



Lesson
31

2s & 3s

PALM SUNDAY

March 28 & 29

JESUS IS KING



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!" a week before He was crucified. Jesus did this to show everyone He is the Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Lesson Goal: For kids to celebrate the triumphal entry of our King, Jesus, while understanding the way He came to earth to die on the cross for our sins.

Matthew 21:1-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kids Camp Registration Opens
April 1

Easter Weekend
April 4/5



KEY VERSE:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

FEEDING FAMILIES

You can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout El Paso County by bringing non-perishable food items to your campus.

Your non-perishable donations help Woodmen's ACTs team provide weekly food bags to over 300 local families at our partner schools. Donations are needed year-round.

**Let's see if we can fill the
Feeding Family bins!**



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



MAKE: Palm Leaf Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Palm leaf, popsicle stick, God statement sticker, crayons/markers, glue/tape



DO:

Have kids decorate their palm leaf using markers and crayons. Then have them attach the popsicle stick to the bottom of the palm leaf and add the God statement sticker to the craft.



SAY:

Jesus is king! Today is Palm Sunday! We are going to learn about how people laid down palm branches to make a path for Jesus. We get to make our own palm branches too!



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

Jesus, His disciples, and God's people

2. What is the problem?

God's people had waited a long time for the Great Rescuer, the Messiah and King, that was promised throughout the Old Testament

3. What will God do?

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to show everyone He is the Messiah and King of Israel to complete what the Old Testament prophecies said.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: The Way

SONG 2: He is the Light

SONG 3: Happy Day



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: Crown poster, heart stickers (1 per kid), "Happy Day" song in Plex

Jesus is King! Jesus came to rescue us from our sins and be our King forever! He did this all because He loves us SO much. Let's do an activity to help us remember this. **Invite kids to take turns putting a heart sticker on the crown as they say "Jesus is king!" Once every kid has a turn, play "Happy Day" song and invite kids to stand and worship God together.**



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you believe that Jesus is YOUR king who came to rescue you because He loves you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: palm branch (kids can use their own palm branches made during Explore)



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hamilton waves palm branch back and forth. Hey Hamilton, what are you doing with that branch (**pause confused**)? Did you take it off a tree? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh! It's a palm branch! What's that for? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Today we're going to hear a story about when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and they all were waving palm branches to celebrate Him? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** Wow! Hamilton, sounds like such a fun story. Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

When Jesus was on earth, He performed many miracles. A miracle is something super awesome we can't do on our own power, like healing the sick instantly or walking on water. Hamilton, do you think YOU could walk on water? **Hamilton shakes head no.** Kids, could you walk on water? **Kids respond.** No!

After doing these miracles, Jesus and his friends, called disciples, went to the city of Jerusalem. Jesus rode into the city on a donkey to show everyone He is the Messiah and King who was sent by God. This meant Jesus was the special one chosen to rescue all of us from our sins!

The people were so excited to see Jesus that they waved palm branches and celebrated His entrance shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Can you say "hosanna" with me and wave your palm branch? **Encourage the kids to triumphantly repeat "hosanna" a few times.**

Jesus is a special king - he didn't come with a crown on his head like we might think of. **Pretend to put crown on head.** No, Jesus came riding in on a donkey! Jesus came to the world to save us from our sins. The people in Jerusalem celebrated Jesus, their King and Messiah. Today, we celebrate Jesus too because **Jesus is King!**

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the students remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing simple motions to help them remember the phrase.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **Jesus is King!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

Use simple hand motions to help kids remember the God Statement as you say it together.



ACTIVITY- Praise Parade

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Palm branches (made during Explore)



SAY:

Today we learned how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while people waved palm branches. They celebrated Jesus as the king! We are going to celebrate Jesus, too!



DO:

Encourage kids to form a line behind the leader or LIT. Play music as the kids follow the leader or LIT around the room waving their palm branch and shouting, "Hosanna! Jesus is King!" You can make the activity even more engaging by instructing the kids to copy the leader as he/she does different things - waves palm branch above head, stomps loud, stomps quiet, dances, etc.

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Face Copy Game (happy, sad, silly)
- Picture Naming (“What do you see?”)
- Stuffed Animal Toss
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing
- Follow the Leader (walk like animals, tiptoe, march)
- Body Part Pointing (“Where’s your elbow?”)
- Animal Movements (hop like a frog, slither like a snake)
- Organizing toys (by item, by color, by shape)
- March + Stop (march until you say “STOP!”)

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.