

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

LIFE OF CHRIST

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Younger Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

Older Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Introduction

Have any of you ever seen or been to a parade? What happens in a parade? How do people at a parade feel? Well, today we are going to talk about a parade that Jesus was in. Listen to find out what happens.

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.*

Last week we talked about how important it is to go to Bible Study every week. Jesus also taught us how important it is to follow Him with all our heart. We are going to skip ahead in the book of Mark to chapter 11. This month we celebrate a special holiday. Does anyone know what it is? Easter! Each time we meet this month, we will learn about some of Jesus' experiences that happened to Him before He died on the cross and came back to life.

Jesus and his followers were walking to the town of Jerusalem. The town was going to have a big celebration that would last a whole week. Have any of you been to a party that lasted a whole week? Before they made it to Jerusalem, they stopped at a place in between two nearby villages. The place where they stopped was called the Mount of Olives.

Once they had stopped, Jesus gave some special directions. He called for two of His disciples to come and see Him. Jesus said, "Go into the nearby town. Once you enter the town you will see a young donkey tied up. Nobody has ever ridden this donkey. Untie the donkey and bring it to me. If someone asks you, "Why are you taking the donkey?" tell them, "The Lord needs it and will send the donkey back soon." Hmm, what would Jesus need a donkey for? Let's find out.

The two disciples went into town and found the donkey tied to a door, just like Jesus said! Excitedly, they untied the donkey to take back to Jesus. Some people standing there asked, "Why are you taking the donkey?" What are they supposed to say? That's right, they said, "The Lord needs it and will return the donkey soon." When the people heard the disciples answer, they let them have the donkey. Wow, it went just as Jesus had

Lesson Goals

To know that Jesus was on His way to be crucified and resurrected.
Understand that knowing Jesus comes from spending time with Him.
To know that it is good and important to praise Jesus.

said it would! So the two disciples hurried back with the donkey to Jesus.

When they got back to Jesus, they put coats on the donkey's back so Jesus could ride it. Then Jesus rode the donkey into town. Word had spread around that Jesus was coming, so many people began to gather. As Jesus entered the town the people began to do something very interesting. They took their coats off, and threw them on the road in front of Jesus. Also they went and cut branches from palm trees and placed those branches on the ground too. Why did people do this? They were giving Jesus a celebration. They were excited to see Him. People were walking in front of Him and behind Him. All together everyone was shouting, "Hosanna!" (Hosanna means "Save!") "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming of the Son of David!" (David was a great king that was in Jesus' family 1,000 years before.)

It must have looked like a parade as Jesus was going through their town. Everyone was cheering and excited that Jesus had come. As nice as all this was, the people there did not understand what was going to happen. They thought Jesus was going to become a king for them. They thought He would fight in battles and bring a lot of money to them. Jesus was a King, but not that kind. Jesus was gentle and peaceful and would lead people in a different way. Those same people that cheered, changed their mind about Jesus a few days later. They all decided that they wanted Jesus killed once He did not meet their expectations.

Soon after that, Jesus was put on a cross and killed. But the Good News is that Jesus did not stay dead. Three days later, He came back to life! It is important to be excited about Jesus and praise Him. There is so much to learn about Jesus. The more time we spend at Bible Study, reading our Bible, and praying, the better we know who Jesus is. The people in the crowd had not spent time with Jesus so they did not understand who He was. Jesus made the way for us to get to Heaven. When He died on the cross, He took the punishment for all our sins. When He came back to life He opened the door for us to get to Heaven. If we ask Him to forgive us of all our sins, then He will take them away. He did this so that we can live with Him forever in heaven. If you want to know more, please talk with me.

Learning Activities

You can act out this story using sheets and cut out leaves. Get the children involved in the story; let them say what the people were shouting. Use a long stick with a pony head for the donkey.

Memory Verse Activities

Make crowns with parts of the verse on each one. Let the children put them in the correct order.

Prayer Time

Ask the children if they have anything to pray about. Pray for those things and pray that the children will spend more time with Jesus so that they can get to know Him better.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Encourage the children to help you clean up. Don't do it all yourself. They can be servants too! Let them help you pass out snacks and remind them that if they have any questions, they can ask you any time they want.

Planning for Lesson 11
Preparing for Easter!
A Woman anoints Jesus
Mark 14:3-9

Preschool Lesson
For
Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Hello boys and girls! I am glad that each of you are here today. It is a new month, March! All this month we are going to be getting ready for Easter. We celebrate Easter because Jesus died and then came back to life. But before He did that, He had some important things to do.

Jesus and His friends were walking together. They were on their way to Jerusalem. Before they went there, they had to stop in a nearby town. His friends may have wondered, "Why did Jesus stop here?" Jesus asked two of His friends to do a special job. He said, "Go down into that little town. You will see a young donkey. Untie the donkey and bring it with you. If someone asks what you are doing, tell them the Lord needs it and will return the donkey soon." So the two left, ready to do what Jesus had said.

They went down into the town and looked around. What do you think they saw? Yes, a donkey. What did they do next? Right, they untied it and began to walk away. But then someone asked them, "Why are you taking the donkey?" What are they supposed to say? Very good, "The Lord needs it and will give the donkey back soon."

They went back to Jesus with the donkey. Why would Jesus need the donkey? He was going to ride it. Then Jesus' friends took off their coats and put them on the donkey's back before He sat down. Many people had heard that Jesus was coming to their town so they were very excited. They went to look for some special leaves. They threw the leaves on the ground in front of Jesus. Other people took off their coats and threw those in front of Jesus too! It must have looked like a parade and Jesus was the one that everyone was cheering for. People were shouting and praising God because Jesus was in their town. They thought He was going to be their king. Jesus would become a King, but not the way the people thought. He became King when He died on the cross and came back to life.

It is important to be excited and happy about Jesus. It is also important for us to spend time with Him. As we go to Bible Study, pray, and read our Bible, we learn more about how to let Jesus be our King.

Sing "Who's the King of the Jungle?"

Hands-On Activities
For
Jesus Enters Jerusalem

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.

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!