. Are there areas in your life where what you say (Think: Hosanna) doesn’t align with what faithful living ought to look like? (Think: then putting Jesus to death on the cross)
5. Who’s the person that you don’t always want to give a “fair shake” to? Stop and pray that the Spirit would lead you to know, love, and understand that person better.
6. In what way can you make “Hosanna (the Lord saves/delivers)! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” your motto or refrain in the coming days?

Finish your time in prayer, asking the Lord that you would “come and see” Jesus as you journey to the cross during Easter.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11,15-16;
Mark 11:1-10

Do the motions below when you see the words in color. Invite your child to imitate you.

Look



Listen



Look! See the crowds? They are all walking.

Listen to the people. What are they shouting?
"Jesus is coming! He's coming this way!"

Look! Here comes Jesus! He is riding a donkey.

Listen. I hear singing! The people around Jesus are singing an old, old song:
"Hosanna! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Look! The people in Jerusalem hear the singing, too.
They are running to join the others! It looks like a parade!

Look! Some people cut branches from the trees.
They laid them on the road. Others laid their coats on the road.
The road looks like a beautiful carpet for Jesus to ride over!



Look! There goes Jesus. Let's sing to Him, too!

Listen! "Hosanna! God bless the One who comes
in the name of the Lord!"

Look! Jesus is walking into the Temple. Men with **ANGRY** faces
are there! They don't want us to praise Jesus.

Listen! They growl at Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are
singing?" "Yes," Jesus laughs. "Haven't you read what it says
in God's Word? God said the children would praise Me!"

Look! Jesus is here.

Listen! Let's sing to Jesus again! He is glad to hear children
praise Him!



For older children: How many people in these pictures are waving
branches? How many are shouting or singing?

Listen to Learn

People Praise Jesus

Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Luke 19:28-38

Spring • Lesson 1

Introduction

Show tree branch and let volunteers take turns touching it. **Listen to find out what some people did with tree branches.** (Hold Bible open to Matthew 21 as you tell the story.)

Friends Find a Donkey

It was a special time of year. Many people were walking to the Temple in the big city of Jerusalem. Jesus and His friends were going, too. On the way, Jesus said to two of His friends, "Go to the next town. You will find a donkey there. Untie it and bring it to Me. If any-one asks where you are taking the donkey, tell them I need it. They will let you have the donkey."

Jesus' friends went and untied the donkey. They led it to Jesus. Jesus' friends spread a coat over the donkey's back for Jesus to sit on. He sat down on the donkey. Off went the donkey—clip-clop clip-clop. Jesus' friends walked along beside Him.



People Welcome Jesus

The road was full of people walking to Jerusalem! There were boys and girls, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Some of them watched as Jesus went by. Others walked along beside Him.

As people heard the news that Jesus was coming, more people came! So many

people wanted to see Jesus that it was almost like a parade! Children sang happy songs as they skipped along the road. Some people spread their coats on the road to show how important they

thought Jesus was. Other people cut branches from palm trees and laid the branches on the road. The road looked like a colorful carpet! People welcomed Jesus as a king.

Some people ran on ahead. They told others, "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!" And even more people came. They laughed and sang. "Hosanna! Hosanna!" they shouted. "God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" ("Hosanna" is a special word the people said to welcome Jesus.)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Soon the people inside the city heard the singing and shouting. They ran out to see Jesus, too. "Jesus is coming! JESUS is coming!" they shouted. People sang and waved branches in the air as Jesus rode the donkey through the big gate to the city. He rode up the hill to the Temple, where He got off the donkey and walked up the steps of the Temple. And there He heard the happy sound of children singing! *They were singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"*

It was a wonderful day in the big city of Jerusalem! People every-where were praising Jesus. They sang and shouted! And Jesus was especially glad to hear the children praise Him!

Conclusion

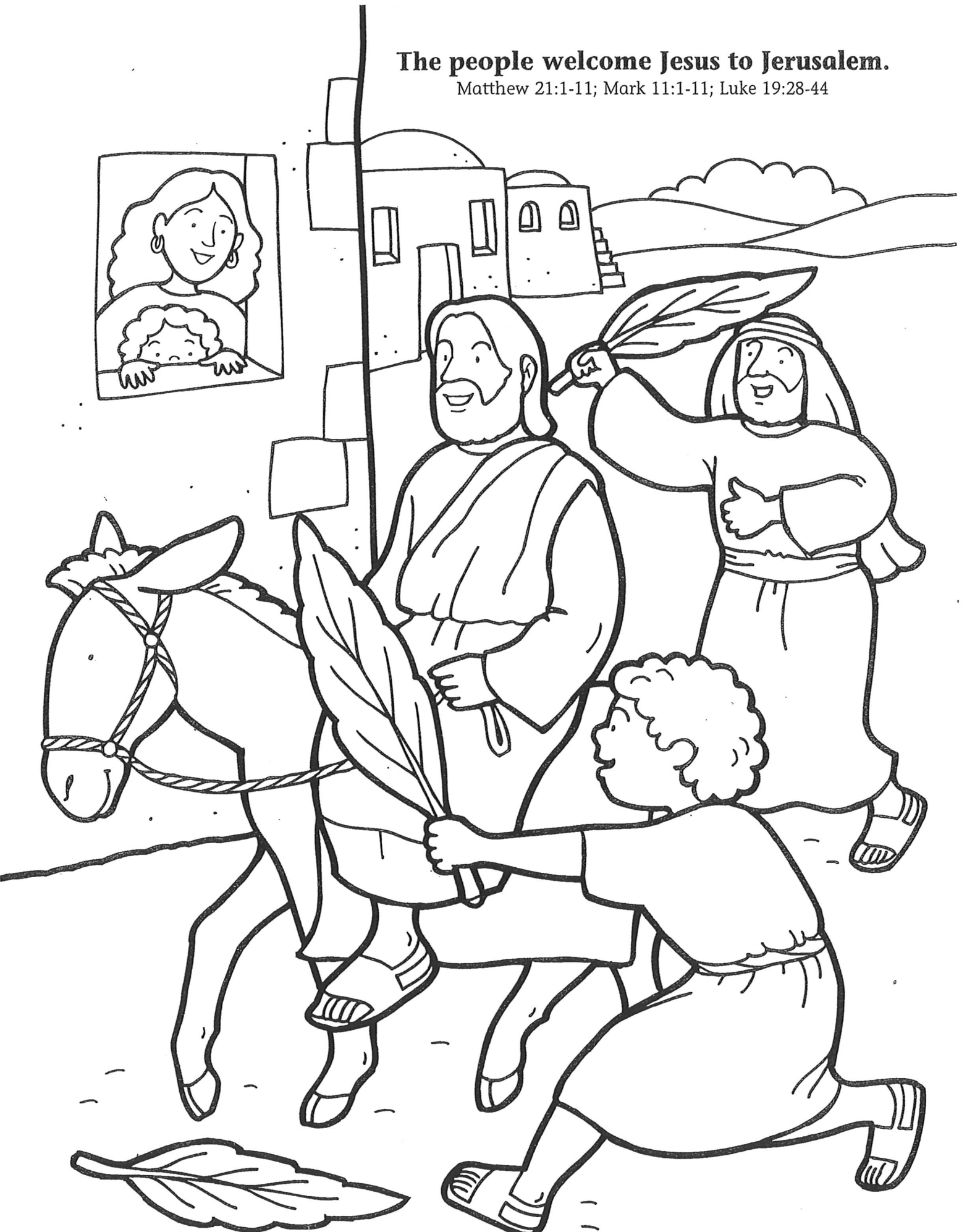
The people in Jerusalem were glad to praise Jesus! We can praise Jesus, too. We can tell Him we love Him, and we can sing songs to thank Him for His love. The Bible says, "Sing praises to the Lord." (Optional: Review story by using pages 409-414 in *God's Story for Me Bible storybook*.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Use blocks to make a road through the middle of your Bible storytelling area. As you tell the story, guide children to move toy people and animals on the road to show story action.

The people welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44



HOMEMADE RESURRECTION EGGS

YOU WILL NEED:

1 EMPTY EGG CARTON

12 PLASTIC EGGS NUMBERED 1-12

WITH A SHARPIE

**FILL THE EGGS WITH THE ITEMS ON THE
FOLLOWING PAGES**

1. PALM BRANCH

Matthew 21:9: Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

Item: Blade of Grass

2. SILVER COINS (DIMES)

Matthew 26:14-15: Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Item: 3 Dimes

3. LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:26-28: And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.”

Item: Cracker

4. PRAYING HANDS

Matthew 26:39: He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." or construction paper

Item: Scroll (rolled up paper)

5. WHIP

Mark 15:15: So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.

Item: Piece of Rope

6. CROWN OF THORNS

Matthew 27:29: When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Item: Thorn

7. NAILS

Matthew 27:31: And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Item: 2 Small Nails OR Cross
made from
Pipe cleaners

8. DICE

Matthew 27:35: Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet.”

Item: Mini Dice

9. SPEAR

John 19:34: But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Item: Toothpick

10. LINEN

Matthew 27:59: When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Item: Piece of Fabric

11. STONE

Matthew 27:66: Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know now.” So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Item: Small Rock

12. EMPTY TOMB

Matthew 28:25: But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Item: Empty Egg (No Item)



UNIT 2
SESSION 1

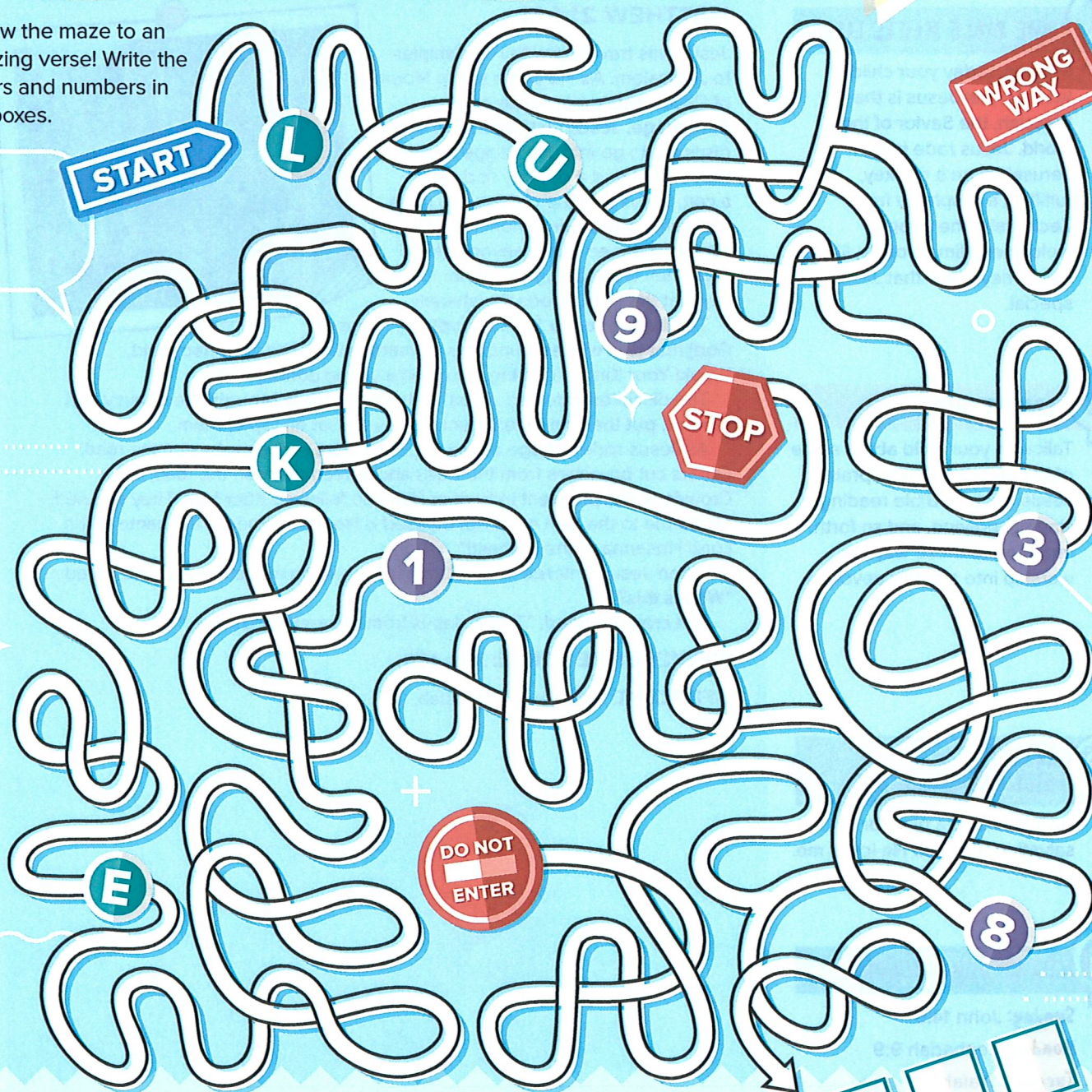
The Crowd Welcomed Jesus

UNIT VERSE

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

A-MAZE-ING JOURNEY

Follow the maze to an amazing verse! Write the letters and numbers in the boxes.



Find the verse in your Bible and read what the people said when they saw Jesus. What can you say to praise Jesus, the Messiah? Write it here.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®



CONVERSATION

The Crowd Welcomed Jesus

MATTHEW 21:1-11

Jesus was traveling with His disciples to Jerusalem. As He came to the Mount of Olives outside a village called Bethphage, Jesus instructed two of the disciples to go into the village where they would find a donkey tied with a colt. Jesus told the disciples to untie the animals and bring them to Him. He told the men that if anyone asked what they were doing, they should say that the Lord needs the animals.

This happened to fulfill a prophecy (word of God) that was written hundreds of years before. This prophecy said, "Look! Your King is coming, riding on a young donkey."

The disciples followed Jesus' instructions. They brought the donkey and the colt, put their robes on them, and Jesus sat on top of them.

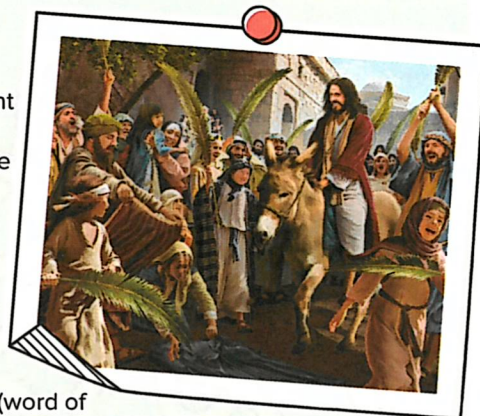
As Jesus rode, a large crowd of people spread their robes on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road, too. Crowds of people went in front of Him and followed after Him. They shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up and asked, "Who is this?"

The crowd replied, "This is Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee."

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: John 14:6

LIFE POINT: Jesus is the Messiah.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Parents, today your child learned that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling a prophecy from Zechariah. The people welcomed Him joyously, like a king. They knew that Jesus was special.



LIVE IT OUT

Talk with your child about some of her favorite ways to praise Jesus, such as Bible reading, singing, praying, and so forth. Incorporate those ways to worship into a family devotion.



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God provided a plan for salvation because He loves me.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: John 14:6

Monday: Zechariah 9:9

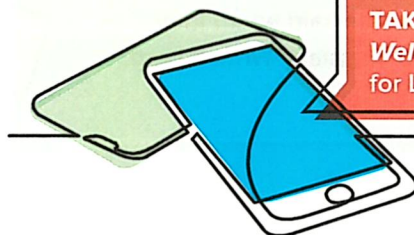
Tuesday: Isaiah 61:1

Wednesday: Isaiah 11:1

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5

Friday: Isaiah 53:3

Saturday: Malachi 3:1



TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out *The Crowd Welcomed Jesus* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.