



APRIL 13, 2025

PALM SUNDAY / GOOD FRIDAY / EASTER

MATTHEW 21, 26-28; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12, 20

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

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!

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Today, we'll be learning about Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, since Elementary won't have programming next week. We won't be in our classrooms today; we'll spend the morning in Large Group and doing a scavenger hunt based on the Bible story!

WELCOME



Connect with kids
as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before Large Group starts, you can play a game or chat with kids.

MEMORY VERSE

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This week we are going to utilize the entire service to focus on the story of Easter. Encourage the kids to continue working on their memory verses at home.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on April 27!

LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

PALM SUNDAY / GOOD FRIDAY / EASTER SUNDAY

It was the time of year when 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".

Later that week, Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers put a purple robe around Jesus, then made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They pretended to bow down to Him, then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was put up on a cross. They put a sign above His head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly, there was an earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The men guarding the tomb fainted in fear.

The angel spoke to the women and said, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would." The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' friends the good news.

Just then, Jesus greeted them, and the women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death. When we trust in Him, we have true joy. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

As soon as Large Group ends, Taylor will introduce our scavenger hunt game and provide instructions/rules to follow.

Once dismissed, stay together as a class and search for the items listed on your scavenger hunt paper. When all the items have been found, come back into the Large Group room and open each envelope.

Have different kids read each of the notes, then find Taylor for the final item.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Great job on the scavenger hunt! This game was based on the stories we're learning about today: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again to defeat death. When we trust in Him, we have true joy. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever!

FAMILY TAKE-HOME ACTIVITY

As parents arrive to pick kids up, give each family one baggie with the provided supplies and instructions for an Easter object lesson they can do together at home.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!