



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

October 12-13, 2013

Kingdom Come Journey Week 1

LESSON TITLE

Zechariah 9:9-17 (Pg.1039); Matthew 21:1-11 (Pg.1078)

Jesus Brought the Perfect Kingdom of Heaven to the Broken Kingdom on Earth

WHERE TO FIND IT

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**\*NEW Connect Time (15 minutes):**  
Five minutes after service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

This is Week 1 of the Journey, which means we're starting a 6-week series. Encourage kids to talk to their parents about what we're doing in Kids' Club, because it's going to focus on the same main points.

***\*\*It's also Week 1 of the new hourly structure!***

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to complete their challenge card.

## large group heads up

Today, we're talking about God's promised king, Jesus, who brought the Kingdom of God to earth. God's Kingdom is totally based on love and we can be a part of it when we love others like Jesus loved us.

## connect time

**\*THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF CONNECT TIME. Please make sure to do this activity before Large Group!**

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

- Lay out **several tear-off pieces of paper** and containers of **markers**
- Split kids into groups
- Tell them to design their idea of a PERFECT kingdom (or a perfect city)
  - Draw the buildings it would have, people who would live there, list the city rules, make up activities people would do, sports teams the city would have, etc. –they can draw pictures and/or make lists
  - If kids are struggling to work together, assign each group a LEADER to draw and give other kids the roles of coming up with different parts of the city.
  - As kids finish, ask them to agree on the *best* part of their kingdom.
  - Choose ONE person to bring the poster into Large Group to share what the group agreed on as their *favorite* part of the kingdom they designed.

**This is also a time for you to connect with kids\*\*:** While kids do the activity, ask them their names, talk to them about their week, or even remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) Be kind, (2) Listen when somebody speaks, (3) Follow the leader's instructions.

**\*After service, please tell us how it went!**

\*\*Here are some sample connect questions:

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What was the worst part of your week?
3. Who brought you to Kids' Club today?
4. What's your favorite...Activity? Movie? Superhero?



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) praise our perfect King and (2) recognize that we are part of God's Kingdom when we love like Jesus loved when he was on earth (and like he loves us now!).

**Why?** Jesus is a perfect king and the correct response to his greatness is praising him and showing his love to others

**Tip:** We're going to start including an opportunity for kids to ask questions about large group each week. That's because if they feel confused, it'll be hard for them to go any deeper into the truths of the story. Keep in mind that it's OK to say, "I don't know."

## small group

### REACT

1. What's your favorite part of today's story (or the most surprising)?
2. How did Jesus bring the Kingdom of God to earth?
3. **Discuss:** What does the Kingdom of God look like? How do we know? How is that different than the kingdom of the world?
4. How can we be a part of God's Kingdom?
5. Do you have any questions/confusion about something you heard in Large Group?

### ACTIVITY #1: TRIBUTE TO THE KING

The music video we watched talked about paying "tribute" to the king. Let's spend some time praising the king, like the people did in today's story.

- Give each kid ***one piece of the castle*** (each group should have a mixture of "A" and "B" pieces)
- Tell them to write **at least** one word to describe Jesus on the *outside* of their castle block. Here are some ways to spark ideas for them:
  - Read Zechariah 9:9 again:  
**City of Zion, be full of joy!**  
**People of Jerusalem, shout!**  
**See, your king comes to you.**  
**He always does what is right.**  
**He has the power to save.**  
**He is gentle and riding on a donkey.**  
**He is sitting on a donkey's colt.**
  - Remind kids that Jesus is *perfect*. Ask what somebody who is perfect would be like.

- Build castles, calling out all the traits of Jesus as each piece is added.
- Leave the castle built during Activity #2

### **ACTIVITY #2: THE LOVE CHALLENGE**

Remind kids that Jesus brought the Kingdom here and we can choose to be a part of it. It's built on love, so when we receive the love of our perfect king and his \_\_\_\_\_ (read examples from your kids' castle), we can show that to others. That's being a part of God's Kingdom right now!

*(We are doing a "love" experiment. Tell kids that parents will get a love experiment card this week in their small group. So they can start now and show their parents how it's done!)*

- Give each kid a **challenge card**.
- Ask them to choose ONE of the ways Jesus shows love (from the castle).
- Their challenge is to show somebody love in the same way this week (e.g. if they described Jesus as "gentle," their challenge is to be gentle to somebody this week).
- Let kids write the way they plan to show love on the back of their love experiment cards. Encourage them to be specific. (e.g. "Gentle: I will be gentle to somebody by talking kindly to him or her, even if I feel angry.")
- Ask them how they would feel if somebody was doing a love experiment on them.
- Let each kid take home his/her piece of the castle.

**\*Pray together, thanking God for our perfect King and asking him to help us show his love and be a part of his kingdom this week.**

*Extra time? Let kids share Challenge Cards for extra accountability. Or let kids walk around and look at other small groups' castles. You can even have small groups present castles to one another. Then have groups go back to the posters they created during Connect Time. Have them add things to their Kingdom that would be a part of GOD'S Kingdom.*

# LARGE group

## special notes

### **\*This is the first day of Connect Time.**

In your intro, you will ask kids to share from Connect Time. And one kid from each group has a poster to share. If you think sharing posters will be too much of a distraction, you can adapt to fit your group and ask a few kids to share verbally. *Just communicate that to the other volunteers ahead of time.*

## presenter tips

Remember, now that we have added Connect Time, we are trying to shorten Large Group time by about 5 minutes. If it feels short today, that's OK (the 30-minute allotment in the "Schedule" Box on page 1 includes transition time at the beginning and the end). If it feels too long, please tell us!

*\*There's still a lot of content today, so don't spend too much time on the Intro!*

## script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so glad to see you here. This is a really exciting week. It's the **FIRST** week of what we call our all-church Journey. That means all of Crossroads—and even other churches in Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, and Indiana—are all going to be learning the **SAME** things. Because we're **ALL** trying to follow God and we're all a part of his family, no matter where we live or whether we're boys or girls or kids or adults.

### **INTRO: A PERFECT KINGDOM**

So what we're going to be learning about for the next 6 weeks is the Kingdom of God. Don't worry if you're not sure what that is yet. Let's start imagining it by looking at the perfect kingdoms you guys designed during Connect Time.

You guys just had the very special task of designing the perfect kingdom. Can I have **ONE** person from each group bring your poster up? (Let kids come to the front.) **Tell us the best part of your perfect kingdom.** (Let kids share, but don't spend more than 1 minute on this!)

Wow, those sound pretty great! Raise your hand if you'd actually want your city to turn into the perfect kingdom you designed (let kids respond). Yeah, me too! In fact, I'd kind of like to mix all your good ideas together and have an explosively amazing kingdom. OK, you guys can have a seat. Leave your posters up here. (Let kids sit.)

Well, guess what? The Kingdom of God **IS** perfect—and *it's real*. We'll see all the perfection of it later, when Jesus re-creates a perfect world, but did you know it's actually here now??



## script continued

### **AN IMPERFECT WORLD**

Hold on a second...does it feel like we live in a perfect Kingdom? (Let kids say: no) No. But that's because we live in a world that's broken. Remember, God has an enemy. And in the very beginning of time, when only two humans had been created—Adam and Eve—that enemy, the devil, tried to get them to stop trusting God—and stop obeying him.

When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, all the wrong things entered the world. But God loved them—and us—too much to leave us stuck in an imperfect, messed up world.

### **THE PERFECT KING IS PROMISED**

So God began to build a special family. And he promised his family that one day, he would send a perfect king to build a perfect kingdom. Through the prophet Zechariah, God said this:

***SLIDE: Zechariah 9:9: City of Zion, be full of joy!***

***People of Jerusalem, shout!***

***See, your king comes to you.***

***He always does what is right.***

***He has the power to save.***

***He is gentle and riding on a donkey.***

***He is sitting on a donkey's colt.***

(Tell kids God's family lived in Jerusalem, which is often called the City of Zion.) God promised to send them a king who ALWAYS did what was right—that means he's PERFECT. He promised a king who can save or rescue God's family from everything wrong in the world. In fact, the verse goes on to talk about how we won't have any more war or fighting...because the Kingdom of God is peaceful and perfect.

### **THE PERFECT KING ARRIVES**

Now we're going to watch a story about the first time people realized Jesus was the promised King. He had already been on earth healing people, loving people, doing miracles...basically, showing us what it would be like in the Kingdom of God where there's no sickness or meanness or death. But this was the day people *recognized* that he was the promised king.

As we watch this video, watch how people reacted to Jesus. How did they treat the king?

***Video: God's Story / Palm Sunday***

Wow, amazing. People obviously realized Jesus was king. And how did they react to him? (Most praised him—focus on that; kids may mention that a few people didn't praise Jesus, but that's because they did NOT recognize that Jesus was the promised king.)

Jesus was not just any king. He was *God's own Son*. That's why he could bring the Kingdom of God to us. And he showed us what God's Kingdom is all about: LOVE. Jesus helped people, served people, and eventually rescued all people! And he loved everyone, even the people who didn't treat him like a king.



script continued

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE**

**(Show picture of sun breaking through.)** When Jesus—God’s Son—came to earth as a man, he brought the Kingdom of God here, right smack dab into the middle of a broken world, kind of like the sun breaking through a storm. Right now, we still have to live in a broken world, but we have a choice: we can be a part of the kingdom of this world...or we can be a part of God’s Kingdom!

There’s still plenty of wrong in the kingdom of the world. But one day, God’s enemy will be destroyed forever and Jesus will re-create the world so that there’s no more wrong—no more sickness or sadness or cruelty or death. Only love....only his perfect, sunshine-y Kingdom! (The adj. “sunshine-y” is to help kids connect visually to the photo.)

Until then, we can choose to be a part of God’s Kingdom by treating him as our King and obeying him and loving others. Jesus showed us that God’s Kingdom is all about love—he loved us so much that he gave up his own life to bring us close to him!

And when we’re in God’s kingdom, we act like Jesus and love people, even when they don’t deserve it. Even if we have to give up something we care about. Or even when we don’t feel like it. No matter what, when we choose to be a part of the Kingdom of God instead of the kingdom of the world, we show love to others—and to our King!

## **WORSHIP**

Let’s worship our king together now, and tell him we think he’s the *best*. We’re going to start by watching a music video about today’s story. You’ll see the word “tribute” in this music video. Paying tribute basically means praising!

**Music Video: Palm Sunday**

**Song: Grow Up Like Jesus** (hand motions)

## **PRAY**

Ask somebody to come and thank God for sending a perfect King!



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per small group: 1 tear-off sheet of paper  
(Large enough to make a small poster)  
Markers

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## small group supplies

Markers

**Per kid:** 1 piece of castle (can purchase from Oriental Trading: IN-13585818; please make sure to include a mix of “A” and “B” pieces per small group)

**Per kid:** 1 “Love” challenge card with a blank

back for creating their own Love Challenge

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## large group supplies

Bible (pgs. 1039, 1078)

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## a/v needs

1. SLIDE: Zechariah 9:9: City of Zion, be full of joy!  
People of Jerusalem, shout!  
See, your king comes to you.  
He always does what is right.  
He has the power to save.  
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.  
He is sitting on a donkey's colt.

2. Video: God's Story / Palm Sunday  
3. Image: sun breaking through clouds\*  
4. Music Video: Palm Sunday  
5. Song: Grow Up Like Jesus (hand motions)

*\*Partner churches, this is not our original content and therefore we cannot provide it. Please use songs and/or images that you already own.*

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## connect questions

Tell me about the Kingdom of God.  
How can we be a part of God's Kingdom?

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## parent page

Printed separately