



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Young Preschool • #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">• The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small palm branches, 15/room <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Jesus◦ Donkey◦ Crowd• Bible• Crown <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus costume• Donkey ears copied on gray cardstock• Gray or black headband	<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triumphal Entry color page, 1/child• Palm leaf stickers on Avery 5160 labels, 3/child• 1½" x 2" multi-colored post-it notes, several/class

*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

Young Preschool • #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 hide palm branches around the room. (Note: the palm branches are a shared supply and should remain in the classroom for the next CT to use.)

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Story – "Make Way for the King pp 464-469 OR "The True King" pp 427-432**
 - **Instructions:** Read the above story from the Beginner's Bible.

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, the people were looking (put hand to eyes, looking) for a king. God had told them in the Bible (hold up the Bible) that He was going to send them a (hold up a crown, ask who wears one) king to save them. Well, all the people had heard about (hold up a picture of Jesus) 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.

Jesus and His friends went 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 noises 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

Lesson Continued Lg. Group

Everyone sit down so we can finish our lesson.

The people were told, "Your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey..." Jesus is King of everything. Jesus is a very good king. He loves everyone.

Jesus showed His love for all people when He took the consequence for our bad choices. What are some of the bad choices you make? Disobeying Mommy and Daddy is a bad choice. We all disobey God so we all have a consequence. The consequence for disobeying God is that we can't be His friends. When we thank Jesus for taking our consequence we become His friends. He will be our very good king and helps us obey Him. I am so happy that Jesus is King of everything.

Let's pray together now. Let's say thank-you to Jesus, for dying on the cross. You can tell Him that you want him to take the consequence for your bad choices. That's what it means to ask Jesus to be your friend. A teacher can help you if you would like. We can thank God that Jesus is King of everything.

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Let's make a craft to remind us that the people had a parade because Jesus is King of everything.

Craft – Triumphal Entry Coloring page

Instructions: Give each child a color page with the key verse and picture of Triumphal Entry. Color the page, add post-its to represent garments and palm leaf stickers.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Free Play Suggestions:

Re-enact story using real palm branches, carpet squares (instead of garments), and rhythm instruments.