



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 44

Jesus is the Messiah

Primary Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 The King comes to Jerusalem

Key Verse: Matthew 16:15 and 16, “He [*Jesus*] asked them, ‘But who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to understand the full picture of who Jesus is. He is more than a great teacher or religious leader. He is God’s Son who died and rose again to pay the debt for our sins. He is called in Hebrew “Messiah,” which in the Greek language is “Christ.” This title means “the anointed one.” He was anointed by God to be our ruler and our Savior.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus, the Messiah, delivered salvation not from political foes like the Romans, but delivered us from our sin and guilt before God.

Jesus in us: Jesus, the Messiah, was victorious and rose again so that he could dwell through his Holy Spirit in the lives of all believers.

Jesus through us: Jesus, the Messiah, sends us out as anointed ones to tell others who he is.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: large piece of paper (poster board) with the word "Messiah" written on it, a rolled up piece of paper about an inch in diameter

Keep the poster board sign face down so that the audience cannot see it beforehand. Invite a child to come forward and see if he/she can read the sign through the tube or rolled up piece of paper.

Give the child the tube of paper. Cover the child's other eye and let him/her peer through the tube of paper with only one eye. Keep the poster board sign only three inches away. Have the rest of the audience keep quiet and watch the student try to make out the word. This will be difficult to do at such a close distance.

After the child has struggled with the task for a bit, back the child up, or move the poster board further away so that there is more distance between the child and the sign. Now ask the child if he/she can read the sign. It is easier once you understand the "big picture."

Today we want to get the "big picture" of who Jesus is. God told his people in the Old Testament that he was sending the Messiah. The word Messiah means "anointed one"—or chosen special by God to be the King. When Jesus came to earth, he claimed to be the Messiah, but some people did not know what that meant.

These people did not see the “big picture.” They thought the Messiah would be someone to free them from the Romans who ruled their country. They did not see Jesus in a big enough way. They needed to back up and get the “big picture” of Jesus, the Messiah, and see him as the one who freed them from something more hurtful than the Roman soldiers. We will talk about that today as we welcome Jesus, the Messiah, in our worship.

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday when Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem for his last Passover. Over 500 years before this event, the prophet Zechariah wrote, “Rejoice with all your heart, people of Zion! ...Look! Your King is coming to you: He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and rides on a donkey, on a colt, a young pack animal.” (Zechariah 9:9)

Let’s rejoice with all our hearts as we worship him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: tube from the Attention Grabber

Open the Bible to Isaiah.

Many people wondered who the Messiah would be. Over 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah talked of the Promised One—the Messiah. As I read this verse in the Bible, listen to see how you think Jesus fits this description.

Look through the paper tube as you read Isaiah 53:5 and 12b:

“He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we receive healing from his wounds.” It also says in Isaiah 53:12b, “...he poured out his life in death and he was counted with sinners. He carried the sins of many...”

Now when we see the big picture...

Back up and focus on the cross on the altar or another cross of your choice.

...we see that the Messiah was the one punished for our sin.

Let's ask him to lift away any sin that we have in our life and give us forgiveness.

Dear God, thank you for sending the Messiah, Jesus. We thank him for taking away our sin—any of the bad things we have done. He was punished for us so that we can be forgiven. Please forgive us.

Jesus, come to live in our hearts and help us see that you are always with us. You are a “big enough” God to supply all our needs. In your name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: hula hoop or string

Put the hula hoop on the floor or make a string circle and say:

Let's pretend that this hula hoop or string circle is our offering plate. When you give your offering, step into the “offering circle.”

Even if you don't have money to give, you can still offer yourself back to God. Since Jesus gave himself for us, when we give our possessions to him, it symbolizes that we are giving ourselves back to him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Due to the length of the Bible Presentation video, the game needs to be brief.

Option one: Guessing Game

Show kids a close up picture of something and have them try to guess what it is.

Supplies: three sets of pictures taken beforehand (Examples: 1. a close-up picture of bark on a tree (so close that it is the texture and not the object itself), and a picture of the same tree in a distance shot. 2. a close-up picture of an article of clothing such as the fibers of fabric, and another picture of the whole person wearing it; 3. a close-up picture of something in your classroom, and another picture of the entire object)

This works easily if you can put pictures on Power Point software.

Show the first picture of each set, and ask the kids to tell what they think the object is. Then show them the second picture of each set.

Teaching point:

Sometimes when we look at something, it doesn't make sense until we back up and see the "big picture." Jesus wants us to see the big picture of who he is – the Messiah. He is the one who gave his life for us.

Notice that in each of our examples when we showed the "bigger" picture, we could also see other details. So it is with Jesus. He is not just a man, or a great teacher, or a great prophet. He is the King. He is the Promised One who was told about hundreds of years before in the Old Testament. He is the Anointed One, the Messiah, and the Christ who gave himself for the sin of the world.

Option two: I Spy

Select something in the room. Have the children ask “yes” and “no” questions as clues to guess what the item is. Determine how many questions they can ask before guessing the item. (For example, they can ask nine “yes” or “no” questions and the tenth should be guessing the item.)

Conclude the game by having the children guess something big in the room, such as an entire wall, allowing them to get the “big picture” of who Jesus is.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: video, The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Messiah Comes, produced by Nest Family Entertainment, 2003

Introduction to the video:

In the video this morning, a man named Cleopas tried to understand what Jesus meant when he said he was the Messiah. The word Messiah means “anointed one.” It is another way of saying the “chosen one.”

In the Old Testament, God had kings anointed. That means that oil was poured on the head of the new king. In the Old Testament, many years before Jesus was born, God promised to send the Messiah who would save people. God would anoint him with great power. God chose Jesus to be King of Kings, the Anointed One.

Listen for the word “Messiah.” Whenever you hear the word, as soon as it is said, snap your fingers. Also listen for the words and snap when you hear: Savior, King, or Son of God. You will discover that Jesus was all of these...Messiah, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Son of God, the Christ and our Savior.

Show the video, The Animated Series from the New Testament: *The Messiah Comes* produced by Nest Family Entertainment. Approximately 25 minutes long.

Application:

After the video, ask the following questions:

Who in the video believed Jesus was the Messiah? Who did not believe he was the Messiah?

If Jesus came not to save the people from the Roman government, what did he save them from? *(He save them from the burden of sin and guilt.)*



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Supplies: anointing oil

In the Old Testament, anointing oil was placed on God's chosen people. Today, Jesus' presence, in the form of the Holy Spirit, anoints believers.

1 John 2:27 says, "The anointing you received from Christ lives in you."

Explain to the kids that as they come forward, you will dab oil on their foreheads as a reminder that when they believe in Jesus, his presence lives in them.

Pray over the children that they may know the presence of the Messiah in their lives and come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. You can also pray 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 over kids as a blessing.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

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:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- large piece of paper (poster board) with the word “Messiah” written on it
- rolled up piece of paper about an inch in diameter

Power of the Cross:

- tube from the *Attention Grabber*

Offering:

- hula hoop or string

Learning Game:

Option one: *Guessing Game*

- pictures taken beforehand
- *option:* project these pictures on the screen via PowerPoint

Bible Presentation:

- video, The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Messiah Comes, produced by Nest Family Entertainment, 2003 (www.nestfamily.com). When ordering from Nest Family’s website, go to the menu and link with Children’s Bible Stories. Then type in “messiah” in the search box.

Prayer:

- anointing oil

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