



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Preschool-K • #NT19 • March 15, 2026

Concept

Jesus is King of everything.

Goal

Children will learn that the people thought Jesus came to be their king. He was a king who loved and died for his people.

Passage

Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:35-38

Key Verse: "Your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey..."

Matthew 21:5

Planning Ahead

| Lesson Supplies | Craft Supplies |
|--|---|
| <p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Praise Bible by Mack Thomas</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Small palm branches, 15/room</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Jesus</i><i>Donkey</i><i>Crowd</i><i>Bible</i><i>Crown</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jesus costumeDonkey ears copied on gray cardstockGray or black headband | <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Donkey bodies printed on manila cardstock, 1/child2½" fleece squares, 1/childGlue sticksSpring-clip clothespins, 2/childRoundhead clothespins, 1/childSmall white napkin, 1/studentYarnCrayons |

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

Preschool-K • #NT19

It is the Passover week, a few brief days before the crucifixion. Coming to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of His disciples to bring a donkey and colt to Him for a long-propheesied entry into Jerusalem. Zechariah 9:9 had spoken of it: "Your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Matthew 21:5

The King humbly rode into Jerusalem on a common donkey. He chose a donkey, because it symbolized His coming in gentleness and peace. What a fitting symbol in light of Jesus' entire ministry, for we know that He came as a gentle, obedient Servant who was willing to lay down His life for our sins.

On this day the crowds, in anticipation of Jesus reigning as their King, honored Him with their shouts of praise. They cried, "Hosanna," a Hebrew greeting meaning "Save now, we beseech you." It was as if they were shouting, "Hail to the King; save us, O King." Their expectation of the Messiah was a political leader, visible and powerful, who would reign here and now.

Things didn't happen as they expected, though. When Jesus was arrested and the Jewish leaders announced they would punish Him for blasphemy, the people turned against Him. They didn't understand the purpose and plan of God's redemption. They didn't understand what Christ meant.

Jesus came not to conquer His enemies, but to die for them. He came to express God's perfection and confront their sin. They didn't have spiritual ears, they refused to hear and Jesus wept. Jesus tried to teach the people that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36); that, while His first ministry would be one of humble service, He would come again in power and glory and reign forever.

What is your expectation of Jesus? Like the Jewish people, if circumstances don't turn out as you expect, do you say of Jesus, "Away with Him?" Read Matthew 21:1-11 and Luke 19:35-38 each day this week; take inventory of your life as you prepare to teach. Consider the incredible gift of Jesus. Thank Him that He wasn't the Messiah the Jews expected; but, as a humble servant, He came to die on the cross to redeem all men back to God. Rejoice in the fact that He is coming again!

Set Up

- **The week before class:** Learn the story and consider how you will use the provided props.
- **The day of class:**
 - For Learning Activity #2: Cut napkin and 4" yarn lengths for tunic for clothespin "Jesus." Cut cardstock donkey bodies and fabric to put over each donkey's back so the clothespin Jesus will fit tightly.
 - Hide palm branches around the room.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Story – "Riding into Jerusalem"**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story on pages 378-383 from *The Praise Bible*.
- **Song – "Jesus, Jesus Went to Town"**
 - **Instructions:** The following words are sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle:"

Jesus, Jesus went to town

Riding on a donkey

The people waved their palms and sang

He is the King of everything

Introduction Lg. Group

Game – Seek & Find

Today, we are going to talk about what happened to Jesus right before He died on the cross. First we are going to play a game. Hidden around the room are palm branches (show example) we need for our story. When you find one branch, hold on to it and have a seat.

Transition

Now that you are all seated I want to tell you about a time when a crowd of people had palm branches.

Lesson Lg. Group

A long time ago, when Jesus lived on the earth, some people called Romans made bad choices (hold up the picture of the soldier). They were so mean that they would beat the Jewish people with (hold up the whip, ask if they can guess what it is) a whip. They sometimes put stones or bone pieces on the ends to make it hurt more. It hurt way more than falling down and cutting your knee. "Have you fallen down?" "Did it hurt?" A whip hurt much more than that! The people wanted to be rescued from these Roman soldiers and they knew from reading (hold up a Bible, ask if they know what it is) the Bible, that God was going to send them a (hold up a crown, ask who wears one) king to save them. The new king would kick the old king out and he would be the GOOD ruler. Well, all the people had heard about (hold up a picture of Jesus, ask who it is) Jesus. They were excited because they thought He was the (hold up the crown, allow the children to say king) King. And do you know what? Jesus is King of everything!

Lesson Continued

Jesus and His friends were walking into Jerusalem; Jesus was on a (hold up the donkey picture) donkey. The people were so excited that they went to meet Him. When Jesus arrived in town, there were (hold up the picture of people along the road) people everywhere. They were yelling, "Hosanna," which means save us; "Hooray Jesus!" "Your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey..." They had a parade for Jesus. The people laid palm branches down for the donkey to walk on.

Transition

Let's have a parade for Jesus like the Jews did.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama – Triumphal Entry Reenactment

Instructions: Teacher dressed like Jesus, "rides" in on the donkey's (another teacher's) back. "Donkey" should put ears on and make sounds like a donkey. Have the children line up in two lines on either side of the "path" with their branches. The children and teacher will wave their palm branches and shout "Hosanna and Hooray Jesus, Jesus is King of everything" as they go through the line.

Transition

Everyone sit down so we can finish our lesson.

Lesson Continued

Jesus is the King of everything, but the people didn't understand that he wouldn't be the king of their country and that He would die. Jesus is a GOOD king and He wants us to know that He loves us very much. He wants to be the king of our hearts.

Jesus showed His love for us when He died on the cross and took the consequence for our bad choices. What are some of the bad choices you make? Disobeying Mommy and Daddy is a bad choice. When you disobey you get a consequence, don't you? All of us disobey God and our consequence is that we can't be His friends. But when Jesus died on the cross He took the consequence we deserve so we can be forgiven and be His friends forever. If you tell Jesus you want Him to take the consequence for your bad choices, He will forgive you and will be your friend. You will know that He loves you and wants you to follow Him because that is what is best for you. Then He will be the king of your heart and help you to make good choices. He can do that because Jesus is King of everything.

Transition

Let's get into small groups now to talk and pray.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

People thought Jesus was the king who was going to take over their country and save them from the mean Romans.

- What did Jesus do instead of becoming the king of their country? (Instead of becoming the ruler of their country, Jesus is the King of everything because He died on the cross to take the consequence we deserve for all our bad choices.)

Learning Activity#2 Continued

- Did Jesus deserve the consequence He took – to die on the cross? (No. When we take a consequence, it is because we have made a bad choice. Jesus took our consequence, even though He never did anything wrong.)

Let's pray together now. Let's say thank you to Jesus, for dying on the cross to take the consequence we deserve. We can thank God that Jesus is the King of everything!

Transition

Let's make a craft to remind us that, "Your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey..." Jesus is King of everything.

Learning Activity#3 Lg. Group

Craft – Donkeys with Jesus

Instructions: Give each child a donkey body, a fleece square, 2 spring clothespins and one roundhead clothespin. Draw eyes and mouth on donkey body and color the body gray or brown. Glue the fleece square to the donkey's back around both sides. Attach the spring clothespins to the body for the donkey's legs. Draw a face on the round head of the clothespin. Glue the fabric to the clothespin and tie yarn around the neck to make "Jesus." Put the clothespin "Jesus" on the donkey's back.

Optional Activity

Free Play Suggestions:

- Re-enact story using real palm branches, carpet squares (instead of garments), and rhythm instruments.
- Sing the song as you parade around the room with the palm branches.