



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 44

Worship the King of Peace

Take Home Point: *In worship, God comes to us and we go to him with our praise.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 21:1-11

Key Verse: Matthew 21:9 "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

We will help kids know:

- The story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
- Worship is meeting with God as he comes to us in Word and Sacrament and we go to him in praise and thanksgiving.




We will help kids feel:

- Worshipful.
- Delighted in their Lord.

We will help kids do:

- Create an obstacle course to help demonstrate clutter that gets in the way of their worship.
- Create a straight path once they shift their focus from themselves to God.
- Praise God with a sweet worship time.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	<p>We often let a lot of clutter or obstacles get between us and God. Have the kids make an obstacle course to represent this. They will then try to get a ball (that represents worship) through the obstacle course to a hole (that represents the ways God comes to us in worship).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roll of masking tape for each group • approximately eight craft sticks for each child • half sheet of poster board with a hole large enough for a ping-pong ball or marble. Around the hole print "Bible, Baptism, Lord's Supper." The sides of the poster board should be folded up an inch • marble or ping-pong ball for each group
Large Group 	4-5 8-10 10 10-11 12	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace"</p> <p>Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i></p> <p>Optional Activity: "Eyewitness Special Report"</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy dressed as a news reporter (possibly with glasses and a tie) • Ahab, a camel puppet (or other animal) • news desk with a sign on the front that reads, "Passover Week 30 A.D." • banner that reads, "News Center K-I-N-G" • video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i> (Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997) cued to Matthew 21:1-11 <p><i>For optional activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reporter (could be the large group presenter or an actor) • video camera • TV or imager • cord to connect the video camera and imager • microphone for the children
Small Group Application 	5-7	<p>The "obstacles" from your obstacle course (warm-up) are broken and refigured as a way to show repentance and looking to Jesus in worship instead of thinking about ourselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • same supplies as used in small group warm-up

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

After greeting the children, ask:

What do you think worship means? How many of you love going to worship?

Hopefully, you have many who love to worship. But do not be surprised by the number of children who say they do not like to worship.

Sometimes how we feel gets in the way of our worship. We may just not want to be there. (Give personal examples from your life.)

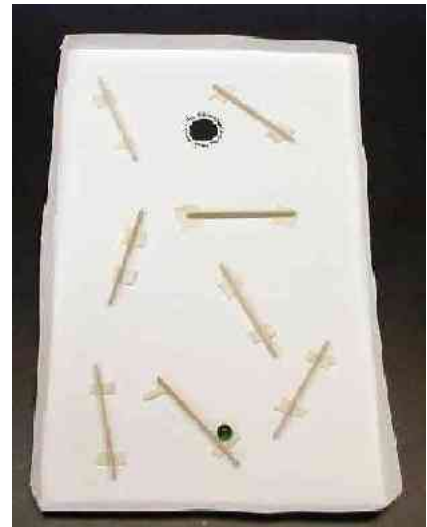
Today, we are going to make an obstacle course that shows us what happens when obstacles or things get in the way of our worship.

Begin by tearing four 1½-inch strips of masking tape for each child and ask them to roll each piece into a loop with the sticky side out. Give each child four craft sticks and place the poster board in the middle of the group.

Have you ever had a time when you just didn't want to come to worship? If so, take one of your masking tape "rolls" and stick it to the short edge of one of your craft sticks. Then stick your craft stick anywhere on this poster board.

The craft sticks make an obstacle course on the board. Balls (or marbles) will later be rolled past these obstacles in an effort to get to the hole.

Ask the following questions as you build your obstacle course.



Have you ever found it easier to talk to a friend than to worship?

Have you ever been trying to worship and you didn't know the words or the melody to a song?

Have you ever had a day when you were mad at your mom or dad or something went wrong and you didn't feel like worshipping?

Have you ever had a time when you felt like you didn't know God or that he was very far away?

By this time, you should have developed quite an obstacle course. Show the kids the ball and say:

We can see there can be many things that can get in the way of our worship. Let's pretend that this ball represents us when we worship. What happens when we try to roll this ball through the obstacle course and into the hole? Let's have four people each take a corner of the poster board and see if we can tilt it gently in such a way that you can get the ball through the hole.

Talk about how it was almost impossible to get the ball through the hole.

Today we will learn that **in worship, God comes to us and we go to him with our praise.* Around this hole are written the things that God uses to come to us in worship. How does he come to us? (*God comes to us through the Bible, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.*)

You can see by the obstacle course we made that we often let a lot of clutter or obstacles get between us and God. Today we are going to learn how to prepare the path; how to clear out the clutter and *truly* worship. In our Bible event in large group, watch how the people truly worshiped Jesus.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace"
In this sketch, Gordy is a news reporter for news station K-I-N-G. He interviews a camel about the event of Jesus entering Jerusalem during Passover, the week before his crucifixion.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew 21:1-11*

Optional Activity: "Eyewitness Special Report"

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace"

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Matthew 21:1-11 in their Bibles.

Why did Jesus choose a donkey to ride into Jerusalem? *(Matthew 21:4-5. To fulfill the prophecy that Jesus was the promised King.)*

How did the people prepare the road for Jesus? *(Matthew 21:8. They got rid of the clutter and spread palm branches and their coats on the road before Jesus.)*

What did they shout to him? *(Matthew 21:9. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!")*

This is our key verse (Matthew 21:9). **Let's learn it together.**

You can split your group into three groups, each repeating a sentence to practice the verse.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why were the people treating Jesus like this? Who did they think he was? *(He was their King.)*

Let's look at the three lines of our key verse. Why do you think they are shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David"? *(They are praising Jesus for who he is. Jesus was a descendant of Israel's King David. Hosanna means "Save now, O Lord.")*

Next, the people shouted, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." What had Jesus done for them while on earth? Do you think the people felt Jesus had blessed them and so they were blessing him back? What ways had the people been blessed by Jesus? *(His teaching, his miracles, his healings, etc.)*

Finally, they shouted, "Hosanna in the highest!" How do you think the people that were shouting felt about Jesus at this time? *(They*

loved him very much!)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

As we began today, we talked about obstacles that get in the way of our worship. I want you to listen to all the questions you answered and find the word that shows up in each question.

With the younger kids, you may have to emphasize the word “*you*” every time you come to it.

Have *you* ever had a time when *you* didn’t want to come to worship? Have *you* ever found it easier to talk to a friend than to worship? Have *you* ever been trying to worship and *you* didn’t know the words or the melody for a song? Have *you* ever had a day when *you* just didn’t feel very good when *you* went to worship? Have *you* ever had a time when *you* felt like *you* didn’t know God or that he was very far away?

What word did you find in all of those questions? (*You.*)

Many times in worship, we are too worried about ourselves. When our focus is on us and not the Lord, it blocks us from worshipping. Let’s focus on the opposite.

Application Activity:

Take off all the craft sticks and tape from the poster board used for the warm-up activity and flip the poster board over.

I am removing these “obstacles” and flipping this board over to look at the opposite side. This symbolizes what we should do in worship. Instead of looking at ourselves, we should look to Jesus when we worship.

Let’s write “Jesus, King of Peace” right around the hole that we want our ball to travel through. We are going to prepare a path for the King just like the people did in the Bible event today.

Take your craft sticks and bend them until they barely break. Don’t break them into two separate pieces. Breaking the sticks will remind us that often we need to become broken or confess our sins to truly worship. When we come before God in worship we want to remember how much we need him.

Think back to what the people first shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. They said, "Hosanna to the Son of David." Can you think of a way to praise *God* for who he is? What could you say? Say your praise aloud, and then lay your stick on the board making a segment of the pathway to the center hole.

The sticks now have an angle so they will stand on their sides easier. Put the sticks together making a path leading to the center hole. You can use a little masking tape to tape them down.

Now, *thank* God for what he has done just like the people on Palm Sunday did. Put down another stick to continue the boardwalk.



The children may lay down a second stick.

Laying down another stick, tell God that you *love* him.

These sticks remind us of the people worshipping Jesus as he rode by on a donkey. The sticks will also act like a curb to keep the ball going in the right direction. Let's roll the ball along the path and see how easy it is to come to God in worship.

God is faithful. He always **comes to us in worship and we go to him with our praise*. We just talked about ways to praise God, thank God, and love God. What word is the same in all these phrases? It is *God*. When we take our eyes off of ourselves and put them on God, we can truly worship.

Closing Prayer:

Give thanks to God for sending Jesus to be our King of Peace. Pray to remember that in worship we need to focus on God and not to be distracted with thoughts about ourselves.

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“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace”

Puppet Presentation

Setting:

A desk is at the center of News Studio K-I-N-G. A banner is hung above the desk that reads “News Center K-I-N-G.” On the front of the desk should be a sign that reads “Passover Week 30 A.D.”

Characters:

Gordy: dressed as a news reporter, possibly wearing a tie and glasses

Ahab: camel (or other animal as is available in your puppet menagerie)

Mr. King: large group presenter

Mr. King: Boys and girls, I would like you to travel with me to an onsite location with News Center K-I-N-G. Here in Jerusalem it is Passover week, 30 A.D. And whom do we have as our newscaster but Gordy himself.

Gordy: Hi, Mr. King! Hi, boys and girls! Oh, I mean... *(Lowering voice to sound more mature.)* Good morning and welcome to K-I-N-G reporting. I am the anchor-newscaster-reporter...

Mr. King: *(Interrupting.)* Gordy, you’re an anchor? What do you mean you’re an anchor?

Gordy: Don’t interrupt me. Being an anchor means I’m the main guy telling about the news.

Mr. King: Oh, sorry.

Gordy: Anyway...With me today is Ahab the Arab camel.

Ahab: *Uh, good morning. Yep, good morning.*

Gordy: And we’re telling you about the remarkable events happening here outside Jerusalem as crowds are gathering along the road. Something special is happening indeed.

Ahab: *Yep, something special, I’ll tell you what. I’ll tell you what it is. The people are starting a restaurant for camels.*

Gordy: What?! A restaurant for camels?

Ahab: *It must be so. You see, I love to eat the little leaves on palm branches. So there I was, munching away when suddenly all these screaming people came gathering around me and started taking away my lunch.*

Gordy: Taking away your lunch?

Ahab: *That's right! They were grabbing the palm branches and running away with them and I just assumed they must have been starting a restaurant for camels.*

Gordy: Well, there you have it! Outside of Jerusalem a new restaurant featuring palm branches is opening just for camels.

Mr. King: Now wait a minute, Gordy. Are you sure that's what is happening?

Gordy: I don't make the news. I just report it.

Mr. King: But, Gordy, there might be another use for those palm branches.

Gordy: Other uses?! Like what? It's not like you can make a carpet with them or something.

Mr. King: Gordy, that's exactly the case. In Jesus' time, when a king would visit the city, people would spend a lot of time preparing the road for the king. They made a carpet for him. That carpet could be made out of palm branches or even out of their own coats.

Gordy: Wow, what a carpet!

Ahab: *Wow! What a waste of food!*

Mr. King: Wow is right! It's a way to welcome a king. And if the king were a king of war, he would come riding in on a stallion. But if he were a king of peace, he would ride on a donkey. I wonder what kind of king is coming that the people would welcome him in such a way.

Ahab: *I hope he's not a hungry king, 'cause he'd be eating my breakfast.*

Gordy: Oh, Ahab, people don't eat palm branches anyway.

Ahab: *Well, then he'd be trampling all over my breakfast.*

Gordy: Why don't you wait until he's through and then you can have all the breakfast you want.

Ahab: *Great idea! Well, let's go live and see the event so I can get my breakfast.*

Gordy: Okay viewers, let's take a look. You are seeing the King of Peace coming to Jerusalem live here first on K-I-N-G.

Show The *Visual Bible*: Matthew 21:1-11. After the video, go to the optional activity, "Eye Witness Special Report." Then conclude with the puppet script.

Eyewitness Special Report

Optional Activity

The following is an *optional* activity that might supplement the puppet presentation or even replace it. It can be abbreviated easily since you can determine the number of questions asked to the audience. A K-I-N-G reporter (the large group presenter or an actor) goes into the audience with another person shooting video of the interviews. If a video camera is hooked up to a television with a cable, the kids interviewed will be "live" on the newscast.

Following the Matthew 21:1-11 video, the screen should flash "Special Report" and then go to K-I-N-G reporter who interviews kids in the audience.

Hello, I'm _____, K-I-N-G's Eyewitness Reporter. I'm standing here in the city of Jerusalem. From what I understand, there has just been some type of parade. Although it seems to be over now, there are still quite a few people milling around. Let me see if I can talk to some of the "eyewitnesses" and find out exactly what just took place.

The reporter then goes into the "crowd" and begins to ask questions with anticipation and excitement. Don't let it drag.



As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, what did Jesus ask two of his disciples to do? (*Go into the village and find a donkey and its colt and bring them to him.*)



Now I don't know about you, but if someone came up to my house and asked to borrow my car and I didn't know them, I don't think I would be so willing. What did Jesus tell the disciples they were to say if the person who owned the donkey questioned them? (*Tell them that the Lord needs the donkeys and that person would send them right away.*)

I understand it was so important that the disciples go and get this donkey and its colt to fulfill a prophecy about Israel's king coming on a donkey's colt. A prophecy is something that will happen in the future.



By this time, people had started to gather around Jesus. Can you tell me how many people came to see Jesus? Was the crowd small, medium, or large? (*Large.*)



As Jesus began riding into Jerusalem, what were people holding? (*Palm branches.*)



I just came up the road and it is absolutely covered with palm branches and cloaks. Do you know who covered the road like that? (*The people.*)



Do you know why the people laid their cloaks and the palms down in front of Jesus? (*Because they were welcoming him just like a king.*)



From what I heard, the crowd was extremely noisy. Unfortunately, I couldn't make out what they were saying. Do you know what the people were yelling? (*"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*)



I understand that hosanna means "save now"? Why do you think the crowd would have called that out to Jesus? (*They believed Jesus was the King who would save them.*)



One last question. Based on what you saw here today, was everybody happy to see Jesus? (*No, the priest and teachers of the Law weren't happy to see him.*)

Thanks to the help of these great eyewitnesses, I think we can piece the story together now. It seems that it was Jesus who was the center of the parade today. The people of the city treated him like royalty as he entered, lining the road with palm branches and even their cloaks, shouting "Hosanna" as this humble King entered the city's gates.

I say "humble King" because of the way he came into the city. Jesus didn't thunder in on a majestic horse with a thousand troops behind him. No, this King chose to enter on a simple donkey's colt, a gentle animal. His entrance didn't demand praise like some officials. The people who shouted his praises today did so freely because they wanted to. Jesus is truly the King of Peace.

That's all for now. I'm going to see if I can catch up with Jesus. I think he may still be in the city. Stay tuned as we follow this exciting story. This is _____, K-I-N-G's Eyewitness Reporter

“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Peace”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

- Gordy: There you have it—Jesus coming as a King of Peace. And he left in his track throngs of cheering people.
- Ahab:** *And a whole new salad bar of palm branches. Hey, this story is done. I have to go help with clean up.*
- Mr. King:** And I have to dismiss the kids...after we pray together. Kids, today we saw how Jesus the king came to the people and they gave him their praise. This applies to us that **in worship, God comes to us and we go to him with our praise*. Gordy, would you please say a prayer.
- Gordy: Sure, Mr. King. Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Son as a King of Peace. We need peace in our lives and we need a king in our lives. Lord God, please come to us when we worship and let us offer you our praise and thanksgiving. In Jesus' name, Amen.