



BECAUSE HE LIVES

Triumphant Entry

February 28- 1 year olds and 2 year olds

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BOTTOM LINE: Because of my faith in Jesus, He is the King of my life.

CHRIST CONNECTION: During Jesus' triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as King but He wasn't the King they were expecting. He is the King who gave His life so that we can live with Him and for Him forever.

Context

Leading into the last week of Jesus' ministry before His death and resurrection, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of kings. 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... humble and riding 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 lame. Jesus' actions declared, "I am not just your King; I am also your God." (See Isaiah 35:4-6)

Finally the priests and the scribes heard the children in the temple worshipping Jesus as their King. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked. Jesus replied, quoting Psalm 8:2. Jesus gladly received their praise because He was worthy of their praise. Jesus is the Son of God who came to overthrow sin and set up an eternal throne.

Help kids connect the dots between God's promises of a Messiah and Jesus' coming. Help them see why Jesus came: to save the world from sin!

TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus made a spectacular entrance into the city and was welcomed as a King.
- Jesus wasn't the king that everyone expected. He is the king of heaven and earth!
- Jesus gave up his rightful place in heaven to live among us because He loves us.
- Jesus obediently died on the cross for us because it was the only way for us to have a relationship with God.
- **Bottom Line:** Because of my faith in Jesus, He is the King of my life

Social Activity: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

What You Need: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Printable (1 per group), plastic eggs, and other objects on the scavenger hunt list, basket

What You Do:

Before you begin, ask a leader to help you hide the objects for the hunt around the room.

Break kids into teams of 2. As you read the items on the scavenger hunt list, send one team of 2 at a time to find the object hidden in the room. Celebrate with kids as they return with the objects they have found.

"Spring is right here around the corner and spring makes me think of Easter. Our game today really gets me excited about celebrating Easter with you. Our Bibles stories are going to help us remember Jesus' last week on earth as we prepare to celebrate Easter together. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Small Group Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

Introduce the Story

"Jesus and His friends went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Long ago, the prophet Zechariah said God's special King would ride to Jerusalem on a donkey. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus' donkey. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted "Hosanna!" Then Jesus went to the temple. Sick people came to Him, and Jesus healed them. Even children praise Jesus. They knew Jesus was their King!"

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and listen to a worship song

Application Activity: Ride the Donkey

What You Need: create a donkey out of a pool noodle and colorful duct tape, coats/robes, blankets, palm branches

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to help you lay down coats/robes, palm branches and blankets on the floor.
- Give each kid a turn to ride the donkey through the path created by the blankets and palm branches.
- Retell the Bible story.

What You Say "Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People welcomed Jesus as their King whom the prophets said was coming. Jesus was a different king. Jesus died to rescue us. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Discussion Questions:

- **Why did Jesus send His disciples to get a donkey for Him to ride?** (to fulfill prophecy, Matt 21:4-5)
- **What word did the people and the children say in praise of Jesus?** (Hosanna which means please save us, Matt 21:9, 15)
- **Why do you think the people welcomed Jesus with such excitement?** Remind the kids that the people in Jesus' day were looking for an earthly king to conquer their enemies and give them back control of their land. They believed Jesus was the promised King but misunderstood what kind of king He'd be.
- **When do you feel most excited to worship Jesus?** Guide kids to think through the various ways we worship God, like singing praise, obeying our leaders, and doing our best work in school or sports. Giving God the best you have to give. Remind them that anything done for God's glory is worship.
- **Why do you think some people reject Jesus?** Help kids connect this idea to the religious leaders in Jesus' day. They hated Jesus because they did not want to believe they needed help, and they feared losing control over the religious practices of the people. Today it is much the same. People want to believe they are good on their own. They don't believe that their sin is so bad it required Jesus' death, and they don't want to surrender control of their lives to Him.