



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we worship Jesus.

THE BIBLE

The Triumphal Entry: Matthew 21:1-11

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Mystery Puzzle Scavenger Hunt
- **ACTIVITY** | Mystery Bag

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship time
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 21:1-11
- **ACTIVITY** | Act it Out
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **DISCUSSION** | Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Palm Branch Craft
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 1:9

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Praise Party
- **ACTIVITY** | Play-Doh Storytelling



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Every Easter, we worship Jesus.

THE BIBLE

The Triumphal Entry: Matthew 21:1-11

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Mystery Puzzle Scavenger Hunt

- **Welcome to church today! We're starting a fun new series called Clue, where we will unlock the mystery of Easter!** We have a mystery to solve and we need your help! We need you to help us solve the mystery of what our Bible story is today.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Sunday Mystery Scavenger Hunt Pieces from your Week 1 folder and cut them apart. Hide the pieces all around the room. Have the children find all the pieces and assist them in putting the puzzle together.*
- **Now that you've collected all the clues, what do you think our Bible story is going to be about today?**
- Our Bible story today is the very beginning of the Easter story. In this story, we'll learn about a time that Jesus rode on a donkey into a city called Jerusalem. This story is important because it happened just one week before Jesus died on a cross, which is a really important part of the Easter story.
- **This month, we're going to look at some clues (like detectives) to help us unlock the mystery of why this story from so long ago is important to our lives today.**

ACTIVITY | Mystery Bag

- This month we are going to become really great detectives. Which means we are going to need to practice some detective skills. We're going to see how good you are at using your hands to discover the mystery item.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before church, prepare a mystery bag. You can use a canvas bag or a plain pillow case. You can draw question marks all over it to add to the fun. Gather some items to put in the bag one at a time. Let the kids take turns reaching in (without looking) and feeling the mystery item, then trying to guess what it is.*
- **Was it hard to just use your hands and try to guess what was inside?**
- Uncovering a mystery can be hard sometimes. We're trying to solve the mystery of Easter. Thankfully, we have the Bible to help us figure it out! The Bible tells us about the amazing story of Jesus. Who's ready to dig in?

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Hosanna Rock" by Yancy and, "I Believe in Jesus" by Saddleback Kids.*

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 21:1-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can wear a trench coat, sunglasses and fedora hat as you tell this Bible story.*
- This month, we're pretending to be detectives. **What does a detective do?** That's right! They solve mysteries! Well, our mystery is to find the true meaning of Easter! We are going to look in the Bible and learn about Jesus' last week on Earth. We call it Holy Week.
- Our story today is about the start of Holy Week, let's listen closely and see if we can find any clues to solve the mystery of the true meaning of Easter.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.*
- What a special way to be greeted!
- **What did Jesus ride on as He entered the town of Jerusalem?** Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. You might expect someone as important as Jesus to ride on something cooler. **What would be the coolest way you would want to ride into a city? Maybe a horse drawn carriage? A motorcycle? A race car?** Those are some fun ideas. Jesus didn't ride in anything like that; He rode a donkey.
- Now let's look at another clue. The people laid their coats on the ground and praised Jesus. **What word did the people shout as Jesus was riding past?** Hosanna!
- **What do you think Hosanna means?** Hosanna means, "God save us."
- **Why do you think they were celebrating?** They knew that Jesus was the one they'd been waiting for, who was coming to save them from their sins. They were celebrating the coming of Jesus!
- Have you put the clues together yet? Do you know what this story tells about Easter and why it's so special? Here's the answer . . .

THE BIG IDEA | Every Easter, we worship Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, read it out loud.
- This week’s Big Idea: **Every Easter, we worship Jesus.**

ACTIVITY | Act It Out

- We just heard about how Jesus entered into Jerusalem. Let’s see how much you remember and act out the start of Holy Week.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide props for your kids to act out the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. You can give them coats, palm branches or green papers, and donkey ears. Help the kids decide what characters are needed and who will play what role. You can use an awesome adult volunteer to be the donkey and have a child play the role of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the donkey.*
- **How do you think Jesus felt as He rode into Jerusalem?** He sure was greeted with quite an awesome welcome! The people worshiped Jesus because they believed that Jesus was sent by God to save them.

PRAYER

- Let’s spend time with God in prayer. Today, we’re going to thank God for helping us when we were sick, and we are also going to pray for people who are sick. **Who do you know that is sick?**
- Dear God, thank you for being our healer and our comforter. Today, we want to pray for the people in our lives who are sick. We ask you to heal them and help them, amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they’re busy sitting and snacking!*
- **What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on?** (A donkey.)
- **Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem?** (To celebrate Passover.)
- **What did the people lay down on the ground for Jesus to walk on?** (Coats and palm branches.)
- **What did the people shout?** (Hosanna!)
- **Why do you think the people laid coats and branches on the road?**
- **How did the people greet Jesus as He entered Jerusalem?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids gather in a circle and give each child a real palm branch or a long piece of green crepe paper streamer. Ask the questions below and have them wave their palm branches up if they want to answer of the questions.*
 - **Have you ever been to a parade?**
 - **Were you excited to see what was coming next in the parade? If so, how did you show it?**
 - **How do you think the people in the Bible story felt when they saw Jesus coming?**
 - **Why do you think Jesus rode on a donkey?**
 - **What is one reason you can worship Jesus today?**

ACTIVITY | Palm Branch Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather large popsicle sticks or paint stirrers, green crepe paper streamers, green markers, crayons, and scotch tape. Give the kids each a paint stirrer and some pieces of green crepe paper and let them tape the pieces of streamers onto their stick. Have them stand in two lines and wave their palm branches up and down as the kids take turns running through.*
- Today we heard about the people cutting palm branches off trees to lay on the ground as Jesus entered Jerusalem. They waved them and shouted "Hosanna!" Let's worship Jesus like the people did long ago in Jerusalem.
- Take your palm branch home to remind you of our Bible story today.

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 1:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .*

BE STRONG (flex one arm)
AND COURAGEOUS (flex the other arm).
DO NOT BE AFRAID (put arms in front of your face);
GOD WILL BE WITH YOU (point up, and then put hands on hips)
WHEREVER YOU GO (march in place).

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them about the people worshipping Jesus as He rode past on a donkey.*

ACTIVITY | Praise Party

- The people in our Bible story today were excited to see Jesus entering Jerusalem. They praised Him by shouting “Hosanna” and laying their coats on the ground. Let’s have our own praise party for Jesus!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the music from Worship Time, give the kids their palm branches they made earlier and lead them in a dance party for Jesus.*
- Jesus didn’t come to save just the people in our Bibles story, He came to save all people. He came to save you and me, your family, your friends, ALL people. We can praise Him and thank Him every day!

ACTIVITY | Play-Doh Storytelling

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids some Play-Doh and have them create a character or item from the Bible story.*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.