

**Bible Passage:** MATTHEW 4; LUKE 4

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus always did the right thing.

**Key Passage phrase:** Jesus takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings the week of Passover. Many of God's people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem as well. Near Bethphage (BETH fayj) and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into a village.

Jesus told them, "You will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Jesus would fulfill Zechariah's prophecy: "Look, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." (Zech. 9:9)

Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city. He rode a donkey, and people laid branches and their robes on the ground in front of Him. The people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem believed He was the promised Messiah, but they expected Him to overthrow Roman oppression and set up an earthly throne. Jesus sent a different message.

The next day, Jesus entered the temple and turned over the tables of the money changers and those selling doves. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7, declaring that His kingship would not just be over the Jews but over all people. While Jesus was in the temple, He healed the blind and the lame. Jesus' actions declared, "I am not just your King; I am also your God" (Isa. 35:4-6).

Finally, the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshiping Jesus as their King. "Do You hear what these children are saying?" they asked. Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2: "Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?" Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise.

As you prepare for and celebrate Easter, help kids connect the dots between God's promises of a Messiah and Jesus' coming. Help them understand why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

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## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. Help children transition in and feel welcome.

*\*\*\* Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.*

## BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Matthew 4 and tell the following Bible story.

### Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19*

It was the time of year that the Israelites celebrated Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to remember what God had done when He rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

**Jesus and His friends also traveled to Jerusalem. He sent two of them ahead to a village. Jesus said, "Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey and her colt tied up. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you should say that the Lord needs them."**

**The friends did what Jesus said. They put their robes on the donkey and the colt, and Jesus sat on them. As Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered. The crowd laid their robes on the road. They cut palm branches from trees and laid those on the road, too. The crowds walked ahead of Jesus, and those who followed Him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One—the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The word *hosanna* means "Save now!"**

**The religious teachers didn't like it. They asked Jesus to tell His friends to be quiet. "If they didn't praise Me," Jesus said, "the rocks would cry out!"**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people asked, "Who is this?" The crowds replied, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!" They were only half right. Jesus wasn't just a prophet of God—He was God's Son!

Jesus went to the temple and drove out the money changers there. While Jesus was at the temple complex, people who could not see and people who could not walk came to Him. Jesus healed them.

**The priests and the scribes at the temple heard children shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The priests and scribes asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" The children were saying, "The king is here! The king is here!"**

**Jesus said, "Yes. Even the children will praise Me."** Then Jesus left and went to spend the night in the town of Bethany.

*Christ Connection: The people were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was their King. Jesus came riding on a donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah said He would. (Zechariah 9:9) One day, Jesus will come back, riding on a white horse as King over everything. (Revelation 19:11)*

## Unit 19 Session 4: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Preschool 3's | April 2, 2023

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### ACTIVITY

#### SHOUT HOSANNA

Invite children to march around the room with you as you play a favorite song. When you stop the music, children will stand still and shout "Hosanna!" and wave their palm branches as they march.

Say: Hosanna means "save now." People and children praised Jesus as King. Jesus is God's Son!

### CRAFT

SEE EXAMPLE IN BIN AND HELP CHILDREN MAKE TODAY'S CRAFT.

### SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

As kids eat: Remind preschoolers that even though Jesus didn't look like a king, people welcomed Jesus as their King. Jesus is the true King forever!

### CLOSING ACTIVITIES

*After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today's **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don't want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive. When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.*

### BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Leave toys set up on tables so they can be sanitized.
- 2) Use surface spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.