

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the Messiah God promised. Days after Jesus entered Jerusalem, He died on the cross and rose again to rescue people from sin. One day, Jesus will come back as King over everything, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with Him forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is justification? Justification is when God declares that we are forgiven of sin and are made righteous.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:21

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PREPARE

Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Cultures throughout the world celebrate through the act of parading. Parades see streets lined with people, families and strangers huddled together, united in celebration and anticipation.

Perhaps that's why the Triumphal Entry resonates so much with us. Jesus' ride into Jerusalem was the closest thing to a parade moment in His earthly ministry. It was filled with prophecy, purpose, and a declaration of kingship.

Before this momentous event, Jesus sent two disciples ahead with strangely specific instructions—go find the colt no one had ever ridden, untie it, and if anyone asks, say, "The Lord needs it." This is an important moment in the narrative because Jesus was not entering Jerusalem as a passive figure swept into events beyond His control; He was orchestrating every detail in His intention to signify that He is the Messiah.

Zechariah had prophesied: "Look, your King is coming to you … humble and riding on a donkey" (Zech. 9:9). Through His choice of steed, Jesus was declaring Himself that King. The people laid their cloaks down along with palm branches and cried out "Hosanna!"—a Hebrew plea meaning "Save us now!" They were quoting Psalm 118, a psalm of salvation and victory.

And while the people were right to pray for salvation, their thoughts on how Jesus would save were misplaced and way too small. They wanted liberation from Rome. Jesus came to free people from sin. They wanted Him to claim power through a throne. Jesus came to claim power through a cross. They longed for a temporary victory. Jesus was securing eternal peace.

This week, help kids see Jesus as the sovereign King who lived, died, and rose again to answer the plea of "Hosanna, save us now!"

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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 heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Bible Bucks day is NOV 22!



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LARGE GROUP LESSON

Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Jesus and His disciples were traveling toward Jerusalem. When they came near a small village, Jesus told two of His disciples, "Go into the village. You will find a young donkey tied there which no one has ever sat on. Untie it and bring it to Me. If anyone asks why, say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back right away.'"

The disciples went and found the donkey, just as Jesus said. They brought it to Jesus, put their coats on its back, and Jesus sat on it.

Long ago, God's prophet Zechariah had said, "Look, your King is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey." Now it was happening. Jesus was showing that He is the promised King!

As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem, people spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from palm trees and spread them on the ground. Crowds went ahead of Him, and more followed behind. Everyone was shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Some religious leaders didn't like what the people were saying. They told Jesus, "Teacher, tell Your disciples to be quiet!" But Jesus answered, "If they were silent, the rocks would cry out!"

When Jesus came near Jerusalem, He saw the city and began to cry. He said, "If you only knew today what would bring peace! But now it is hidden from you." Jesus knew that many people did not understand why He had come. They wanted a king to save them from their earthly enemies, but Jesus had come to do something even greater. He came to save people from their greatest enemy, sin.

The whole city was stirred up, asking, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is the Messiah God promised. Days after Jesus entered Jerusalem, He died on the cross and rose again to rescue people from sin. One day, Jesus will come back as King over everything, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with Him forever.

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ACTIVITIES

Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

GRATITUDE CHAIN

It's time for our annual Gratitude Chain! Give each kid several strips of paper and have them write one thing they are thankful for on each strip. Loop the strips together and staple each one closed to create one long paper chain. Leave your finished chain in your room, and during the week, we'll connect all of the rooms' chains together to see just how much we have to be thankful for!

CONNECT THE DOTS

Thanksgiving is a special time to slow down and remember all the ways God has blessed us. As our chain grows with things we're thankful for, let it remind us that every good gift comes from God and we always have a reason to give Him thanks!

BIBLE SKILLS: PROPHECY FULFILLED

Form kids into groups of two or three and give each group one of the Scripture references listed below. Have them look up their verse together and decide whether it describes a prophecy about the Messiah or a fulfillment of a prophecy by Jesus. Then, challenge each group to find the group whose verse matches theirs—connecting each prophecy with its fulfillment.

Once all the matches have been found, have each pair of groups read their verses aloud and briefly explain how they connect.

Psalm 118:26	Isaiah 9:1–2
Matthew 21:9	Matthew 4:13–16
Zechariah 9:9	Isaiah 42:6–7
Luke 19:30–36	John 9:25–38

KINDER

We will provide cards that are color coded to match. The references will still be on the card so kids can continue becoming familiar with them.

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Why is it important for us to recognize who Jesus really is?
2. Is Jesus the kind of king the people of Jerusalem expected?
3. How is the promise that Jesus will return one day to rule as King over everything comforting to believers?
4. What are some situations where God has given you peace?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!

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