



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Gave Himself For Me
Winter Year 1, Lesson 43

Palm Sunday: The King's Parade

Bible Event: Matthew 21:1-11

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR KING – *Praise Jesus.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: When we praise Jesus, we are worshipping God.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that Jesus was God's son, who was recognized here on earth as a special king. When Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, people cheered for him and threw their coats down in front of him. They waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David." Jesus was a king, who was coming into Jerusalem to give his life for us by dying on the cross. The children will experience: ***JESUS IS OUR KING—Praise Jesus.**
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs, their offerings and their actions of love in their worship experience.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Bed Bug Bible Gang, *Easter Party*, Morning Light Media, 2000

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Puppet Presentation and Simple Story Telling

Reading a Bible story or telling a Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures. After the puppet presentation, tell the Bible event while reading the Bible.

A King's Parade

Bubba, the puppet will help introduce the Bible event through interacting with the presenter.

The following sections are titled so that the main idea can be remembered as the puppet and presenter ad lib.

Bubba Wants a Big Entrance:

Bubba, the puppet, won't come out because he wants to make a grand entrance. He wants the kids to clap for him. The presenter stands and claps. He then encourages the kids to join him in standing and clapping. He even throws confetti and shouts, "YAY." Bubba finally comes out and takes a bow. The presenter asks Bubba why he needed to make a grand entrance. Bubba just thought he was a special enough person to make a big entrance. The presenter assures Bubba that he is a special person, but would like to tell him about someone who is so important that there was a whole parade for him. Who is this? This is Jesus. When he was going in to Jerusalem as king of a heavenly kingdom. He was going to Jerusalem to give his life for us on the cross.

No Big Parade Car, Just a Donkey.

The presenter tells how Jesus rode into town on a donkey. Bubba interrupts and says that can't be right – it must have been a big white horse or a parade car. The presenter says “No, it was just a donkey. Jesus wasn't charging in on a horse or trying to show off how important he was. He was humble.”

No Red Carpet, But Palm Branches and Coats.

Bubba asks if there was a big red carpet since that's what we do today for people who are very important – like kings. We put down big red carpets for them to work on. The presenter says, “No, the people laid their clothes and coats down for him to ride on.” Bubba asks, “Were they shouting and celebrating?” The presenter says, “Yes, they were shouting ‘Hosanna’ and waving palm branches.” Bubba asks where the firecrackers were. The presenter explains that they didn't have them back then.

No Castle, But a Kingdom and Our Hearts.

“What kind of king was Jesus going to be?” asks Bubba. “Was he going into Jerusalem to build a big castle?” The presenter replies that, no, Jesus wasn't that kind of king. He didn't want to rule from a big castle here on earth, Jesus wanted to rule in our hearts. To do that, Jesus would give his life for us on the cross. He was a king who was going to die on the cross to save us. Jesus loved us that much. Remember: ***JESUS IS OUR KING – Praise Jesus!**

With that, the presenter invites Bubba and the children to listen to him while he reads the Bible event from a story bible. (Recommended: *The Beginner's Bible*, “Make way for the King.”)

Pray with the children, having them repeat each phrase.

Dear God, (repeat)

Thank you for being here. (repeat)

Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)

Jesus is our King. (repeat)

He takes care of all our needs. (repeat)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)

Amen. (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Frost an oval shaped cracker, like “Townhouse” brand with green frosting to create a palm branch. Use a pretzel stick for the stem. Option: green Jell-o jigglers and a leaf shaped cookie cutter.

Drama Zone: Create a “praise procession.” Provide musical instruments, paper or plastic palm branches. Children can act out the crowd or crawl on all fours as donkeys.

Craft Zone: Paper palm branch. Have children cut the palm branch shape out of white or green paper. Color if necessary and cut slats into the leaf to resemble a palm branch. Glue or tape leaf to a paint-stirring stick. Attach premade label “Praise King Jesus.”

Messy Zone Provide a large sheet of white butcher paper. Label the sheet “Palm Praises.” Have children use green Tempura paint to make handprints on the paper in the shape of palm branches. Option: Place paper over a real or plastic palm branch and use crayons to make a rubbing of the palm branch.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books.

Music Zone: *Hail, Jesus, You’re Our King.* Combine music zone with drama zone.

Coloring Zone: Color page with markers and crayons.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba has some questions about how to praise Jesus. In Jesus' time, people waved branches and laid their clothes down. Is that what Bubba should do today to show how he praises Jesus? The presenter tells Bubba that he has asked an excellent question. Today we don't wave palm branches or lay down our clothes to make a path, but there are lots of other important ways to show Jesus our praise. The presenter tells Bubba that he will have some of the children act out some of the ways we praise king Jesus. Then Bubba can guess what they're doing. Use child volunteers to act out the following activities. The presenter whispers to each volunteer, one at a time, ideas on how to act each item out. Bubba should make some silly guesses first and then get the help of other children in figuring out what they are doing. The presenter can briefly explain how each one is important. Act out:

- Praying
- Singing
- Dancing
- Thinking quietly
- Actions to others (like a hug)

Remember: ***JESUS IS OUR KING – Praise Jesus!**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video: Bed Bug Bible Gang: *Easter Party*, produced by Morning Light Media, 2000—order from: http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_1580.vhtml
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Action Zones:

Snack:

- round or oval crackers
- green frosting
- stick pretzels
- option: green Jell-O jigglers
- a leaf shaped cookie cutter

Craft:

- paper palm branch
- white and green paper
- paint stirring sticks
- labels: “Praise King Jesus”

Drama:

- music instruments
- paper/plastic palm branches

Messy:

- large sheet of white butcher paper
- labels: “Palm Praise
- Tempura paint

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- *Hail, Jesus, You’re My King* on Victory Chant CD—WOW Orange—order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B00004S95V/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance>

Coloring:

- coloring pages
- markers and crayons

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books