



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

March 21-22, 2015

DATE

Palm Sunday

LESSON TITLE

Luke 19:28-40  
Adventure Bible (pp. 1153-1154)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus is the promised king, and we can praise him.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

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

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**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 weekend isn't really Palm Sunday; next weekend is.** So while we're telling the story of Palm Sunday, we're not making a big deal about using the term "Palm Sunday." Next week, kids will learn about Jesus' last supper, and we think it's important to teach the story in chronological order as we build up to Easter.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tell their parents what they added to the group palm leaf today.

## large group heads up

Today we're talking about when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, which is when people recognized Jesus as the Rescuer they had been waiting for. They treated him like a king....because he IS our king!



## connect time

**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.*

### TEN SECOND OBJECTS

- Divide kids into groups of 4-6
- Call out the name of an object
- Each group has to create the shape of that object by joining together in different ways, while you count down from 10 to 0.
- Ideas for you to use: car, plate of breakfast, clock, washing machine, fire.
- Then ask them to hold their position while you decide who did the best.
- Make them wait. Play that up: don't tell them how long they have to stay frozen in position. Try to force them to get a little antsy.
- Do as many rounds as you have time for, but leave 5 minutes to debrief:
  - Was it hard to wait to hear who won? Why?
  - Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? Tell us about it.
  - Why is it hard to wait for things? Is it harder to wait when we don't know how long it will take (like in the game)?
  - Tell us about the best or worst part of your week.

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand the events of the story and (2) identify ways we can treat Jesus as our king.

**Why?** It's important that kids understand that Jesus was God's promised Rescuer—and is still our king today.

**Tips:** Consider ways you can share personal examples of worship. Kids loving hearing from you!

## small group

### DIG DEEPER AND RELATE

\*Try this for a more engaged discussion: tell kids you're going to ask a question. Then give a **beanbag** to somebody and it's their job to answer. Then, everybody has to listen carefully to the next question. The kid with the "beanbag" must toss it to someone else.

1. Why were the people waiting for a king?
2. Why was Jesus different than what they expected?
3. How could people be sure that Jesus was the promised king?
4. What did the people in Jerusalem do as Jesus rode into town?
5. *Why* were people shouting and laying down palm branches?
6. Does anybody remember why Jesus started crying in this story?

### FOUR CORNERS (ACTIVITY #1)

Today, we don't wave palm trees or lay down coats for kings. In fact, we don't even have kings in our country.

- Give each kid a **slip of green paper**. Have them **write** down ONE thing we do when we see important people or people we love today.
- **ASK:** Could/should we do any of those things for Jesus? Why or why not? (Remind kids it's OK to look silly when we worship Jesus!)

Let's think of some more ways we can treat Jesus as king by worshiping him. To do that we're going to play Four Corners. (*You can have kids go to a corner of a table or area in the room, or just hold up 4 fingers.*)

- When you think about worshiping Jesus, would you rather: (1) sing, (2) dance, (3) pray, (4) help a person in need

- If Jesus was standing in front of you, would you: (1) hug him, (2) fall down in front of him, (3) start talking to him or (4) smile at him
- Jesus says we give him praise when we love other people. Would you rather: (1) give money to someone, (2) help someone, (3) hug someone, (4) make a card to give
- When you get really, really excited, do you (1) scream, (2) jump up and down, (3) sing, or (4) draw/write about it
- When you pray, do you like to (1) kneel, (2) lay down, (3) sit, (4) you never really thought about it

### **PRAISE PALMS (ACTIVITY #2)**

Tell them that all the things we just talked about (you can read through them again) are ways to worship Jesus. Ask kids if they can think of any others.

Return to the **green strips of paper**. Flip them over. Have them write down their favorite way to worship *Jesus* as king. Then **glue** the strips along the group's **big brown strip of paper**. (Glue one straight up from the top. Then all the others should be angled up.) See below:



**\*Pray with the kids, thanking Jesus that he is King.**

*Extra time? Play Four Corners again. But this time, mix up the categories. You can have kids identify favorite foods, colors, movies, seasons, etc. You can even let them take turns giving the group options.*

# LARGE group

## special notes

While large group is designed to show kids that Jesus truly IS king, small group is designed to give them practical ways to treat him as such.

## presenter tips

This lesson may take a little longer than normal. During audience interaction, only let a couple kids share. Consider ahead of time how you plan to pace it so that it doesn't take too long.

## script

### \*Click to play intro music

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here today. You guys did a great job creating those objects. That did NOT sound easy. And your leader made you wait a long time, stuck in those positions, huh? Waiting can be so hard, especially if we're waiting for something better, like to get more comfortable or maybe for something we're really excited about.

Have any of you had to wait a long time for something? (Let 2-3 kids respond. Follow up with: what was it? What was waiting like?) I don't like to wait for things very much.

But we're talking about waiting because God's family had to *wait*. And not just for a week or a month or even a year. But for hundreds and hundreds and HUNDREDS of years. They had no idea how long they would have to wait. In fact, some people died before they saw what they were waiting for.

### PEOPLE WAITED FOR A KING

Does anybody know what God's family was waiting for? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they were waiting for a KING to rescue them. See, we talk a lot in Kids' Club about how Jesus rescued us. But thousands of years ago, there hadn't been a rescue. The world was just full of wrong things, like it is now, and there was a promise that SOMEDAY a rescuer would come.

Now, if you knew God had promised a king, what kinds of things would you be looking for? **Turn and tell a friend something that you think a king would for sure have.** (Let kids respond. Ask 3-4 kids to share.) Yeah, those are things I would look for in a king too. But this king would be totally unexpected.

### JESUS DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A KING

That's because he wasn't going to be a king who came to rule the people (**show the picture of**



## script continued

**the king**) like in the kingdoms of our world. He was going to be a king who was all about serving others (**show picture of Jesus washing the disciples' feet**). He's the king of GOD'S kingdom, which is all about love, NOT about power and control.

Of course, God DID send a king, just like he promised. (**Show Christmas picture.**) When Jesus was born, some people *knew* he was the promised king, the rescuer. And they were so excited! But some people didn't know it yet. So they were still waiting...

The good news is, God didn't want anybody to miss it when the King arrived! So throughout history, he's told people specific things to expect, so that they could be certain when the king arrived. When a person hears something from God and shares it, he or she is called a prophet. The thing they share is called a prophecy.

Hundreds of years before the Rescuer arrived, there was a prophet named Zechariah. And this is one of the prophecies God gave Zechariah:

**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.**

Wow, that's amazing! That's so specific. And nobody would have expected Jesus to come on a young donkey, like this: (**play clip of the young donkey**).

## **JESUS IS TREATED LIKE A KING**

Well, a week before Jesus' Rescue, he wanted to announce to God's family that he was (and is!) the king! Remember, God's family was from a place called Israel. And Jerusalem, in the verse we just read, is the capital of Israel. So one day, Jesus told two of his disciples to go to a nearby village and get a young donkey that was tied up there.

He said if anybody asked them why they were untying it, they should say, "The Lord needs it!" That's like saying, "God needs it" because Jesus is God's Son.

Anyway, the disciples did what Jesus said and then Jesus rode the young donkey into Jerusalem. When he did that, people knew that this must be the Rescuer God was sending. And they treated Jesus like a king! We're going to watch a video about what happened. As you watch, see if you can figure out HOW people treated Jesus like a king, what they did when he came riding in. Let's take a look!

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

Wow, so how did people treat Jesus? What did they do as he came riding into Jerusalem? (Let kids respond.) That's right, they waved palm branches, laid their coats on the ground, and



## script continued

shouted praises to him! And that's exactly what they did to kings who wore crowns and robes and rode on majestic horses. The way they acted shows us that they KNEW Jesus is the King!

### **JESUS IS THE KING**

We don't wave palm branches and lay down our coats as carpeting anymore. But sometimes we do scream and wave and cheer with excitement, don't we? The video didn't show exactly how many people were out praising Jesus. The crowds actually looked more like a big crowd at the Super Bowl parade:

#### **Video: Screaming crowds**

Those crowds screamed when the National Anthem began to play. Imagine crowds like that screaming out of love and joy that they get to follow Jesus! That would be pretty incredible, wouldn't it? The cool thing is, Jesus came to earth because he *adores* us! When we scream with joy or worship him, we're loving him back. He loved us *first*. Remember this verse from Zephaniah:

#### **SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17**

**The LORD your God is with you.**

**He is mighty enough to save you.**

**He will take great delight in you.**

**The quietness of his love will calm you down.**

**He will sing with joy because of you."**

Of course, as you saw in the video, there were still some people who didn't believe Jesus was King, even though he fulfilled what had been prophesied and showed so much love on earth by healing people and helping people and even raising people from the dead... That made Jesus SO sad, because Jesus wants all of us to know that he's rescued us!

There are still some people who don't believe Jesus is King today, too. And that also makes him sad. But one day, when God re-creates a perfect world that has no wrong things in it, everyone will recognize Jesus as king. And until then, WE *can* treat Jesus like our king!

We'll talk more about how to do that in small groups. But now, let's treat him as king by telling him that we love him and think he's the BEST!

### **WORSHIP**

First, let's tell Jesus that we are so grateful he gave us new life in God's kingdom and we can be alive in him! Then let's thank Jesus for loving us and tell him that we trust him enough to listen and obey!

#### **Music Video: Alive**

**Song: Because You Love Me**



**script continued**

**PRAY**

Ask somebody to come and thank Jesus for being such a gentle and loving and perfect King!



# PREP needs



## connect time supplies

Ten Second Objects game – no supplies needed

## small group supplies

### Per kid

1 green strip of construction paper

### Per group

gluesticks

Markers

Adventure Bible (pp. 1153-1154)

1 large brown strip of paper per small group (significantly larger than the strips; see this site for an example:

<http://effectivechildrensministry.org/2012/03/10/palm-sunday-craft/>)

Beanbag

## large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1153-1154)

## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: king
3. Images: 2 side by side: king (same as above) and Jesus washing feet
4. Image: Christmas
5. 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.
6. Donkey clip: (the first 20 seconds ONLY of this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR007xSTxfY>)
7. Video: God's Story / Palm Sunday (<https://vimeo.com/59691514>)
8. Video: Screaming crowds (the first 15 seconds of this: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_D6NG4AfqU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_D6NG4AfqU))
9. SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you.  
He is mighty enough to save you.  
He will take great delight in you.  
The quietness of his love will calm you down.  
He will sing with joy because of you."
10. Music Video: Alive (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2EjYnjKkMw>; please cut off the first 18 seconds)
11. Song: Because You Love Me (with hand motions) (<https://vimeo.com/49923930>)

## connect questions

Tell me how Jesus announced he was king.  
How can we treat Jesus as king?

## parent page

Today we talked about the time Jesus announced that he was the long-awaited Rescuer King, the one promised hundreds of years earlier in Zechariah 9:9 (and many other places)! Ask your kid to tell you about it. You can also watch a video about it by searching for "God's Story: Palm Sunday" at [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net) or read about it in Luke 19:28-40 in the Bible.