



HOLY WEEK

Date: 3.23.25 | Title: Jesus' Triumphal Entry | Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-40 and John 12:12-19

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy.
- Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God.
- Because Jesus is God, He had the power to perform miracles.

High School Students:

- From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, remained altogether free from sin.
- Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness.
- Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God.



MEMORY VERSE

"If you confess (declare) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9



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INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Ask students to think of a time when they expected something to happen one way, but it turned out completely different. Let a few share if they're comfortable. Ask students to imagine they've been waiting for a promised king — someone who would rescue them from hardship and bring victory.

The people of Jerusalem expected Jesus to be a king that would overthrow the Romans, but Jesus was a humble servant, riding on a donkey, bringing peace instead of war. How do you think they felt when their expectations did not meet reality? Today, we're going to learn about the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.



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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

In all four Gospel accounts of the triumphal entry, we uncover the truth that Jesus reigns as the sovereign King over everything. From the need for a processional donkey (Matthew 21:5; Zechariah 9:9) to the praises spilling from the crowd's mouths, He continues to fulfill the Old Testament requirements for the coming Messiah- the One promised since the beginning.

Many had heard the news of this prophet from Nazareth. Some had even witnessed His miraculous, healing power for themselves. Yet they all looked on with the hope that He would do even more for them now as their long-awaited King. Jesus is acclaimed as the Messiah, but he enters humbly, riding on a donkey.

Those they encountered while entering Jerusalem were excited to see what Christ would do next, especially regarding the Roman rule they faced. They knew of Scripture's promises and wanted more than anything for Jesus to be their answered prayer. They were more than elated to celebrate Him as the object of their kingly anticipation but failed to recognize Him as Someone greater- their Messiah and Lord.

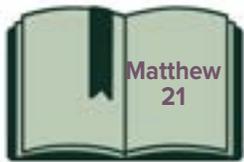
Amid their jubilant festivities and merrymaking, they missed Christ's purpose in heading toward their city. It was not for the sake of sitting on an earthly throne, but to stake His claim as sovereign Ruler of the universe. He was not interested in merely delivering them from Pontius Pilate, but rather from life and eternity spent without God.

Jesus' triumphal entry, with people waving palm branches to greet Him is celebrated in Christian tradition as "Palm Sunday" and fulfills OT scripture. The people mistakenly thought that Jesus would then and there bring national deliverance from Israel's political enemies, the Romans. Yet Jesus' popular acclaim would not last; the same people who hailed him here as the victor would call for His crucifixion just a few days later.



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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-40 and John 12:12-19

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

TELL
THE
STORY



Tell the story:

Jesus and His disciples traveled toward Jerusalem when it was almost time to celebrate Passover. This was a time to remember how God had freed His people from slavery in Egypt. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate God's amazing rescue. God had rescued Israel from slavery and Jesus had come to rescue people from sin.

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

When Jesus and His disciples neared Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead into a village. "As soon as you enter the 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.'"

Re-Tell
The Bible
Story

The disciples did as Jesus commanded. When they untied the donkey, its owners asked what they were doing. "The Lord needs it," they said. Then they brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get onto it. Jesus rode the donkey down the road. Along the way, people spread their robes on the road to show their submission to Jesus as king. Others spread palm branches cut from the fields to symbolize Jewish nationalism and victory.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

People walked behind and ahead of Jesus, praising God with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. "Hosanna!" (Save us!) they said. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The word hosanna means "save now." The **4**



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people welcomed Jesus as their promised King. They hoped He would save them from the Romans.

Some religious leaders told Jesus to make His disciples be quiet. Jesus answered, “If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out and praise Me!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. People who were blind and people who were disabled came to Him. Jesus healed them. Other religious leaders saw Jesus’ miracles and heard the children saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They were very angry and asked Jesus, “Do You hear what these children are saying?”

“Yes,” Jesus told them. The writer of Psalms had said, “You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants.”

Then Jesus left and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Share the GOSPEL: Jesus is the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: “Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus made His way into Jerusalem to make a way for us to be with the Father for all eternity. One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. Jesus is not just king, but Lord over all!



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

1. Why was Jesus coming into Jerusalem?
2. What was the Passover Celebration a remembrance of?
3. What did the people shout when they saw Jesus?
4. What did this mean?
5. What did the people want Jesus to save them from?
6. How is Jesus a different King than the people expected?
7. In Luke 19:31, Jesus calls himself “the Lord”. What do you think is significant about this?
8. Read Luke 19:37-40. Who was praising Jesus? Who was not? What did Jesus say to the Pharisees when they tried to get Jesus to stop the people from worshipping Him? Why would the stones praise Jesus?



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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

9. How is King Jesus different from earthly rulers?

10. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

11. What does the story teach me about myself?

12. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

13. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

14. How does this story help me live on mission?



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PRAYER PROMPTS

Dear Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to be the perfect, eternal king and for revealing Your love to us. Help us know You more and love You more each day. Amen.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using only scripture passages from the Gospels.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after SS.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

IYCWYMTJILABIYHTGRHFTDYWBS - Romans 10:9



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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?