

April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Passage:** [Matthew 21:1–11](#); [John 12:12–19](#)  
(Palm Sunday)

## Jesus Is King

### REMEMBER VERSE

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.  
Psalm 145:8

### Schedule

1. DISCOVER : Big God Story
2. RESPOND : Worship Response, Small Group Questions and Optional Activity
3. BLESS : Speaking God's Truth over your child

### Supplies

- Paper or construction paper (used in Discover AND Respond)
- Pencils, crayons, markers
- Scissors
- Misc. craft supplies (gems, stickers, paint, etc.)
- Robe (costume)
- Bible

## DISCOVER // Big God Story

### PREPARE AHEAD

Have fun with your children making palm branches out of materials in your home. (Paper, construction paper, pencils, crayons, children's scissors)

### SET UP

Set up the palm branches in the area of your home where you will be teaching. Optional: Dress in a Bible-times costume- maybe a robe, etc. (Be creative)

### RELATE

Read Zechariah 9:9 in a loud, declarative voice. (Wear your robe for effect.)

A parent will start from the back of the room and run to the front of the room, while your children make a drumroll sound. (Parents make a big entrance to get your children excited.) **Say: Children don't you love a big entrance? Well, Jesus knew how to make an entrance! And Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was prophesied more than 500 years before He was even born! But before we hear more, let's pause and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us today.** Lead your children in a prayer to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem for Passover. Passover, which is one of the most important Jewish festivals, celebrated how God had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of people traveled to Jerusalem to attend Passover. Along the journey Jesus had stopped in Bethany to visit friends. While in Bethany Mary worshipped Jesus by pouring perfume on His feet. She knew Jesus as a teacher and as a healer, and soon she and everyone would know Him as King.

Many of the people coming to the Passover festival in Jerusalem hoped that Jesus would be there. Imagine a crowd of people, as many as in a sports arena, all hoping to see one person: Jesus. They had heard about how Jesus healed sick people, blind people, and paralyzed people—and how He'd even raised a man from the dead! Who remembers a miracle that Jesus did? Ask your children to share.

The Jewish people had been waiting since the beginning of time for the promised Messiah. The Romans ruled God's people, and the people thought the Messiah would come to save them from their enemies. They expected a warrior king to ride in on a huge, powerful horse and beat the bad guys so they could be free again to live as God's people. They expected Jesus to be that warrior king.

As Jesus and His disciples came near Jerusalem, Jesus told them something. Turn to Matthew 21:2–3 to hear what Jesus said. Read verses aloud as your children follow along. Jesus knew exactly where to find the donkeys that would be given to Him. He knew this because He is God and He knows everything, but He also knew the ancient prophecy in the Bible that

predicted what would happen. Jesus knew that His choice to ride in on a donkey would fulfill this prophecy and would reveal Him as King.

The disciples found the donkeys just as Jesus had said they would. What happened next? Ask your child to read Matthew 21:7. Crowds of people were waiting to see Jesus. Imagine that you're waiting for a king. What do you think you'd see when he arrived? Invite responses. Good thoughts. You might imagine that the king would be surrounded by lots of marching soldiers or people riding in chariots--maybe a trumpet would sound. *(Can you make a trumpet sound?)* Maybe the king would ride a big, beautiful, decorated horse like kings rode as they headed to battle.

Well, Jesus—the King of Kings—chose to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Why do you think He chose a donkey? Encourage responses. Back in Bible times, donkeys symbolized humility and peace. Jesus rode on a donkey to show His people that He was indeed the true King—that he came in peace. He didn't come to destroy their enemies, the Romans. He came in peace to give Hope. The people wanted a different kind of king.

Let's read what the crowd did when they saw Him. Read Matthew 21:8 as your children follow along. (Walk over toward your palm branches that you made.) Palm branches symbolized victory. The people shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" Pass out palm branches and invite your kids to act out the scene as you read John 12:13. As you read each phrase, encourage kids to repeat it.

Jesus is the King of Kings. He is the King over everything because He is God! The Israelites had expected for so long that the Messiah would be a warrior king, and they wanted Him to save them from the Romans. Jesus did come to save them, but not from the Romans. He had a bigger plan. Jesus came to save people by dying on the cross for their sins and rising again. He came to save people from death! He came to bring them into a relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the King immortal. He lives forever (1 Timothy 1:17). Jesus is the King of glory. He is strong and wins every battle. (Psalm 24:8) The armies of heaven follow Him. (Revelation 19:14) Jesus is a righteous King. He makes right decisions that please God. (Isaiah 32:1) Jesus is a loving King. He died to free us from our sins. (Revelation 1:5) When we know Jesus as our King, we can cry out to Him, "Hosanna! Save us!" We can ask Him to help us bow down to who He is and what He wants to do in our lives. Share a personal story of a time you recognized Jesus as King in your life.

## RESPOND // Worship as Response

*This time allows kids to respond to God, through prayer and various ways of reflection.*

*There are 4 Worship Responses – Curriculum will change weekly; Mission, Gratitude and Identity, will repeat weekly. Your family can go through all of them or one of them. You could even spread them out throughout the week. You can choose how to go about these different “stations”, whether you do them all as a family, or individually, allowing everyone to respond in their own way. Whatever way you choose, we strongly encourage parents and guardians to take part in the worship response (whether with your child or on your own) to be an example for them.*

*At church, we like to play soft worship music during Worship Response. If you would like to do the same, we've created a playlist for you to use at home! [Click here to access our \*\*Worship Response playlist\*\*.](#)*

## **Curriculum – Jesus Is King**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Large cross (create one of your own or use what you have in your home)
- Large paper (1 or more per child - paper will be used to make crowns, 1 per child)
- scissors
- markers/colored pencils
- misc. craft items (gems, stickers, paint, etc.)

### **PREPARE AHEAD**

Create a large cross, approximately 3 feet tall. This can be done out of paper, sticks from outside, etc... or you can use a cross you already have in your home.

### **SETUP**

Place the cross in the room so it is visible to all; lean the wood cross against the wall OR tape the paper cross to the wall. Place the paper [for crowns] near the cross along with the markers and other crafts supplies.

### **RELATE**

**When Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the Israelites recognized Him as King. The problem was, they didn't know what kind of king He was. We, however, have the privilege of knowing Jesus for who He really is: the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

**Where in your life do you see Jesus as the mighty King of Kings? How does it make you feel to know He rules over everything and everyone? Are there areas of your life you need to submit to Jesus, your King? Take a few moments to talk to God about these things. Talk to your family about it too! When you're ready, you**

**can respond to Him as you worship Jesus as our powerful and loving King.**

**TECH:** *Play Worship Response playlist*

Point out the cross, the crowns, the markers, and the craft decorations. Your child can take a paper and craft supplies to create their own crown. As they create and decorate their crown, encourage them to write or draw about 1) how they see Jesus as King or 2) where they need to see or to submit to Jesus as King. When they're ready, they can place their crowns at the foot of the cross to symbolize how they're honoring Jesus as the King of Kings.

## **Mission**

**COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL** – Each campus has their own Compassion friend that we pray for and support. Ask your Elementary child to share what they know about their Compassion kid and spend time praying for them as a family. *You can also pray for different missions at Woodmen, in Colorado Springs and around the world!*

**FEEDING FAMILIES** – Through ACTS Ministry, we collect non-perishable food items to give to people in our very own city. During this time of isolation, we do have bins set up at Rockrimmon and Woodmen Heights, so people can continue to drop off food for ACTS Ministry.

*For these last two worship response “stations”, give each child a notebook, so they can respond by writing or drawing their thoughts. If you do not have notebooks available, with supplies around your house, let your kid(s) create their own notebook.*

## **Gratitude**

What am I grateful for this week / today?

## **Identity**

1. What is one fact I know to be true about God?
2. What does God think of me? Who does He say I am?
3. Who is God to me?

## // Small Group Questions

*This time allows kids to open their Bibles, read the suggested passages and recap what they've learned in today's lesson.*

Encourage your child to open his Bible and read the suggested passages.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- **Why did Jesus ride on a donkey?** Matthew 21:1–5
- **What did the people shout as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?** Matthew 21:9
- **What does *hosanna* mean?**
- **How can we show Jesus that He is our King and how can we worship Him?**

### Questions for Older Kids

- **Why did Jesus ride on a donkey?** Matthew 21:1–5; John 12:14–15
- **Why did the people wave palm branches?**
- **What did the people expect the Messiah to do?**
- **What kind of king is Jesus?**
- **What does *hosanna* mean? Is there a place in your life where you feel like shouting, “Hosanna!” to Jesus?**
- **How can we show Jesus that He is our King?**
- **How can you recognize Jesus as King of your life?**

## // Optional Activity

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

### King of Kings Activity

**The crowd in Jerusalem greeted Jesus as an earthly king, but we know Jesus as the King of Kings.**

**Parents let's create a fun “Hat Scavenger Hunt” for your family.  
Collect different hats in your home including a paper crown or kid crown.**

**One person can hide different hats around your house including the crown.  
The children or entire family can go on the scavenger hunt around your home.**

**After the scavenger hunt talk about the crown that was found.**

**What does the crown represent?****Who is our King?****Who is the King or Kings?**

It's so easy to forget that God is the king. We see kings and presidents and principals and bosses and all sorts of rulers, all sorts of people in charge here on earth. We sometimes get so caught up in what is going on around us that we forget who is really in charge of this world. It is God, and God only! A king is someone in charge of a kingdom or country, who makes rules and laws and who takes care of the people in his kingdom. Even King David, the best king Israel ever had, wasn't perfect. God is the only perfect king, because he is GOD. Our perfect King God is always looking out for us no matter what is happening.

Pray and thank God that He is our King, our perfect king. Thank Him for always looking out for us no matter what is happening in our lives.

## BLESS //

*Children receive a blessing from you. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide your child.*

**SUPPLIES**

- Bible

**RELATE**

Open a Bible and read Matthew 21:9:

**“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

Encourage your child to listen to the verse the first time. Then, as you read the verse a second time, invite them to jump up, raise their hands in the air, and shout, “Hosanna!” each time you read the verse.

Then, speak the following blessing over your child.

**May you trust Jesus to be King in your life. May you know that you can call out to Him and He will save you. May you know that the King of heaven and earth loves you and cares for you.**