

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

### Younger Verse

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 21:9

### Older Verse

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 21:9

### Lesson Goals

Learn that the people worshipped Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem  
Understand that Jesus was entering Jerusalem to die on the cross  
Recognize that we can make Jesus the King of our lives

### Welcome Time

Do you like to be in a large crowd? Have you noticed how everyone in the crowd follows what the others are doing? Today we will learn about a time the crowds worshipped Jesus.

### 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 before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We learned last time that Jesus healed two blind men on the road. Jesus showed His power to heal, but He also set the example of serving others. He didn't mind stopping to listen and help these men.

After Jesus healed the men, they followed Him. Many other people followed Jesus, too. Before Jesus entered Jerusalem, He told two of His disciples to go to a village. He told them they would see a donkey with its colt tied there. He said they should bring the animals to Him. If they were asked what they were doing, they were to say that the Lord needed them.

Wow! Jesus had a plan. Somehow, He knew where the donkey and the colt would be. The disciples found them just as Jesus had said, and they brought them to Jesus.

There is a passage in the Old Testament that told the people that their king would come riding on a donkey's colt. It is found in Zechariah 9:9. Jesus fulfilled that prophecy. That means that He was the one that the Old Testament was pointing to as the Messiah, God's Chosen One. *He was and is the king sent from God to save all people.*

When the crowds saw Jesus coming into town, they worshipped Him by laying down their coats and palm branches on the ground. The people shouted praises to Jesus, saying, "Hosanna! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Everyone was so excited.

**Have you ever been really excited about something, and then it didn't turn out the way you thought?** Jesus knew that He was coming to Jerusalem to die on the cross. But the people worshipping Him did not understand God's plan. They probably thought Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom and be a powerful leader. But that was not God's plan.

Jesus came to earth for a purpose—to live a perfect life, and to die to pay the price for the sins of all people. It was not a popular thing for Jesus to be spit upon, whipped, and hung on a cross to die. The crowds didn't understand what was going on. For them, Jesus had been a disappointment.

But as you know, Jesus did not stay dead! He rose from the dead three days later! And when Jesus returns, He will come in power and glory and honor. He will show the world that He IS the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Bible says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. Let's not wait until Jesus comes back to worship Him. Let's start now!

You can make Jesus the King of your life by inviting Him into your heart. You can give Him control of your life. He will guide you and take care of you, and you can get to know Him as you study the Bible and pray. Then, you can know that one day you will be with Jesus forever in Heaven, His kingdom!

#### Review Questions

1. What did Jesus tell two of His disciples to do? (Go to a village and get a donkey and its colt)
2. What did the people lay down in Jesus' path? (coats and palm branches)
3. What did the people shout as Jesus passed by? ("Hosanna! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!")
4. Did the people understand that Jesus was going to die on a cross? (No.)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God that He sent Jesus to die for us. Pray that we will make Jesus the King of our lives.

#### Life Application

It is easy to praise God when we are at Bible study or church. Everyone else is doing it, so we feel comfortable. But it isn't as easy to praise God when we are at school or around people who aren't living for Christ. But that is when we need to be an example to those around us. We don't need to follow the crowd and forget about God.

**What are some ways you can praise God when you're not in church?** Maybe you could start a prayer group with your friends. Or you could listen to Christian music and encourage those around you to listen, too. There are lots of ways you can lift up Christ throughout the week—not just when you're at church.

We can be a leader of the crowd and help others to follow Christ. That is what God wants us to do!

Planning for Next Lesson  
Jesus Visits the Temple  
Matthew 21:12-16

## **Preschool Lesson for Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

Before Jesus entered Jerusalem, He told two of His disciples to go to a village. He told them they would see a donkey with its colt tied there. He said they should bring the animals to Him. If they were asked what they were doing, they were to say that the Lord needed them.

Wow! Jesus had a plan. Somehow, He knew where the donkey and the colt would be. The disciples found them just as Jesus had said, and they brought them to Jesus.

When the crowds saw Jesus coming into town, they worshipped Him by laying down their coats and palm branches on the ground. The people shouted praises to Jesus, saying, “Hosanna! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Everyone was so excited.

Jesus came to earth for a purpose—to live a perfect life, and to die to pay the price for the sins of all people. It was not a popular thing for Jesus to hang on a cross, be spit upon and whipped, and die. The crowds didn’t understand what was going on.

But Jesus did not stay dead! He rose from the dead three days later! And when Jesus returns, He will come in power and glory and honor. He will show the world that He IS the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Bible says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. Let’s not wait to do that when Jesus comes back. Let’s start now!

Pray that we will make Jesus the King of our life.

Sing, “Who’s the King of the Jungle?”

## **Hands-on Activities for Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

Bring palm branches and/or coats to use while telling the story. Or 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.

Make king’s crowns using construction paper. Write “Jesus is My King” on the crowns. Decorate with glitter, crayons/markers, etc.

Sing songs that talk about Jesus being our king, like “Hail, Jesus, You’re My King.” Have kids wave the palm branches to the sky in honor of their King.

Play “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”. Ask kids if they understand why Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Remind them that this was foretold in Zechariah.