



BECAUSE HE LIVES

Triumphant Entry

February 28- 3rd Grade- 5th Grade

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

Small Group Prayer: “Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Social Activity: Ring Toss or Right Left Easter Game

What You Need: Ring Toss and rings and Right Left Easter Game, giant Easter Egg with small prizes

What You Do:

Using the bunny feet as the line marker, ask kids to line up behind the feet to toss a ring onto the pole. When the kids have made 3 rings in a row, they can have a prize.

OR

Using the Right Left Easter Game Printable, ask kids to sit in a circle. You are going to give them a large Easter Egg filled with small prizes. As you read the printable, they are going to gently pass the Egg (so it doesn't open) either Right or Left as you say that word. The person holding the Egg at the end can share the prizes or keep for themselves.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku

Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku

Application Activity: Build a Kingdom

What You Need Legos and Minecraft Printable

What You Do:

- Ask kids to help you build the perfect kingdom like they would do in the game Minecraft.
- They can use the lego blocks and Minecraft Printable to “build” their kingdom.
- As they are building, help the group find ways to work together. Does each person do the same job? Who can build the walls, who can give good instructions, who is going to rule their kingdom? Why?
- As you are talking about the kingdom and building help kids translate what they are doing to the Bible story from today. People worshipped Jesus because they thought He was there to build the “perfect” kingdom.
- Was Jesus' kingdom on earth? When was that kingdom available to people? (In the Garden of Eden) What happened after Adam and Eve ate the fruit in the garden? (They left the perfect kingdom, punishment) What did God promise Abraham? (That He would bless His family and build a kingdom through them) It is easy to see how people were looking for a man to establish an earthly kingdom, God had allowed them to have kings so far. That was not God's design though, His design was for us to see something bigger and a way out of the earthly kingdom. When you believe in Jesus, that doesn't fix the problems on earth, it can't, sin takes over on earth. But we can have hope for the future and know that one day Jesus will come back to rule the earth and create this perfect kingdom again.

What You Say “Over the next few weeks we are going to look at the days leading to Jesus' death and resurrection. Let's all commit to looking for Jesus every day the next few weeks and come back to report how you saw Jesus working around you. If you have questions throughout the week, please have mom or dad contact your campus leader or me. I will be praying for you.”

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the puzzle together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

8 And being **found** in appearance as a **man**, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to **death**—even death on a **cross**! **PHILIPPIANS 2:8**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible.

Found = Fully man , man=human , humbled= lowered in rank or esteem, complete humility ,

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death=extreme death- death+torture , cross= a criminal's punishment but without fault

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.