

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Twenty Nine - Triumphal Entry

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

When Jesus entered into Jerusalem, he was welcomed in as a king would be. Just a week later, the crowd stopped shouting praise and began shouting for his death. He was not the king they were looking for. Pray that we can help our kids see Jesus is the King we all need, even if he is not what we expect.

- **Big Idea:** Jesus is not the king they expected, but he is the King we need!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**
Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.
- **Parade**
Ask the kids if they've ever been to a parade. What did they like about it? What was celebrated? Was a certain person or holiday honored? If there is time, have your own little parade in the classroom.

Sing Together

Story - from Matthew 21

Jesus and his followers were making their way to Jerusalem. On their way, they arrived at a place called Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions:

“Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tied there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If the owner asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.”

This fulfilled what was told much earlier by the prophet:

“Tell Zion’s daughter,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the baby of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from palm trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!”

“Hosanna in highest heaven!”

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What’s going on here? Who is this?” The parade crowd answered, “This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Kings would have had similar entrances into their city after having victory in battle. They would have rode in on a horse though. Why do you think Jesus rode on a donkey instead of a horse?
 - *Donkeys were unclean animals - it showed humility from Jesus*
 - *Horses were a symbol of war, but donkeys were a symbol of peace - Jesus is the Prince of Peace*
- Jesus did not go to battle with Rome or any other kingdom to get this entrance — although the Jews expected him to go do battle against Rome. Instead, he was about to do battle against something far greater. What was Jesus going to conquer?
- Hosanna means ‘save us now’. The crowd was quoting from Psalm 118. They wanted Jesus to save them from Rome, but what do we really need Jesus to save us from?
- What does it mean that Jesus is King over all of creation?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, we thank you for sending us the King we need. Thank you for welcoming us into the Kingdom. Thank you for rescuing your people! Amen.

- **Craft:**

- You may choose to have the kids create a palm branch from their own hands. Have them trace their hand three times on green paper, cut the hands out, and attach them to a pipe cleaner or popsicle stick to create a palm branch. The end result will look like this:



- OR you may use the sheet attached. Have kids color the different objects from the story, cut them out, and glue them to another sheet to recreate the scene.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Sabbath** rhythm. In Jesus' kingdom we will find true rest! Find ways to rest and enjoy God's creation as a family this week.

