



March 24, 2024

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

SCRIPTURE: [Mark 11](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem as people praise Him by shouting, "Hosanna!" Jesus doesn't look like a normal king, but He saves those who call to Him. He saves them from the powers of sin and death.

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus forgives our sins, saves us, and gives us new life. —from [Titus 3:5](#)

CURIOSITY (PRE-SERVICE)

Four options for interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Play Stations:
 - Path Parade
 - Jerusalem Block Building
 - Triumphal Entry: Jesus Enters Jerusalem Coloring Sheet
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF (WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON)

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: [From Titus 3:5](#)

FAITH (APPLICATION)

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Hidden Palm Branch
- Craft: Palm Branch

IDENTITY (RESPONSE & CLOSING)

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Palm Sunday Parade
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Obstacle Course Path

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)

Wonder Ink



FOR FIVESTONE KIDS LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

SCRIPTURE: Mark 11

WORD OF WONDER: From Titus 3:5

Years ago, I traveled to London as part of a mission trip with my youth group. One of the stops we prioritized was Buckingham Palace. It was as regal as you'd expect. I've never seen anything quite like it. We didn't get any glimpses of the royal family, but being that close was a once in a lifetime experience.

Imagine that you have the chance to be in the same room as a royal family member. What do you think you'd see, hear, smell, and experience? Would you have the courage to engage them in conversation? Would you want to touch them or shake their hand?

Mark 11 tells us about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. After all the miracles He performed in His short time on earth, you'd think His triumphal entry would be on a grand scale. Yet very little about this King was what the Jews would have expected. He didn't charge in with a sword to overthrow the Romans. And He didn't enter the city with pomp and circumstance. Instead, He rode in on a colt as the crowd covered the road with branches and coats and shouted, "Hosanna!"

- How does Jesus' entry model humility for you as a leader?
- As a child of God, do you consider yourself royalty?
- What does Jesus' kingship look like in your life?

King Jesus died on the cross so that you and I could be part of His family forever. You're an heir to the throne!

—Kathie Phillips

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus was a descendent of King David, and the Jews knew the Messiah would come from David's line. Jesus entered Jerusalem as king. Israel's hopes were in Him to be the fulfillment of God's promise to bring a shoot from the stump of Jesse ([Isaiah 11:1](#)).

WHAT?

The people shouted, "Hosanna," which is a Hebrew exclamation meaning roughly "Save us now!" They spread cloaks and palm branches in front of Him as a sign of royal welcome for a deliverer: not even His animal's hooves would need to touch the dirt.

WHERE?

Jesus was near Jerusalem by the Mount of Olives, which is just east of the city. From this spot, the temple would be visible. The people joyfully welcomed a king to His kingdom, inviting Him to take His throne in the city of David.

WHEN?

Jesus knew that danger was drawing near. Although the common people didn't understand, the kingship of Jesus would be realized through His sacrifice on the cross. Their ultimate rescue would come from Jesus' willingness to give His own life.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised David that his descendant would rule as king forever ([2 Samuel 7:16](#)). God kept this promise by making Jesus King forever and ever, a reign without end ([Daniel 7:14](#)). In Christ's kingdom, the merciful—not the conquerors—are blessed ([Matthew 5:7](#)).



Curiosity (Pre-Service)

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Countdown Video

Begin playing the countdown video at 10:55am. At the conclusion of the countdown, please lead your small group over to the kids worship room.



Play Stations

SUPPLIES: masking tape, table tennis balls, building blocks, toy donkey and/or person, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Triumphal Entry Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas

what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Path Parade

Set-up: Before kids arrive, use masking tape to make several paths on the floor. Set out some table tennis balls nearby.

Play: Encourage kids to try to blow the table tennis balls along the path on the floor without allowing the balls to travel outside of the lines. They could even have a race to see who can get their ball down the path first.

Play Station: Jerusalem Block Building

Set-up: Set out some building blocks along with a toy donkey and/or a toy person.

Play: Kids can use the blocks to build the temple and a path to the temple. Then they can use the donkey and/or person to follow the path to the temple.

Play Station: Triumphal Entry: Jesus Enters Jerusalem Coloring Sheet

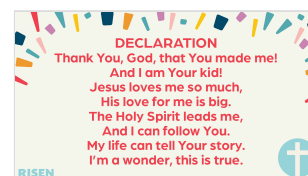
Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn over the sheet and trace their hand to create a palm branch shape.

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

Optional: Show the Declaration slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I can be Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Belief (Worship & Bible Lesson)

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, our King, we praise You and celebrate You today. We welcome You into our hearts just as the people welcomed You into Jerusalem. Help us listen to what You have to say to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Mark in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided, or read [Mark 11:1–11](#) from the Bible.

God's Big **STORY SCRIPT:** **TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

SUPPLIES: Bible, sandwich-sized resealable baggies (1 per kid plus 1), yellow cardstock, green leaf or piece of palm branch, fabric (6" strip per kid plus 1 extra piece), table, scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Donkey Template](#) (1 per every 12 kids plus 1), [Crown Template](#) (1 per every 4 kids plus 1)

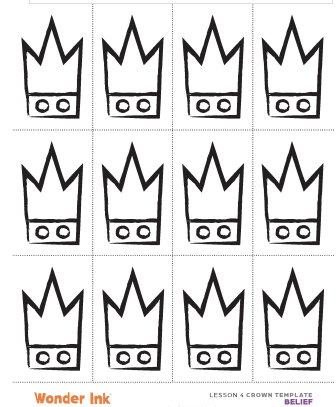
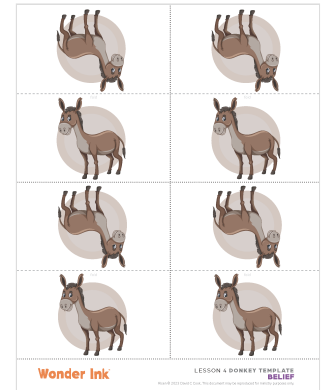
Before kids arrive, prepare pictures and props for kids to use as you tell the story. Print the [Donkey](#) and [Crown](#) Templates. Cut and fold each donkey on the dotted line. Each kid will need a crown printed onto yellow cardstock. Cut out each crown on the dotted lines.

Continue your preparation by cutting one strip of fabric per kid. Assemble one story bag per kid and one for the storyteller with the following in each sandwich-sized resealable baggie: a donkey, green leaves, a piece of fabric, a crown. Place the bags where they can be easily distributed. Set a table on or near the stage area where kids can see it clearly.

Leader Tip: If prep time is an issue, just create one story bag and invite different kids to pick out the object and sit it in front of the entire group.

God promised to send a Savior to the world. His name is Jesus. There was a little problem, though. While many people saw Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Savior, others had a certain idea of how He should act. Some people thought He would be a warrior king like David—someone who would fight in battles and rule from a palace. Jesus is a mighty King, but His rule is different than the Jewish people expected.

Hand out a story bag to each kid and encourage kids to spread out so there is enough room on the floor for each of them to create a little scene from this part of God's big story. Direct them to only take out what you say when you say it.



Make It Inclusive!

For any kids unable to easily reach the floor or build on it, provide a hard surface such as a desk or table for them to create their scene.

When the time came to celebrate the Passover, Jesus and His disciples started to travel to the city of Jerusalem. Jesus sent two disciples ahead to find a donkey colt that had never been ridden. Jesus' two disciples were to tell the donkey owners that the Lord needed it and would send it back soon.

Open your story bags and find the donkey colt inside and hold it up! Direct kids to hold up the donkey picture and then set it down in front of them.

So, the disciples did what Jesus asked and found the colt. When people asked what they were doing, the disciples answered just like Jesus had told them. The disciples brought the donkey colt to Jesus and threw their coats over it, and He sat down on it. Then Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. As people saw Him, they knew Jesus was special.

The people wanted to honor Jesus. They took off their coats and laid them on the ground as a path for Jesus to ride upon. Find the piece of cloth in your story bag and make a path before the donkey in front of you. Show kids the piece of cloth and encourage the kids to lay their cloth pieces in a path before the donkey.

The people also cut palm branches. Some laid the branches on the ground to make a path for King Jesus as He rode the donkey. Some waved the branches in the air to celebrate the arrival of this new king! Take the green leaves out of your story bag. Lay some on the ground in front of the donkey and wave some next to it. Model what the kids will do—line up some leaves and wave others.

Now, everyone, find the crown in your story bag. Hold your crown in your hands. The people welcomed Jesus as they would welcome a king. They praised Him and looked forward to when He would lead them. They shouted, "Hosanna!", which means "Save us!"

And they had no idea how right they were. Because King Jesus would save them ... and us! Just not in the way they thought. Jesus is King over everything! And He saved us by dying on the cross.

Because of Him, our sins—the wrong things we do that separate us from God—can be forgiven, and we can be with God forever.

Say a prayer of praise, thanking Jesus for being King. Direct kids to repack their story bags. Then encourage kids to use their story bags to tell the story of King Jesus at home.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS KING. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

Long before Jesus lived on earth as a man, God promised King David that one of his relatives would rule as King forever (2 Samuel 7:16). God kept this promise by making Jesus King forever and ever—Jesus is a descendent of King David, and Jesus' reign as King will never end!

Word of Wonder

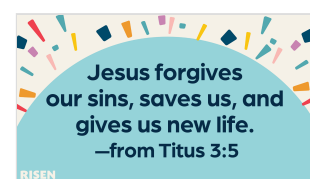
SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper (11 sheets of different colors), scissors (prep only), beanbag

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Risen Word of Wonder Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

**Jesus forgives our sins, saves us,
and gives us new life.**

—from Titus 3:5



Before kids arrive, write one word from the Word of Wonder on each of 11 different colors of construction paper, then trim the corners of each paper so the papers roughly resemble large leaves. Lay the papers out on the floor in a mixed-up order. If you don't have 11 different colors, you can write more than one word on each paper.

Let's play a game to practice our Word of Wonder! I'm going to call out a color. Then one of you will toss a beanbag onto the pretend palm leaf of that color. If

your beanbag lands on the right color palm leaf, pick up the leaf, and hand it to me.

Hand the beanbag to one of the kids and call out the color from the palm leaf paper that has the word Jesus written on it. If the kid successfully lands the beanbag on the correct palm leaf paper, have her pick up that paper and hand it to you. **This leaf says Jesus!**

Can you say Jesus? Encourage kids to say Jesus.

Hand the beanbag to another child and call out the color of the leaf that says forgives. If the child lands the beanbag on the correct paper, have him hand it to you. If not, allow another child to try to toss the beanbag onto the correct paper. Read the word forgives out loud. Hold up the Jesus paper and have the kids say Jesus followed by the word forgives. Keep playing and calling out the remaining colors until you have said the whole verse. Repeat all the words each time a new word is added, and let the kids help lay the palm leaves down in order.

Once you have all of the palm leaves in order, repeat the entire verse with the kids. Encourage the kids to do the motions as they say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—*Point up.*
- **FORGIVES OUR SINS,**—*Palms together (praying hands motion).*
- **SAVES US,**—*Arms out to your sides (make a cross).*
- **AND GIVES US**—*Hold your hands in front of you as if receiving something.*
- **NEW LIFE.**—*Bring your arms up and out to your sides.*
- **FROM TITUS 3:5**—*Hold your hands open, as if holding a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you need to ask Jesus' forgiveness for?**
- **How does Jesus save us?**



Faith (Application)

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

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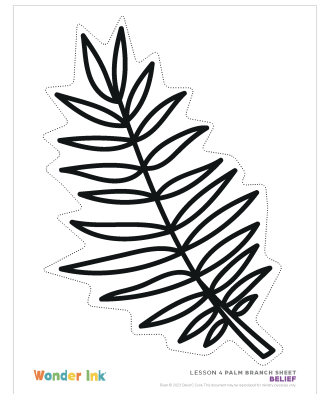
Circle Time: Hidden Palm Branch

SUPPLIES: palm branch (optional), green printer paper (1 sheet, optional), scissors (prep only, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Palm Branch Picture](#) (optional)

Gather kids into a circle and show them the palm branch (or print [Palm Branch Picture](#) onto green printer paper and cut it out.).

When Jesus came into Jerusalem, the people celebrated Him as King by waving palm branches. We're going to play a game with this branch to help us remember our story. I'm going to hide the branch somewhere in this room. The person who finds it gets to answer a question!



Encourage the kids to close their eyes while you hide the palm branch somewhere in the room. When you return to the circle, tell the kids to open their eyes. Give them a few minutes to try to find the palm branch. Give hints as necessary. Once a kid finds the palm branch and brings it back to the circle, ask her one of the questions below. Hide the branch again until all questions have been answered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What animal did Jesus tell the disciples to find and bring to Him?** (donkey colt)

- **What word did the people call out as Jesus rode into town? What does it mean?** (*Hosanna, which means “Save us.”*)
- **Why did the people celebrate Jesus as He came into town?** (*They thought He was a king coming to save them.*)
- **What did people wave as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?** (*palm branches*)
- **What did people lay down on the road in front of Jesus?** (*coats and palm branches*)
- **How can we praise Jesus today?** (*by following His commandments, thanking Him for His goodness and love, worshiping Him with song, sharing His love with others*)

God sent Jesus to earth to save us. We can praise Him as our King today. Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for Jesus!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for sending Jesus as King to save us.

Craft: Palm Branch

SUPPLIES: green masking, electric, or painter's tape (several strips per kid); paper (1 sheet per kid), scissors (optional), jumbo craft sticks (1 per kid, optional), glue or tape (optional) Give each kid a sheet of paper and several strips of green tape.

Do you remember what the people waved as Jesus was coming into Jerusalem? Allow kids to respond. **That's right—they waved palm branches! We're going to make our own palm branches!**



Leader Tip: If you have a younger group that may struggle with creating a palm branch, draw the simple lines of a palm branch and encourage kids to place pieces of tape along the lines.

First, place a long piece of tape straight up and down in the middle of the paper. Allow time for kids to place a piece of tape on their paper.

Next, take several smaller pieces of tape and attach them to each side of the long piece of tape so it looks like a palm branch with leaves! You can attach it to a jumbo sized craft stick with tape or glue to make it easier to wave. When your palm branch is complete, you can wave it just like the people waved palm branches to welcome Jesus as king!

Leader Tip: If you have a younger group that may struggle with creating a palm branch, draw the simple lines of a palm branch and encourage kids to place pieces of tape along the lines.



Identity (Response & Closing)

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

SCRIPTURE: [Mark 11](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Responding in Worship: Palm Sunday Parade

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments (1 per kid), ribbons, palm branches (real or artificial, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, set out several different toy musical instruments such as cymbals, shakers, and bells.

Set out long strips of ribbon and, if available, palm branches.

Gather kids together near the instruments, ribbons, and palm branches.

Leader Tip: For an extra activity, supply materials such as beans and plastic eggs for kids to make their own musical instruments to praise Jesus with.

Today we're going to enjoy our very own Palm Sunday parade to worship Jesus as King!

Everybody can choose a musical instrument, a ribbon, and/or a palm branch to wave. Allow time for kids to pick an instrument, ribbon, or palm branch.

What do you think it was like to be one of the people along the road to Jerusalem that day? How can you worship Jesus as King today?

Allow the kids to respond. **As we play the music, we'll march around the room (or hallway!) as a parade, worshiping Jesus.**

Turn on music from the [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Lead kids in a parade around the room (or hallway!). Encourage kids to worship like people did in today's part of God's big story when they welcomed Jesus as King.

We can worship Jesus as King just as the people welcomed Him to Jerusalem.

Allow kids to trade instruments, ribbons, and palm branches as time allows.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus as our King.

Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to earth as our King. Help us always worship Him as our King. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May you go out today remembering that Jesus is your King. Worship Him in everything you do and everywhere you go. Never forget God's love for you—the love He displayed by sending Jesus to earth.**

Closing Game: Obstacle Course Path

SUPPLIES: painter's tape

Use painter's tape to create a pathway for kids to follow. You can use straight lines of tape to create a lane for kids to run down. Another idea is to place arrows facing different ways for kids to jump on arrows in the direction they are facing. You could also

use the tape to create a hopscotch board along the pathway. Be creative with the shapes and paths for kids to follow.

Do you think the road to Jerusalem was a straight path? Allow the kids to respond. **We're going to take turns completing an obstacle course path.**

Demonstrate how kids should complete the path and then allow them to try to complete the path one at a time. Repeat as time allows.