



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Gave His Life for Me
Winter Year 2, Lesson 42

Here Comes the King

Bible Event: Matthew 21:1-11

Take Home Point: *HERE COMES THE 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: As King, Jesus deserves all our worship, honor and praise.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was a joyous time. He was praised and loved by the people, just like we praise and love him today. This happy time, however, was followed by Jesus going to the cross and dying for our sins. Kids will take home the point: ***HERE COMES THE 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 of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



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: Your choice, if available.

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: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's Word. Briefly summarize the story, and then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

The presenter is going to open the presentation by reading about Jesus' triumphal entry from a Big Book or a children's Bible. As he finishes the event, an adult, dressed as a movie director, is going to interrupt, saying that this is a perfect scene to act out and film. The movie director (*or another adult following the director*) will then use a video camera to record the parade as the children act it out. Use masking tape to mark off the parade route so the children onlookers know where to stand.

Presenter: Let's read a true event from the Bible. It is about Jesus coming into a city named Jerusalem. Lots of people in Jerusalem knew that Jesus was the King of kings and they were very excited that he was coming! Here is how it happened...

Read the account of the triumphal entry from a Big Book or children's Bible.

Director: Comes running into the room, interrupting the presenter as he wraps up the story. **Cut! Action! Roll film! Wait a minute! That is a fabulous event! That scene would be perfect to make a movie! What do you say kids? Will you help me make a movie out of this Bible Event?**

All right, then. I need actors!

Choose a volunteer to be Jesus and have him get into costume. Have several more volunteers dress as disciples to walk alongside him. Use an adult volunteer, stick horse, wagon, etc. for the donkey. Make sure all other children have either a robe or a palm branch to lie down.

Does everyone have a part? Places, everyone!

Direct Jesus, donkey and disciples off to the side of the room where the parade will begin. Line up all other children on either side of the parade route. Divide these children into three groups, each assigned the following phrases:

- Group one: "Hosanna!"
- Group two: "Hosanna in the highest!" and,
- Group three: "Praise King Jesus!"

Have each group practice their lines several times.

Okay, actors! Here's how the story goes. Jesus was coming into Jerusalem with his disciples.

Have Jesus and disciples near the parade start.

Jesus told two of the disciples to go and find a donkey and bring it back to him. And that's what they did.

Direct two disciples to go get the donkey and bring it to Jesus at the start of the parade.

The disciples laid their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on.

Have disciples remove their robes and lay them on the donkey. Have Jesus sit on the donkey.

A very large crowd had gathered in Jerusalem. They were very excited to see Jesus!

Have the crowd cheer and clap.

Then the crowd laid their robes and palm branches on the ground for Jesus to travel over.

Have crowd lay their robes and branches along the parade route.

As Jesus entered the city, the people began to shout praises!

Cue each group, in order, to repeat their lines. Have them continue to shout faster and louder as Jesus, the disciples, and the donkey walk by.

The crowd was so excited that they didn't want to just stand on the side of the road. They wanted to follow along, too!

As Jesus passes by, have the crowd fill in behind him, creating a true parade. Once all onlookers have become part of the parade, have them retrace the route all together a few times, shouting their lines. Then have them take seats along the route for wrap-up.

The parade was so loud that people came out of their houses asking, "Who is this?" The crowd answered, "This is Jesus, the King of kings."

That's a wrap! You actors were great! Can you imagine what it must have been like to have a parade for Jesus? It was pretty special. The people knew how special Jesus was. But the most special thing Jesus ever did for us was yet to come. You see, Jesus was going to Jerusalem because he knew that it was almost time for him to die on the cross for our sins. But let's remember how exciting it was to have a parade to praise King Jesus. Remember: *HERE COMES THE KING – Praise Jesus.

Options and suggestions:

You may want to do a rehearsal of the parade before taping the final event. Have the person recording the event, walk backwards down the parade route, taping Jesus as he comes and also panning back and forth to get the crowd's reaction.

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.



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: Create a gummy bear parade. Give each child a fourth of a graham cracker to frost and several gummy bears or Teddy Graham crackers to stand up on the frosting. Optional: Provide multi-colored sprinkles to throw onto the “parade” as confetti.

Drama Zone: Act out a parade. Provide palm branches, robes, musical instruments, etc.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to name things to praise Jesus for.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Palm Sunday from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #143, “Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Create a parade banner. Cut cardstock into triangles and decorate with markers and crayons. Tape or glue to a stiff cardboard strip or paint-stirring stick approximately 10 inches long. Attach a pre-made label to the banner: “Here Comes the King – Praise Jesus.” *Options:* Attach crepe paper, curling ribbon or balloons to decorate the banner.

Play Zone: Set up a cluster of five hula hoops on the floor (*or use masking tape to create the same set-up*). Have one child stand in each hula hoop. Release a balloon for the children to keep afloat, while remaining in their hula hoop. Each time a child hits the balloon, they should shout “Praise Jesus.” Add more balloons as desired.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Palm Sunday.

Music Zone: Sing the song, “He is the King of Kings,” which can be found on the CD titled, *Hosanna! Integrity Music Just for Kids*.

Coloring Zone: “Here Comes the King” coloring page



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.

Judy comes onstage disappointed because she heard that there was a parade today and she missed it. The large group presenter tells her she can still see it! The presenter asks the kids if they would like to see the video of the parade from earlier. The presenter then recaps the story for Judy, explaining that the kids reenacted a parade that welcomed Jesus into town.

Show the parade video. Afterwards, pass out rhythm instruments to the children so they can make music and create another impromptu parade to 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 a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the 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 your hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the 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:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- video recorder
- paper or real palm branches
- Jesus costume
- Stick horse/wagon/or donkey costume for an adult

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham crackers
- frosting
- optional: multi-colored sprinkles
- gummy bears or Teddy Graham crackers

Drama:

- palm branches
- robes
- rhythm instruments

Craft:

- cardstock, any color
- markers and crayons
- stiff cardboard strips or paint stirring sticks (approx. 10 inches)
- tape or glue
- pre-made label: “Here comes the King – *Praise Jesus*”
- *optional*: crepe paper, balloons, curling ribbon

Play:

- hula hoops or masking tape
- balloons

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- “*He is the King of Kings*,” Hosanna! Integrity Music Just for Kids

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (example: use Lesson #143, “Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Coloring page:

- “Here Comes the King”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- television hooked up to video camera
- rhythm instruments

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books