

# Jesus' Triumphal Entry

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

**Story Point:** People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.

**Key Passage:** Philippians 2:8

**Big Picture Question:** What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

## Younger Children

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 21. Ask which Bible division Matthew is in. (*the Gospels*) Remind kids that Bible divisions are ways people have organized the Bible to help us study God's Word more easily. Consider showing Jerusalem on the New Testament Israel Map. (H4)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- 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, Matt. 21:9,15*)
- Where did Jesus go to spend the night? (*Bethany, Matt. 21:17*)
- Why do you think they 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. 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 want to believe that their sin is so bad it required Jesus' death, and they don't want to surrender control of their lives to Him.*

## Older Children

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys to open their Bibles to Matthew 21 and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 19. Explain that the story of Jesus' triumphal entry is found in all four Gospels. Ask kids to name the four Gospels. (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) Remind them that the Gospels tell of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Choose volunteers to read aloud Matthew 21:9 and Luke 19:38.

Say • All four of the accounts of the triumphal entry bring different details to the story. Because our Bible story today, as well as many others, are recorded in many of the Gospels, we can have a deeper insight into Jesus' life and ministry.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- Why do you think the people welcomed Jesus as King? *Help kids recognize that the people knew the prophecies and believed Jesus was the Messiah who was promised long ago.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 118:26.)
- What type of Messiah were the Jewish people expecting? *Help kids recognize that many were expecting the Messiah to be the conqueror of the Roman Empire, but God had another plan—a plan to save people from sin.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 55:9.)
- What are some things you can trust God with in your life, knowing that His plans are best? *Help kids recognize that God is trustworthy and that we can trust Him in all areas of our life.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:5-6.)

Say • Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, and **people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King**. One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse and reign as King over everything for eternity.