



3rd - 5th

March 19-20, 2016

DATE

Palm Sunday

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;

WHERE TO FIND IT

Praise the King!

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

Make it a priority to pray with your team. Invite God to be with you or your team as you tell an exciting part of God's story today!

check-in/out

As kids check out, ask them what their crowns mean!

large group heads up

Today is a celebration of Palm Sunday, which is when people recognized Jesus as the Rescuer they had been waiting for. He announces that he is the Rescuer by riding into Jerusalem as a king. The people got really, really excited—and we should too!



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.*

ACTIVITY

- Divide kids into small groups.
- Give each group **a paper bag** with **strips of paper** in it. On each strip of paper is something that might describe a good king.
- Pass the bag around the group and let each kid take a piece of paper out and read it (read out loud if you sense kids may struggle with that). Then, as a group, decide whether or not it's a "kingly" trait.
- After you've gone through all the paper strips, get a large piece of tear-off paper and lay it in the center of your group, along with glue sticks and markers.
- Glue the paper strips that **DO** describe a good king. Then let kids add their own suggestions as to what a good king is like. They can draw pictures of what they think a good king looks like as well!

TALK ABOUT IT

- What's the closest thing to a king we have in America today? What does he/she do?
- If you were a king/queen, how would you act?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Palm Sunday, (2) understand that Jesus was the long awaited King and Rescuer and (3) celebrate Jesus arrival as our King!

Why? Palm Sunday is an important part of the Rescuer's story. It prepares us for the coming events of Easter.

Tip: The fact that this event was prophesied so specifically is pretty cool—and shows us how significant this event is. Emphasize that for kids!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What's one thing that surprised you in today's story? (It may be that Jesus rode on a donkey, how people reacted, that some people didn't believe Jesus, that Jesus said the rocks would cry out, that the trees will one day praise Jesus, or anything!)
2. We read a verse in Large Group. In it, God told a prophet named Zechariah what would happen.... *hundreds* of years before Jesus announced that he was King. Can somebody read that verse for us today? It's in **Zechariah 9:9** (*hold up the verse card*): **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.**
 - a. Wow, can you guys believe that? Wave your leaf if you can find ONE thing that happened in the story and in this verse. I'll read it one more time. (Read it again for kids. Wait until all the kids are waving their leaves. Then make sure they say the following things):
 - i. Jesus entered Jerusalem (City of Zion is the same thing.)
 - ii. He announced he was King.
 - iii. He rode on a donkey.
 - iv. People shouted with joy and praise.
3. Who is like royalty in America today? How do we treat them?
4. What's one specific way can we can treat Jesus like he's our King?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **crown** and **markers**.
- Tell kids to write the words "**Jesus is my King**" on the inside of the crown *before* they put it on. (There are **handouts** with the words "Jesus is my King" to help kids spell it if needed.) Then ask: What does it mean for us if Jesus is our King?

(Continue on the following page.)

Extra Time? Play musical chairs, but with the palm leaf pictures kids received in Large Group. Have kids get in a circle, and sit down on their leaf on the floor. Turn on some music and let kids walk around the circle, and when you stop the music, they have to find a palm leaf to sit on. Make sure to take one palm leaf away each time you stop the music.

special notes

Palm Sunday is an important part of the story leading up to Jesus' death. This week, we'll be focusing on the celebratory events of Palm Sunday, while leaving the details of his sacrifice for next week (Easter).

presenter tips

Here's our video for Palm Sunday. Watch it beforehand to help you prepare for Large Group.

God's Story / Palm Sunday:
<https://vimeo.com/59691514>

script

***Click to play intro music**

WELCOME AND INTRO

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's so great to see you all here. You all just had some fun figuring out what makes a good king...and what doesn't. Can you share some of the traits that a good king would have? (Let 4-5 kids respond.) I agree. Those are definitely kingly traits!

Today we're talking about the most perfect, most important king there ever was. Do you know who it is? (Let kids respond, "Jesus!") That's right, Jesus is our King. He's not just a regular king though, he's a *Rescuer King*.

JESUS ANNOUNCES HE IS THE KING

Today (*or tomorrow, depending on which day it is*) is a special day. Does anybody know the name of it? (Let kids respond: Palm Sunday) Yep, Palm Sunday! And every year, on the Sunday before Easter, we celebrate the time Jesus announced to the whole city of Jerusalem that he is the Rescuer and King!

People had been waiting SO LONG for the king that would rescue them from all the wrong things in the world. When Jesus decided to tell the world that he was here, he did it like a king! But as we'll see today, he did it a little differently than most kings would. The important thing we'll see is how people *acted when he got there*. First, let's look at this verse. It was written a long time before Jesus was born.

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.

If I were a Jewish person living in Israel, back in Jesus' day, I would probably know this verse. I'd probably even be on the lookout for someone who fit this description!



script continued

PEOPLE WERE EXCITED FOR JESUS

Even though don't have kings in America, we do sometimes shout and wave at important people who ride limos or fancy cars. What kind of famous people might we be excited to see? (Let several kids respond.) Let's watch an example of how we sometimes treat important or famous people:

Video: Hercules being chased movie clip

So how did the people react when they got to see the famous hero Hercules? (Let kids respond.) That's right, they wanted to celebrate him and tell him how great he was all the time. They gave him lots of attention!

Can you picture crowds getting *that* excited when Jesus came through town? (Let kids respond.) It might be in a different way... because Jesus wasn't just a celebrity they wanted to see, he was the Rescuer they wanted to *worship*! We're going to see just HOW they showed their excitement for Jesus.

We're going to watch a video of the story. As we watch, see if you can figure out how people treated Jesus when he arrived in town.

Video: God's Story Palm Sunday

So, how exactly did people treat Jesus when he arrived in town? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they worshipped him! They put their clothes down on the ground for him to ride over, and they waved around their palm branches. They celebrated him, and told him how excited they were to have their long-awaited king!

Back then, everyone was ruled by someone named "Caeser." He didn't love them or rescue them or take care of them. God's family was suffering, and they wanted a king who would help them. Do you think Jesus was that kind of king? (Let kids respond.) Yes! So a lot of people were really excited to see him that day!

Turn to a friend right now, and share one word that would describe Jesus. (Give kids a few seconds to share with each other.) Can I have a few people share out loud? (Let 2-3 kids share out loud.) Thanks, guys.

JESUS IS CELEBRATED

Remember that verse we read at the beginning of Large Group? It said that Jesus would arrive on a donkey...and he did! That verse came true, all those years later! The day Jesus came to town was a really exciting day, and tons of people believed in him as the Rescuer and the King.

But this story gets better. Remember, there were still huge crowds waving palm branches and praising Jesus! It's what they wanted to do in order to treat him as a king. Let's see how that might feel. Small group leaders, will you come up and help me give each person a palm leaf? (Have small group leaders help you distribute **palm leaf papers**.) Everybody, wave your leaf! **(Click to play rustling leaves loop.)** (Let kids respond.) Keep it going and look around; listen to the rustle of the leaves. Imagine if all the trees were waving, dancing, and celebrating Jesus!



script continued

Alright, you guys can stop waving. All those waving branches on Palm Sunday gave us a little preview of how God will one day re-create a *perfect* world for his whole family, where *everybody* will know Jesus is King and everybody will praise him! Even the trees will praise Jesus!

RESPONSE TIME

Jesus healed people. He fed people. He came to serve others, and rescue us from our sins. Here's a verse that talks about it. We've been learning it for the past few weeks, so you might know it already! Go ahead and read it out with me:

Slide: John 3:16-17 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his son into the world to judge the world. He sent his son to save the world through him.

When we believe that Jesus rescued us, it means we believe that we'll get to be close to him forever. Let's all bow our head and close our eyes. (Let kids respond.) In your head, go ahead and tell Jesus how thankful you are that he came to rescue us, and that he's our King. You can tell him anything you want! (Give kids 30 seconds of silence, than pray for the group out loud.)

WORSHIP

But remember, even though we don't live in a perfect world, we know Jesus rescued us! So we can start treating Jesus as our King *right now*! Let's start by shouting our own praises today! And if you want to wave your leaf, feel free!

Music Video: You Are

Music Video: Crazy Love

PRAY

God, thank you for your amazing rescue. We want to praise you and celebrate you for being our Rescuer King. Amen!

**Dismiss kids to small groups*



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per small group: brown paper bag containing “kingly traits” paper strips- new set per group

small group supplies

Per kid: 1 crown (OT: IN-25/943)

Per group: markers, 3 “Jesus is my King” handouts, 1 verse card (Zechariah 9:9)- both reused

large group supplies

Per group: Bible

Per kid: 1 palm leaf image

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. 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
3. Video: Hercules being chased movie clip (KC/SM media videos songs>videos>movie clips)
4. Video: God's Story / Palm Sunday (<https://vimeo.com/59691514>)
5. Loop: rustling leaves (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNp18WHz5Po>; first 30 seconds)
6. Slide: John 3:16-17 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his son into the world to judge the world. He sent his son to save the world through him.
7. Music Video: You Are (<https://vimeo.com/112963091>)
8. Music Video: Crazy Love (KC/SM media videos songs>music videos)

connect questions

Tell me about Palm Sunday.

How did people respond to Jesus?

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