



(I have added text typed in Red to help assist families with this curriculum)



Jesus is the King.



"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden'" (Matt 21:5).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus was the one God had chosen to be King.
2. The Old Testament prophesied how and when the Messiah would come to be the King.
3. Jesus' authority came from God.
4. Jesus was both the Son of David and the Son of God.
5. Jesus will come again and a new generation of Israelites will believe in Him.

Objectives

1. Describe the kind of King Jesus is.
2. Explain the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus triumphal entry.
3. Explain why Jesus asked the chief priests and elders about the source of John's ministry.
4. Explain how Jesus was both the Son of David and the Son of God.
5. Describe Jesus' denunciation of the religious leaders.



Lesson Summary

As the climax of Jesus' ministry approached, He entered Jerusalem as King during the last week of His life. On Sunday, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem as the promised King which the Old Testament looked forward to. Throughout the week, Jesus demonstrated His authority as the rightful King as He confronted the hypocritical religious leaders. However, the people and the religious leaders rejected Jesus as King.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The religious leaders rejected Jesus as king and were punished as result. Today we must recognize Christ is king by responding to Him with repentance and faith.

THIS WEEK



**Jesus enters Jerusalem
as King**

Matthew 21:1-23:39

NEXT WEEK



**Jesus rises from
the dead**

Matthew 28:1-20

(This is the teacher study guide)

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is the King.

Matthew wrote his Gospel to show that Jesus Christ was Israel's long-awaited King and Messiah. Matthew, also known as Levi, was one of the 12 apostles. He was a Jewish tax collector before he was called to follow Christ. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew quotes Old Testament prophetic passages more than 60 times, undeniably demonstrating that Jesus is the King. The kingship of Jesus is seen with greatest clarity during His last week of earthly ministry. During this week, Matthew presents Jesus as the promised and rightful King rejected by His people.



THINK ABOUT IT

This King did not come in wealth, but poverty. He did not come in grandeur, but humility. He did not come to slay Israel's enemies, but to save the world.

Jesus is the promised King (21:1–11)

As Jesus approached Jerusalem, He asked two of His disciples to go get a donkey and its colt. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on the colt, He fulfilled the prophecy that the nation's king would come riding on the foal of a donkey (Zech 9:9). Riding on a colt was

a sign of peace. Jesus came as a **meek** King, gentle and patient with His people. He did not come to destroy Israel's enemies but to rescue sinful man. In this passage, Jesus came to the people as the promised King.

At this time there were many visitors from Galilee on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Many of these were aware of the numerous miracles that Jesus had performed in this region. The people were praising Jesus as the Son of David (Matt 21:9). The shouts of the people, along with the messianic title "Son of David," makes it clear that the crowd understood Jesus' claim to be the Messiah (Ps 118:26).

Jesus is the rightful King (21:12–22:46)

The next day, Jesus entered the temple (Matt 21:12). The temple had become a religious marketplace operated by the high priest. The Jewish leaders had turned the temple, the supreme place of Jewish worship, into a marketplace dominated by **extortion**. Thus, they would **set very high prices and force or**

threaten the people to pay more money for sacrifices. Jesus was furious and threw out those who were defiling His house (21:12–13). After He drove the thieves out, the blind and the lame came streaming in (21:14), and children also came to worship Him (21:15). But this infuriated the religious leaders, who had denied that Jesus was the Son of David and had refused to accept Him as their King. In response, Jesus asserted His right to receive worship as God, quoting from Psalm 8:2.

Jesus clashed with the priests and elders who rejected His unique authority as King (21:23–22:14). In Matthew 21:23, Jesus came back to the temple where the religious leaders questioned His authority. Instead of answering their questions, He asked them a question. If the religious leaders answered His question, He would answer theirs. Caught in a trap, the religious leaders refused to answer, so Jesus refused to tell them by what authority He did what He did. In reality, it was God the Father who gave Jesus the unique authority to be the King.

Jesus continued to confront the priests and the elders of Israel by telling three parables, parables which exposed their lack of true religion (21:28–22:14). A **parable** is an **earthly story that highlights spiritual truth**. The parable of the two sons (21:28–32) taught that some may claim they believe, but their actions do not match their words. The parable of the landowner (21:33–46) demonstrated the nation's rejection and subsequent forfeiture of God's kingdom. The third parable (22:1–14) was about a wedding feast. The religious leaders were like those who had refused the king's invitation and rejected the king's provision.

The Pharisees then tried to trap Jesus, asking Him about the poll-tax paid to Caesar (22:15–22). Jesus saw their hatred. He claimed that Caesar had the right to collect taxes, but He also asserted God's sovereign control over life. Jesus' answer amazed the Pharisees, and they left Him and went away (22:22). Just as Caesar's image was stamped on the denarius (the coin used to pay the poll-tax), God's

THINK ABOUT IT

The sanctuary of God had become a safe haven for the sin of thievery and deceit.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Jesus enters Jerusalem as King • Matthew 21:1–23:39



image is stamped on every person (Gen 1:26–27). We are to “render” obedience to the government in its realm (Rom 13:1–7; 1 Pet 2:13–17), and obedience to God in His realm.

After the Pharisees, the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus (Matt 22:23–33). Again, Jesus easily defeated His opponents. He corrected their absurd question and exposed their false beliefs about the resurrection. First, He explained that there will be no marriage in heaven because believers will be like angels—deathless, glorified, and eternal. Second, Jesus quoted Exodus 3:6, to show that God was still the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These men, though long dead, were still alive in another realm. The crowds were amazed at Jesus’ ability to silence the religious leaders (22:33).

After the Sadducees, the Pharisees sent their sharpest lawyer, a brilliant man, to argue their case against Christ (22:34–35). He asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment. Jesus then summarized the whole law, all 613 commands, into two points: (1) love God (22:37;

cf. Deut 6:5); and (2) love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:39; cf. Lev 19:18). Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:4–5 which devout Jews recited twice each day. The quotation was regarded by some as an automatic passport into paradise for any Israelite. But tragically what their lips professed their hearts did not believe. Jesus gave the correct answer, and they could not accuse Him of error.

As they were standing there, Jesus asked the Pharisees a question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Matt 21:41–42). They answered, “The son of David”. Jesus then quoted from Psalm 110:1, where David refers to the Messiah as his lord. But David would not call one of his human descendents lord; rather, they would call him lord. Therefore, the Messiah was more than just the son of David; He was also the Son of God. Jesus is David’s son and David’s king. The Pharisees were speechless. They

refused to admit that Jesus was the Son of God and their rightful King.

Jesus is the rejected King (23:1–39)

Jesus then turned His attention to the crowds and His disciples, warning them about the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (23:1–7).

A **hypocrite** is someone who pretends to be something

they are not. They did everything to impress others, caring more about looking good to men rather than being good in God’s eyes (23:5). The people were not to follow their example; rather, they were to be servants, demonstrating love and helping others (23:8–12). Jesus condemned the traditions and rituals of the scribes and Pharisees, traditions that only confused men and led them astray (23:13–39). Jesus said the religious leaders were like “white washed tombs” (23:27). They looked good on the outside but were full of death and decay on the inside.

Like white washed tombs, the Pharisees had death in their hearts. They were already plotting Jesus’ death. They had rejected the Messiah. He was not the King they were expecting, and they were unwilling to submit to His rule. They would rather kill Him as their ancestors killed the righteous (23:30, 35; cf. Gen 4:4, 8; 2 Chr 24:20–22; Acts 7:52–53). Because they rejected God, He rejected them. It would not be until Jesus’ second coming—after much suffering—that Israel would believe in their Messiah, be saved, restored, and receive the kingdom promises (Matt 23:38–39).

Matthew presented Jesus as the promised, rightful King who confronted the sin of the Sadducees and Pharisees. But Jesus was also the rejected King. The religious leaders had the appearance of religion, but they hated their King and rebelled against Him. They chose instead to honor themselves as king over their lives. What about you? Have you submitted every part of your life, the part seen by others as well as the secret part of your heart, to the King, Jesus Christ?

THINK ABOUT IT

The last public sermon of Christ was a sobering message of condemnation against the false teachers.



THINK ABOUT IT
Genuine love for God always begins in the mind and then manifests itself

through a willing heart that obeys, praises, and sacrificially serves the Lord.

Lesson Outline

Jesus is the King.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. The Old Testament predicted Jesus would come as King (21:1–11).
2. Jesus showed everyone His authority in the temple (21:12–22:46).
3. Jesus told the people the punishment for rejecting Him (23:1–39).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Jesus is the promised King (21:1–11).**
 - Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey and fulfilled Old Testament promises (21:1–8; cf. Zech 9:9; Dan 9:25).
 - Jesus came into Jerusalem as the promised Son of David (23:9–11; cf. Ps 118:26).
2. **Jesus is the rightful King (21:12–22:46).**
 - Jesus displayed His authority by driving the money changers out of the temple (21:12–17).
 - Jesus refused to explain his authority to the rebellious priests and elders (21:23–22:14).
 - Jesus saw through the Pharisees' trap about taxes (22:15–22).
 - Jesus demolished the Sadducees rejection of the resurrection (22:23–33).
 - Jesus proved His unique authority in understanding the Scriptures (22:34–46).
3. **Jesus is the rejected King (23:1–39).**
 - Jesus showed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (23:1–12).
 - Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for their rejection of Him (23:13–36).
 - Jesus described the consequences of that generation's rejection (23:37–39).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did the people say to Jesus when He entered Jerusalem on a colt?**
“Hosanna to the Son of David.”
- 2. Why did Jesus drive out the people in the temple who were changing money, buying, and selling?**
The merchants were stealing from others and not worshipping God properly.
- 3. What did Jesus teach the chief priests and elders using the parables?**
The leaders and people of Israel were not obedient to God.
- 4. Why did Jesus condemn the leaders of the Jewish people?**
The leaders did good things in front of people, but their thoughts were wicked and not pleasing to God.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who did the multitude say that Jesus was?**
They said that Jesus was the promised King of Israel.
- 2. When Jesus rode on the donkey's colt, what Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled?**
Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 and Daniel 9:25.
- 3. What did Jesus do when He got to Jerusalem?**
Jesus demonstrated His unique authority by rebuking the religious leaders for making the Lord's house a robber's den instead of a house of prayer.
- 4. Where did Jesus' unique authority come from?**
Jesus' authority came from God the Father.
- 5. What did Jesus teach the chief priests and elders by using parables?**
He taught them that they were being disobedient to God. They were rejecting God's authority.
- 6. How did Jesus back up His authority from Scripture?**
Jesus used Exodus 3:6 to demonstrate that the resurrection is an Old Testament truth.
- 7. What did Jesus say that the leaders of the Jewish people were doing wrong?**
The leaders were being hypocrites. They did good things in front of the people, but their thoughts were wicked and not pleasing to God because they rejected Jesus as King.
- 8. How did Jesus respond to the Jewish people's rejection of Him?**
Jesus condemned them for rejecting Him.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5



INTRODUCE

KING OF THE CLASSROOM

Choose one child to serve as “king of the classroom”. Tell the children that a king must have three things: 1) a people, 2) a kingdom, and 3) power. Explain that our “classroom king” rules over the rest of the children (his people) in the room. Our king’s kingdom is the classroom; he rules over all the area inside the walls of the room. Finally, our king has power to lead his people and kingdom. Explain that this power has been given to the “classroom king” by you, the teacher. Allow the “classroom king” to lead the class throughout the day as line leader, demonstrating his power. Tell the children that in today’s lesson we are going to learn about the most powerful king of all, Jesus.

KARAOKE

Use this idea in worship time or any time in the lesson when you want to remind the children of some of the facts of the story. When Christ entered Jerusalem, the children shouted praises to Him. Explain that we can also worship Jesus during music time. Bring microphones (or any props that could be used as imaginary microphones) and encourage the children to sing to the Lord.



ILLUSTRATE

PALM BRANCHES

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 2.
Give each child a copy of the palm branch located in the craft book. Help them cut out and color the branches. During the lesson time, have the children lay down their palm branches in a row. Explain to them that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people placed palm branches and clothes on the road. This act showed that the people recognized Jesus as King of the Jews.

DEAD OR ALIVE

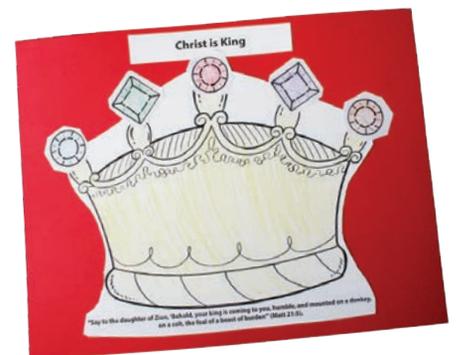
Supplies: Gift-wrapped box, cardboard skeleton.
Instructions: Talk to the children about the nicely-wrapped box, and ask what they think might be inside. Then open the box and pull out the cardboard skeleton. Explain that Israel’s religious leaders were like this pretty box full of bones. Jesus described them as being concerned with outside appearances, but inside they were full of dead men’s bones.
Variation: Replace the cardboard skeleton with something worthless (an apple core, trash, etc.). The religious leaders looked good on the outside, they on the inside they were filthy and worthless.



APPLY

CHRIST IS KING

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 2.
Materials: Craft sheet, red cardstock, crayons, scissors, and glue.
Directions: Pre-cut crown, jewels, and craft title from craft sheet. Have children color the crown and jewels and glue jewels to the top of the crown. Glue crown and craft title to red cardstock.



Christ Is King
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 2

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

Jesus enters Jerusalem as King • Matthew 21:1–23:39



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

HOW TO TREAT A KING

In this lesson, Jesus is presented as king. Here are five ways we will see this in today's lesson. Ask the children what each action tells us about Jesus, the king.

1. Jesus riding a colt (*humble king*).
2. The disciples laid their garments on the colt where Jesus sat (*worthy of worship*).
3. The multitude spread their garments and palm branches on the road (*worthy of worship*).
4. The crowd cheered saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (*promised Old Testament king*).
5. The children were crying out in the temple (*All of creation will worship*).

GOOD KING, BAD KING

The Jews had an incorrect expectation of the type of king God promised to send. Ask the children what they think makes a good king and what makes a bad king. Use their good ideas to reinforce the qualities of Christ. For bad ideas, explain that the Jewish people also did not understand what made a truly good king. A few examples:

GOOD KING	BAD KING
Loves God	Love himself
Serves his people	Demands that his people serve him
Just	Unfair
Humble	Proud
Kind	Harsh
Rules by love	Rules by force



ILLUSTRATE

HOLLOW EGG

Before class, puncture a tiny hole in the top and bottom of an egg. With your mouth, blow out all the insides of the egg so that it is hollow. Use white out or marker to conceal the small holes. During the lesson, crack open a real egg over a bowl. Explain that this egg was genuine. Then crack open the hollow egg. Explain that this egg looked genuine but wasn't. It had nothing on the inside. Tell the children that the Pharisees, and all pretend Christians, are like the hollow egg.

ON TIME ARRIVAL

Before the lesson, tell the children that a visitor will arrive at exactly this time (give the hour, minute, and second). Have the time coincide with the beginning of your lesson. At this exact time, have another adult rush into the room and tell the class that Jesus arrived as king at the exact time God promised. Explain that the Lord predicted that the time between Artaxerxes' decree to rebuild the temple and the coming of the King would be 483 years (Dan 9:25; cf. Neh 2:6), and Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem coincided precisely with the time that God had promised centuries before.



APPLY

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheets, brown construction paper, tan and dark brown cardstock, crayons, scissors, and glue.

Directions: Have children color and cut out the pictures and verse from the craft sheet. Glue the pictures and verse to the brown construction paper as shown below. Use tan cardstock to create an arched wall to be used as a gate of Jerusalem. Make two doors for the arch out of dark brown cardstock and glue them to the sides of the arch. Glue the folded base of the arch to the brown construction paper as pictured below.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 2*



AGES 9–11



HUMBLE ENTRANCE

Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a colt. This entrance, besides fulfilling prophecy (Zechariah 9:9), revealed something very significant about Jesus: He came to His people in humility. Reinforce this by acting out a different type of entrance before the class: The Proud King. Enter the room with back arched and chin tilted upwards. Refuse to make eye contact with any of the children, looking above and beyond them. Tell the children to stand on their feet when you enter the room and call you “The Most Awesome Teacher Ever”. Ask the children what your entrance revealed about you.

LIKE NO OTHER KING

Jesus is a king unlike any other king. Ask the children if they can think of any ways that Jesus’ kingship is different from those of any other earthly king. Some differences might include: 1) Jesus’ kingship has no end; 2) Jesus reigns over all people and all places; 3) Jesus always judges rightly; 4) No one will ever be able to challenge Jesus’ reign; and 5) Jesus doesn’t need the help of anyone else to rule His kingdom.



DIRTY ON THE INSIDE

Before class, fill the inside of a plain, white coffee mug with mud and sticks and leaves (make it gross). Keep the contents below the mug’s rim. Tell the children that you’re thirsty and need a sip of your coffee. After going on about how much you like your coffee, reveal the contents of the mug and ask the children if they would like a drink. Explain that the scribes and Pharisees were just like this mug—clean on the outside but full of filthiness on the inside.

HYPOCRISY: PLAYING PRETEND

The Pharisees were hypocrites: they only pretended to love God. In reality, they loved themselves and what others thought about them. To illustrate this concept, put on a football jersey or helmet and ask the children if this makes you a football player. Put on a doctor’s gown (or nurse’s scrubs) and ask if this makes you a doctor. Then ask the children if coming to church and doing good things makes you a Christian. Lead the children in a discussion of what makes a genuine Christian.



THE RETURN OF THE KING

Jesus was rejected by most at His first coming, but He will be honored by all at His second coming. Look up the following passages as a class, identifying the differences between Jesus’ first and second comings.

1. The Worship of the King – Revelation 5:11–14
2. The Entrance of the King – Revelation 19:11
3. The Appearance of the King – Revelation 19:12–13
4. The Judgment of the King – Revelation 19:14–15
5. The Reign of the King – Revelation 20:1–5