



# Life of Christ

## Jesus rides on a donkey

## Matthew 21:1-11

### Younger Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

### Older Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

### Welcome Time

Have you ever seen a parade where lots of people were shouting and excited? Sometimes, in a parade, important or famous people come by and everyone cheers or claps. Listen to today's lesson to see who people are cheering for.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

It was a special time of year for Jesus and His friends. A special celebration feast was coming up. It was kind of like our Thanksgiving. Lots of people traveled to the big city of Jerusalem to celebrate. Jesus and His friends were on their way there too.

On the way, Jesus sent 2 of His friends to the next town to get a donkey and her colt. Jesus specifically told them that if anyone asked what they were doing, to let them know that the Lord needed them.

The 2 friends traveled to the town and found a donkey and colt just like Jesus said! They untied them and started back. Quickly they came to Jesus and laid a blanket on the back of the donkey. Jesus sat on it and rode into town. Can you hear the sounds of the donkey riding into Jerusalem? Clip-clop, clip-clop is probably the sound they made.

News that Jesus was coming traveled fast. Soon everyone was excited to know that Jesus was coming! Moms and dads ran with their children and friends to see Jesus riding into town. So many people wanted to see Jesus that it was like a parade. They stood on the sides waiting for Him to come by!

Some people thought it would be nice to make a carpet for Jesus to honor or revere Him because they knew that He was someone special. They broke off palm branches from the trees and laid them down in the road where Jesus would come. Others took off their coats and laid them down to show how much they loved Jesus.

In the streets, they could hear children and adults singing and shouting. They were thrilled that Jesus was coming! Others were saying the word "Hosanna!" which is a word that means "Savior" or "a person who will help save others." They stood in awe of Jesus because they knew who He was!

Just like the people showed honor and respect to Jesus, He asks us to do the same.

### Lesson Goals

To see how Jesus was honored and loved  
To understand that Jesus was God's son



We must revere Him and show Him that we love Him.

At this special time there was so much excitement in the air. Everyone was so happy to see Jesus. They thought He was going to be the new King of the world. They did not understand until later that Jesus was not going to be that kind of King. They were right that He came to “save” them, but not by being the new King. Jesus “saved” them and us by doing something even better! Jesus came to die in our place so that if we believe and trust Him, He will be King of our hearts and lives. Would you like Jesus to be the King of your heart? Talk to me about it anytime!

**Learning Activities**

Act out the story or use puppets and playdough. Enjoy the time and make it exciting for the kids.

**Memory Verse Activities**

There are little velcro stickers in the 4th house. Use the velcro to “stick” the words of the verse on a piece of paper or construction paper.

**Prayer Time**

Put prayer notes in different locations. Ask the kids to look around and find the notes. Use them as you pray today.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Make edible palm branches out of bread, butter, and green sprinkles (or dyed sugar). Use a leaf cookie-cutter to make the branch. Make a “parade” and march up to get snacks!

**Teachers:**

Remember the donkey in the story? He wasn't the one being praised that day. It was Jesus. In our own lives and our ministry, we must make sure that Jesus receives the praise, NOT ourselves.

Planning for March 24th  
Jesus eats supper and prays  
Luke 22:14-20; John 13:1-17

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## Preschool Lesson

### Jesus rides on a donkey

Explain to the kids that you are going to tell today's story from an animal's point of view. Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-11 and begin telling the story. (You may want to use a donkey puppet.)

It was a special time of year for people. My owner had a special celebration feast that he was getting ready for. It was kind of like Thanksgiving. I saw lots of people traveling to the big city of Jerusalem to celebrate. It was at this time that the most wonderful thing happened to me.

One day while I was enjoying some hay, two people came up to me and started untying my rope. I wondered who these people were. I knew it was not my owner. Suddenly my owner came out of the house and asked the two people what they were doing. Do you know what they said? They told him that the Lord needed me. I really began to wonder what was going on, and who their Lord was.

As we traveled, I heard them talking. Jesus was their Lord. I still didn't know what was going on. I do remember that they promised my owner that I would be returned to him.

Quickly we came to Jesus and they laid a blanket on my back. Then Jesus sat on me. At first I didn't know what to think because no person had ever ridden me before. But then I felt such peace. I could tell that Jesus was a very kind man. Clippity clop, clippity clop, we traveled to the big town of Jerusalem.

News that Jesus was coming traveled fast. Soon everyone was excited to know that Jesus was coming! Moms and dads ran with their children and friends to see Jesus riding into town. So many people wanted to see Jesus that it was like a parade. They stood on the sides waiting for Him to come by!

Some people broke off palm branches from the trees and laid them down in the road. At first I thought they were being nice to me. Then I realized that they were honoring Jesus. They wanted to show Him how much they loved Him. Other people took off their coats and laid them down to show how much they loved Jesus.

In the streets, they could hear children and adults singing and shouting. They were thrilled that Jesus was coming! Others were saying the word "Hosanna!" which is a word that means "Savior" or "a person who will help save others."

There was so much excitement in the air. Everyone was so happy to see Jesus. I felt so proud that I got to carry Jesus on my back.

Later I found out the whole story. Lots of people thought Jesus was going to be the new King of the world. That's why they treated Him like a king on the road. They did not understand that Jesus was not going to be that kind of King. They were right that He came to "save" them, but not by being the new King. Jesus "saved" them and you by doing something even better! Jesus came to die in your place so that if you believe and trust Him, He will be King of your heart and life. Would you like Jesus to be the King of your heart? Talk to your teacher about it anytime!

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Hands-on Activities  
for  
Jesus rides a donkey

Play the Donkey Game—pin his tail on him.

Make the puzzle of the donkey and the palm branch.

Create a stand-up donkey or a donkey using clothes pins for legs.

Color a pop up picture of the story.

Let the kids make their own palm branches and coats from paper. Designate one person to be the donkey and another to be “Jesus.” As they walk, let the others lay down the branches and coats.

Try “Palms in a Bag.” (Another name for salad!) They may enjoy shaking it up and eating it!