PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

LEADER DEVO

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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ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S 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



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

NOV 22

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, 2 Corinthians 5:21 will look like:

F O S H M H T B S W K N S S T I H W M B T R O G

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LESSON

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.”

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SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) The Israelites expected the Messiah to be a conquering king defeating Israel's enemies. How does the triumphal entry contradict that? What does it tell us about Jesus' true purpose as the Messiah?

2) Read Luke 19:37-40. Why are the Pharisees telling Jesus to rebuke His disciples?

3) What does Jesus mean by, "if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."?

See also Colossians 1:16, Psalm 148, and Isaiah 55:12

4) How can you make worship a daily practice this week? Challenge yourself! Remember that worship is our response to God—singing is one way but not the only way we can worship God.

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PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

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