



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

The Triumphal Entry

Take Home Point: Jesus gave his life for us, so we can share him with others. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 12:12-33

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:15, "He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves..."

We will help kids know:

- Jesus, like a seed, "died," is planted in the ground, and then grows more seed. Jesus produces his life in us.
- Followers of Jesus are like seeds that were produced because Jesus gave his life for them.
- The Bible event of the triumphal entry and how Jesus predicted his death and resurrection.




We will help kids feel:

- Deeply thankful at the magnitude of Christ offering his life.
- Eager to share Jesus with others.

We will help kids do:

- "Plant" seeds in plastic bags. As they watch them grow, they will be reminded to pray for Jesus to keep growing in their lives.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	After kids taste a lima bean, they discuss their least favorite foods and least favorite chores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lima beans bowl
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	3 7 10 11	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Stained Socks”—Gordy doesn’t want to eat his lima beans so he secretly hides them in his socks. Video: the <i>Gospel of John</i> ---John 12:12-33 Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Stained Socks”—Gordy learns that eating lima beans is nothing compared to what Jesus had to do. Jesus is like a seed that grows, and makes more seed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy road construction worker outfit sign: On front it says, “Just like a seed planted here below...” (p. 13), and on the back, “Jesus gives his (life) so we could (grow.)” (p. 14) cardboard car from previous lessons <i>Gospel of John</i> video by Visual Bible International, 2003 (Order from www.visualbible.com.)
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	<p>Kids discuss how Jesus died, rose again, and is just like a seed planted in our lives producing many more seeds.</p> <p>The kids “plant” a seed in a plastic bag with a wet cotton ball. As they watch it grow, they are reminded to pray that Jesus continues to grow in their lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lima beans (two per child) pens or small permanent markers plastic zip lock sandwich bags (one per child) cotton balls bowl with water in it

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.

Supplies: a bowl of lima beans

Ask if any kids want to taste a raw lima bean. They don't have to, but see if you can encourage them to be brave enough to try. You might put one in your mouth and describe it to the kids. Then say:

This reminds me of a certain food that I do not like, _____. (Fill in the blank with a food you do not like.)

Ask kids to share their least favorite food. Then say:

Now, tell me one job you have at home that is your least favorite to do.

Do you think Jesus, who is the King of the universe, ever had any job he didn't want to do? We will find out more about that today and how that was similar to this lima bean.

Today we will learn that **Jesus gave his life for us, so we can share him with others.*

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Puppet Presentation: "Gordy's Stained Socks"—Gordy doesn't want to eat his lima beans so he secretly hides them in his socks.

Video: the Gospel of John---John 12:12-33

Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy's Stained Socks"—Gordy learns that eating lima beans is nothing compared to what Jesus had to do. Jesus is like a seed that grows and makes more seed.

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 John 12:12-33 in their Bibles.

What did the people say about Jesus as they waved palm branches when he entered Jerusalem? *(John 12:13. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel!")*

Who did they recognize him as? *(A king.)*

How did Jesus fulfill the prophecies or what scripture said in John 12:14-15? *(He came riding on a donkey.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read John 12:27-28.

In these verses, how do you think Jesus felt? Did he want to die? Why or why not?

Read John 12:24.

How is a grain of wheat like Jesus according to this verse? *(Just like the seed had to die and be planted in the ground to produce a lot of grain, Jesus had to die, be buried and rise again. Many believers are produced when they believe in what Jesus did for them and follow him.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Earlier we talked about things you did not like to eat or do. We also heard how Jesus did not want to die, but he gave his life up for us willingly because he loves us.

Sometimes it is hard for us to serve God or to tell others about Jesus. We may not even want to at times.

Today's key verse from 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves..."

Because Jesus died for us, what should we do? (No longer live for ourselves, but for him.)

What are some ways we can live for Jesus? Is this hard to do?

Application Activity:

Supplies: lima beans, Sharpie® fine point pens or ink pens, sandwich-size plastic bags, cotton balls, bowl with water in it

Take a lima bean and draw a cross on it. Hold up the lima bean with the cross. Say:

This is Jesus' plan. He died, came to life and just like a seed being planted and producing many other seeds, he can now live in our lives. He gives us the power to serve him.

Let's take turns and share one of the best things about Jesus living in your life. It is your choice if you would like to answer or not.

NOTE:

Encourage kids to share, being sensitive to who is talking and who is not. If someone doesn't know for sure that Jesus lives in his/her life, they may be unsure of his/her salvation. Try not to let that person feel conspicuous, but offer something like the following

Have the children bow their heads and follow you in prayer silently.

Dear God, I admit there are wrong things I have done. Pause. I admit that I need Jesus to take away my sin. Pause. I believe when Jesus died on the cross, he paid the price for my sin. Pause. I believe Jesus became alive again to defeat the power of death. Pause. I place my faith and trust in Jesus as my Savior. Pause. I ask Jesus to come and live in my life. Pause. Thank you, God, for making a way for me to live in heaven with you. Pause. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All of us can be sure that Jesus lives in our lives, when we know that our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did for us. It is nothing that we have done. It is simply a matter of trusting him.

God's word says it and you can believe it. You can know for sure that Jesus is your Savior. Let's all think about this prayer together.

Pass out a lima bean, plastic bag, cotton ball, and pen to each kid.

I would like each of you to take a lima bean and gently draw a cross on it. This will remind you how Jesus planted his life in yours. Now, place this lima bean in a zip lock bag with a wet cotton ball.

Have each kid wet a cotton ball in a bowl of water.

When you get home, tape this to a window with the lima bean facing the sun. As you watch it grow, ask Jesus to continue to grow in your life.

Now, take one more lima bean and write the initials of one of your friends who may not know Jesus. Take this home also as a reminder to pray every day for this friend that he/she would come to know Jesus. Also pray that God would use you to share Jesus with this friend. Maybe you could invite him/her to church with you some Sunday.

Remember **Jesus gave his life for us, so we can share him with others.*

Closing Prayer:

Have each child pray specifically for the friend whose name they wrote on the lima bean. Have them include other prayer needs. Close by thanking Jesus that **he gave his life for us so we can share him with others.*

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible. Order from: www.visualbible.com

Supplies: road construction worker outfit, sign on stick, the car used in previous lesson

Gordy's Stained Socks Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Hello kids! Let's welcome Gordy.

Kids call for Gordy. Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.

Gordy comes up.

Presenter: Hi, Gordy, how are you today?

Gordy: I am ready to throw up!

Presenter: What's the matter?

Gordy: Lima beans! First, I have to eat them at home and now they have invaded my church! I am ready to throw up!

Presenter: Oh, no you're not. You didn't have to eat lima beans in your small group.

Gordy: Yes, I did. Someone dared me to. They are as bad here as they are at home. What's with the lima beans anyway?

Presenter: We were talking about doing things that sometimes we don't like to do. For example, Gordy, what is one thing that you don't like to do that you have to do?

Gordy: I don't like it when I have to wash the green out of my socks.

Presenter: What?

Gordy: Wash the green out of my socks.

Presenter: How do you get green in your socks?

Gordy: Sometimes I end up with lima beans in my socks and my mom makes me wash them.

Presenter: How do lima beans get into your socks?

Gordy: Well, when we have lima beans for dinner, they just happen to end up in my socks.

Presenter: How do they get from your plate into your socks?

Gordy: They jump. They are jumping lima beans!

Presenter: Gordy, there is no such thing as jumping lima beans. I think you take the lima beans and put them in your socks so you don't have to eat them!

Gordy: Like I said, I really don't like lima beans.

Presenter: But, then you have to wash your socks.

Gordy: Yeah, sometimes those lima beans leak out of my socks and my mom sees them.

Presenter: And you get busted!

Gordy: Yeah.

Presenter: Gordy, you should get busted. You weren't obeying your mom by hiding those beans instead of eating them.

Gordy: But, I really don't like lima beans!

Presenter: That is not an excuse. Today we will find out that lima beans, in a way, remind us of Jesus.

Gordy: You mean we can stuff Jesus in our socks?

Presenter: Gordy, don't be ridiculous.

Gordy: So, how is Jesus like lima beans?

Presenter: Well, a lima bean is a seed, right?

Gordy: I guess so. A very bad tasting seed.

Presenter: If you put a lima bean in the dirt, what would happen?

Gordy: It would get dirty.

Presenter: Gordy, if you put it in the garden under the dirt, water it, and let the sun shine on it, what will happen?

Gordy: The lima bean would grow into a lima bean tree?

Presenter: A lima bean plant. What does this plant produce?

Gordy: Oh, no, don't tell me.

Presenter: Yes, it produces more lima beans—a lot of lima beans.

Gordy: That's what I thought, lima beans are taking over the world.

Presenter: Now, our point today is that if you plant a seed in the ground, it will grow into a plant that produces more seeds. A lima bean seed grows into a plant that produces more seeds.

Gordy: So, what does that have to do with Jesus?

Presenter: Very good question, Gordy. Jesus had to do something that he did not like doing. But, because he did it, he produced many more seeds.

Gordy: What did Jesus not like doing?

Presenter: You will have to guess. Maybe you and the kids can figure it out as we look at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Listen closely to what he said. This is according to the book of John 12-12-33.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003.

Show the clip covering John 12:12-33. Begin with the triumphal entry of Jesus riding and the people shouting “Hosanna.” Stop after showing verse 33, where Jesus says he will draw all men to him.

Signs Along Believers’ Highway

John 12:12-33

The presenter holds the sign that says, “*Just like a seed planted below,*” The back of the sign says, “*Jesus gives his _____ (life) so we could _____ (grow).*”

Be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for a game.

Presenter: I need some volunteers to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Choose one boy, one girl and a shepherd. Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On “Believers’ Highway,” kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let’s go for a ride!

Let’s ask our people in the car a couple questions.

- 1. What were the people waving as Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, and what were they saying?** *(They were waving palm branches and shouting “hosanna” or “blessed is the king.”)*
- 2. Some Greeks asked one of the disciples, Philip, if he could help them meet someone. Who did they want to meet?** *(Jesus.)*
- 3. Jesus told a story about a seed of wheat falling to the ground and “dying.” This seed would produce what?** *(Many more seeds.)*
- 4. How do you think Jesus is like a seed that dies?** *(Jesus had to die on the cross and he produced many followers.)*

5. How do you think Jesus felt knowing he would have to die for the sin of the world? *(He was troubled, but he was willing to do it.)*

Whoever answers the next question first will get the first try at solving the message on our sign. Are you ready?

6. The people thought they heard thunder, but what did they really hear? *(God's voice.)*

I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, "Just like a seed planted below..." and the back says, "Jesus gave his _____ *(life)* so we could _____ *(grow)*." It rhymes with the front of the sign.

_____ (insert the name of the winner of the last question) gets the first chance to solve the rhyme.

After the riddle is guessed, let the volunteers return to their seats.

Gordy's Stained Socks

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, what do you think?

Gordy: Wow, eating lima beans is nothing compared to what Jesus did.

Presenter: What do you mean, Gordy?

Gordy: I don't like eating lima beans, but Jesus had to do something really, really hard. He had to die on the cross for us.

Presenter: How does that make you feel, Gordy?

Gordy: It kinda makes me sad, but also makes me happy.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Gordy: Well, I am sad that Jesus had to suffer for me so my sins would be forgiven. But, I'm really glad he did because now I trust him and have a home in heaven. He is my closest friend.

Presenter: That's why he did it, Gordy, so he could be your friend and live in your heart. He said that "living in your heart" would be his glory. His life in us is like a seed. It is planted in us to produce many more seeds. Jesus wants to live in your life.

Gordy: Wow. Think of that. Jesus himself living in me.

Presenter: Because of that, Gordy, you can take that seed and plant it elsewhere.

Gordy: You're not talking about lima beans in a sock are you?

Presenter: No, of course not. What I am saying is that since Jesus is living in you, you can share with others. That is like seeds being planted and growing.

Gordy: I can think of one of my friends who does not know much about Jesus. I would like to talk to him about Jesus.

Presenter: Fantastic! Gordy, would you please close our time in a word of prayer?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that he gave his life for us, and now his life can live in ours. It was worth it even though he had to do something very hard. Help us to share his life with others. In Jesus' name, Amen. Oh, God one last thing, do I still have to eat lima beans?

**Just like
a seed
planted
below...**

Place this phrase on the back of the sign:

**Jesus
gives his
(*life*) so
we could
(*grow*).**