

Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem

Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Bold text is spoken aloud.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> | <p>Path of Praise</p> <p>Create a path of praise using paper coats and palm leaves.</p> | <p>Bibles, stuffed animals, paper, pens, markers, scissors, coats or shirts</p> | <p>Parents, hide a few stuffed animals around the room where you'll do this lesson.</p> |
| <p>2</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p> | <p>Jesus Deserves My Praise</p> <p>Make edible palm branches, and praise Jesus.</p> | <p>Bibles, snack food, plates</p> | |

► Bible Point

We praise Jesus.

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Key Verse

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12).

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Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will praise Jesus in a specific way this week.

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1 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Path of Praise

What You'll Do

Everyone will open a Bible to Matthew 21:1-7.

Assign roles: someone who can read to be the Narrator; someone to play Jesus, and everyone else will be the disciples. For families of two, one will take on roles of both the disciples and Jesus. Read and act out Matthew 21:1-7. When you get to the part of the disciples going to get the donkey, stop. (Children's Ministry Directors: You can be the Narrator and read this slowly on screen while families act it out at home!)

The parent who hid the stuffed animals ahead of time will give everyone else clues to find each of the hidden animals.

Each person will then design and create a coat by coloring one on paper.

Everyone will show their work to each other.

Say: In today's Bible passage, people praised Jesus on that day when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and hailed him as the Son of David. One of the things we'll do today to praise Jesus is to create a "praise path" by laying our coats on the ground.

Everyone will write one way to honor Jesus on the coats they've designed. You may want to suggest things such as "being nice to my little brother or sister," "thanking Jesus for a beautiful day," "obeying my parents," or "reading my Bible."

Everyone will lay their coats in a path on the floor of the room. Real coats or shirts can be added to make the path longer. The path should be fun, winding and curving in various places as it goes. Then each person will stand by a crafted coat that's not theirs and share what these coats say. Parents or older kids can help non-reading siblings. Then everyone will tell how that would honor Jesus. For example, if the coat says "Obey your parents," someone could say, "Jesus says to obey our parents. So by obeying my parents, I'm honoring Jesus." Each person will have an opportunity to share.

Read aloud Matthew 21:8.

Say: We're going to do what the crowd did in our Bible passage. We're going to add to the praise path we started earlier. Then we'll imagine Jesus riding the donkey on the path we've created.

Color and cut out a "palm branch" from your paper. When you've finished, we'll lay these on our praise path.

Everyone will continue making the praise path by laying the palm branches they've just made along the path. When the path has been laid out, everyone will stand side by side along the path.

Say: Let's imagine that Jesus is riding along this path. We're going to praise Jesus with the words in Matthew 21:9.

Read aloud Matthew 21:9, pausing after each line for everyone to repeat it after you. Repeat this verse three or four times. Then read Matthew 21:10-11.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What can you learn from the ways people praised Jesus when he entered Jerusalem?**
- **How does laying a coat on the ground show honor?**
- **What's something you could give up as a way to praise Jesus?**
- **Why does Jesus deserve our praise?**

Say: When the people laid down palm branches and coats while shouting blessings and "hosannas" to Jesus, they recognized him as worthy of praise. On that day, the people loved, respected, and admired Jesus and hailed him as the One who comes in the name of the Lord. ► WE PRAISE JESUS every day when we love, respect, and admire him with our actions and words.

2 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Jesus Deserves My Praise

What You'll Do

Say: In our Bible passage today, we learned how the people in Jerusalem praised Jesus. But remember, the people not only praised Jesus with their words, they also praised him with their actions by laying their coats and palm branches on the road for him. We can follow their example and praise Jesus with our words and with our actions. These actions might include being kind and loving to others, helping to feed the poor, or obeying parents and teachers. Let's make some things to help us praise Jesus with our actions.

Everyone will wash their hands. This is a great time to practice proper, 20-second handwashing techniques!

Say: As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people laid down palm branches in his path to honor and praise him. Let's make pretend palm branches from food around our homes to remind us of the way the people praised Jesus.

Everyone will look in their kitchens for food items they could creatively use to make the shape of palm branches. For example, they might use fruit leather to create their palms. They might also use a carrot for a stem and string cheese as the leaves coming off the stem. Or they might just line up cereal pieces in the shape of palm branches. While creating their palm branches, everyone can call out ways they can praise Jesus.

Say: Just as the people in our passage praised Jesus with their actions by waving and laying down palm branches, we can praise Jesus with our actions this week. Before you eat your palm branch, pray with your partner to thank God for your snack and ask God to help you remember to praise him this week. This can also be saved for later if it's not a good time for a snack.

Read the Key Verse, Revelation 5:12 aloud: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Say: ► WE PRAISE JESUS because he lived and died for us. He's called the Lamb because he sacrificed his life so we can live. Let's praise Jesus for loving us and giving us eternal life. Everyone will wave the paper palm branches they made earlier and can make up a song to praise Jesus together.