



Riding into Jerusalem

Lesson Aim: To praise Jesus as they did when He rode into Jerusalem.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: Jesus as Lord

THE WORD

Bible Story: Mark 11:1-10

What He Has Done: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37a

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord

	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Jesus and the Children, Mark 10:13-16	Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him.	To know children are important to Jesus. He wants them to come to Him.
12	Jesus Cares for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, John 11:3-4, 21-23, 32-44	Jesus wept when He saw their sorrow.	To see when we are sad, Jesus is sad for us.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Mark 11:1-10	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	To praise Jesus as they did when He rode into Jerusalem.
14	The Miracle of Easter, Matthew 28:1-7	God raised Lord Jesus to life after He died for us.	To learn God raised Jesus to life and Jesus lives forever.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-14	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To show Jesus proved He was alive after God raised Him to life.
16	Jesus Goes Up to Heaven, Luke 24:50-53	Jesus blessed His disciples and was lifted up to heaven.	To know where Jesus is.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 7:9-10. Please join us in praying, "Jesus, You are the one who came in the name of the Lord God Almighty. Give the children hearts to praise You for who You are and what You have done to save us. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Children may arrive filled with excitement and stories of the Easter bunny, Easter baskets, and candy. Families celebrate Easter in different ways, so we ask you to not talk about the Easter bunny with the children. Instead, let's focus on the reason for Easter-Jesus and His resurrection.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME		Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a palm leaf
		Coloring Center: Riding into Jerusalem	Coloring pages of Jesus riding on a donkey, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: With Our Palms	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, palm branch
		Block Center: Welcoming Jesus	Blocks
		Dramatic Play Center: A Celebration	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 13
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Mark 11:1-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 11:8 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, palm branch
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Hosanna Palms	Sturdy green paper, green crepe paper, large craft stick, glue or tape
		Game: Praise Parade	Fabric squares and palm leaves (or green streamers)
		Game: Praise Jesus	Green streamers
		Snack: Crunchy Palms	Celery sticks with cream cheese or any green-colored snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 13
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Mark 11:1-10	None
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Circle	None
	Up to 10	Game: I See Someone Jesus Loves	Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Jesus riding into Jerusalem

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as Lord

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a palm leaf. **Today, we will hear how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Let this stamp (or sticker) of a palm leaf help you remember the people welcomed Jesus by waving palm branches. They praised Him by shouting the word, "Hosanna!"**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: RIDING INTO JERUSALEM

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus riding on a donkey, crayons

DO

Children color while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

What do you see in the picture you are coloring? (Jesus is riding a donkey, happy people, palm branches.) **Today, we celebrate Palm Sunday; it is the day we remember when the people celebrated as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Many boys, girls, and families welcomed Him, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!"**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: WITH OUR PALMS

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, palm branch

DO

Children press their hands in the play-dough while discussing the meaning of Palm Sunday.

TALK ABOUT

Show children how to roll out or flatten the play-dough and press their palms into it. **Today, we celebrate Palm Sunday to remember the day people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by waving palm branches and praising His name.** Show children the palm branch. **I don't have enough palm branches for all of us, but you can praise Jesus with the palms of your hands.** Hold out your open hands, palms facing up. **God gave us two palms with which to praise Jesus. We can clap (clap), we can raise our hands high (raise hands), or we can use them to serve others (hold palms up in front of you).** **Can you think of any other ways you can praise Jesus with your palms?** (Children respond.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: WELCOMING JESUS

SUPPLIES

Blocks

DO

Children make a path with the blocks. Optional: Act out the story.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, Jesus rides through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. The people praised Jesus by laying their coats and palm branches on the ground to make a special path for Him. Can you make a path with the blocks? We can pretend Jesus is coming on His donkey.

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: A CELEBRATION

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

DO

Children prepare a special meal for a celebration.

TALK ABOUT

Today, is a special day. It's the day we remember the day people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with shouts of praise and by waving palm branches in the air. We call that day "Palm Sunday." What does your family like to eat on special days? (Children respond.) Let's make a special meal together as we celebrate Palm Sunday.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as Lord

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, today we praise You with our words and with our actions. Thank You for Your goodness. Amen.**



Jesus rode into a town named Jerusalem as many boys, girls, and families welcomed Him and praised Him. The people remembered Jesus' miracles. We can remember them, too! Sing: "I Will Remember."

Let's give thanks to the Lord for His goodness as we give our offerings to His church. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



Jesus rode into town on a donkey. I wonder if our friend Delbert the Donkey knows about this story. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 13.



Let's praise Jesus together just like the people did that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. You may choose to act out Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."



Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together with the motions. Practice a few times with the sign language.

"Love the Lord your God

(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**with all your heart."
Matthew 22:37a**

The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



People praised Jesus as He rode into town

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 11:8, picture of the Bible story, palm branch

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Have you ever seen a parade? (Children respond.) **What did you see in the parade?** (Children respond.) **Parades often celebrate special days or special people. Today, we celebrate Palm Sunday. Our story is about a very special parade for a very special person.**

Hold up the palm branch. **Who can tell me what this is?** (A palm branch.) **On Palm Sunday, we remember the day people waved palm branches in the air and shouted "Hosanna!" as Jesus rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. Let's listen.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 11:8.



WATCH THE WORD: MARK 11:1-10

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jesus walked towards Jerusalem,**
- **He sent two friends ahead.**
- **He sent them to the village nearby,**
- **And this is what He said:**
 - **"When you reach the village,**
 - **A donkey you will find.**
 - **Untie it there and bring it here.**
 - **Into town I will ride.**
- **"Here is what to say,**
- **If anyone asks you why:**
- **'Lord Jesus needs this donkey.**
- **Upon it He will ride.'"**
- **The people came to see Him ride,**
- **On the road, they spread coats out.**
- **They waved palm branches in the air.**
- **"Hosanna," they did shout.**

What did the people lay on the ground for Jesus' donkey to walk on? (Coats and branches.) **What did the people shout to Jesus?** ("Hosanna!")



We can praise Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: HOSANNA PALMS

Purpose: To praise the Lord with palm branches as the people did when He rode into town.

Supplies: Sturdy green paper, green crepe paper, large craft stick, glue or tape

Prepare: From sturdy green paper, cut a 8-inch x 11-inch oval or palm leaf shape. On the palm leaf, print: **“Hosanna!” Mark 11:10.** Cut four 6-inch lengths of green crepe paper or cut four 6-inch x 1-inch strips from sturdy green paper.

Optional Template: A craft template is available for this lesson at ResourceWell.org.

Directions:

1. Glue the end of the palm leaf to one end of the craft stick.
2. Glue the four pieces of crepe paper to the sides of the palm leaf.

Craft Discussion:

- **What did Jesus ride on?** (A donkey.) **Jesus’ friends borrowed a donkey for Jesus.**
- **How did the people make the road to be a special place for Jesus’ donkey?** (They laid coats and palm branches in the road.)
- **What word did the people shout to welcome Jesus?** (“Hosanna!”) **Hosanna means “save.” It is a special word we use to praise Jesus for being the one who came to save us.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: PRAISE PARADE

Purpose: To help children learn the story and praise Jesus in a new way.

Supplies: Fabric squares and palm leaves (or green streamers)

Let's pretend we are in Jerusalem and Jesus is about to ride past us on the donkey. Let's make a path for His donkey, then we can praise Him by shouting "Hosanna!" We shout "Hosanna" to tell Jesus we are glad He is our Lord.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be Jesus.
2. Give a fabric square, palm leaf, or green streamer to each child.
3. **Let's pretend these fabric squares are coats. Make a path for Jesus' donkey by spreading your coats on the ground.**
4. Have the children stand on either side of the fabric squares to form a path.
5. **Wave your palm leaves and streamers in the air. Everyone clap and shout "Hosanna!"**
6. Have the child playing Jesus pretend to ride a donkey on the path as the other children wave, clap, and shout "Hosanna!"
7. Play again as time allows, letting children switch roles each time.

GAME: PRAISE JESUS

Purpose: For children to praise Jesus for His many blessings.

Supplies: Green streamers

The people praised Jesus as the Lord. What did they shout? ("Hosanna!") Jesus is our Lord, too. Let's praise Him for the things He has done for us.

Directions:

1. Children sit or stand in a circle.
2. Give each child a streamer.
3. Ask each child to stand and complete the following sentence: **"I praise Jesus for _____."** (Mom, dad, dog, friend, food, church, house, etc.)
4. Lead all the children in responding to each sentence of praise by waving their streamers and shouting **"Hosanna!"**

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: CRUNCHY PALMS

Purpose: Children will eat a green snack to remind them of the palm branches in today's story.

Snack Suggestion: Celery sticks with cream cheese or any green-colored snack

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **What did the people lay on the ground for Jesus' donkey to walk on?** (Coats and palm branches.) **We are eating a snack that is green like palm branches. Hold up your celery stick and wave it in the air like a palm branch.**
 - **The people shouted "Hosanna" to praise and welcome Jesus to their town.**
 - **How would you welcome Jesus to town?** (Children respond.) **Even though we cannot see Him, Jesus is with us all the time. You can welcome Jesus by loving Him with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MARK 11:1-10

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jesus walked towards Jerusalem,** (Walk in place.)
- **He sent two friends ahead.** (Hold up two fingers.)
- **He sent them to the village nearby,** (Point far away.)
- **And this is what He said:** (Cup hands around ear, as if listening.)

- **“When you reach the village,** (Walk in place.)
- **A donkey you will find.** (Use hands to make donkey ears.)
- **Untie it there and bring it here.** (Pretend to untie a rope.)
- **Into town I will ride.** (Point to self.)

- **Here is what to say,** (Point to mouth.)
- **If anyone asks you why,** (Palms up, as if asking a question.)
- **‘Lord Jesus needs this donkey.** (Fold hands, as if begging.)
- **Upon it He will ride.’”** (Pretend to hold reins.)

- **The people came to see Him ride;** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **On the road they spread coats out.** (Pretend to lay coat on ground.)
- **They waved palm branches in the air.** (Wave hands in air.)
- **“Hosanna,” they did shout.** (Sign language or cup hands around mouth, as if shouting.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart.” Matthew 22:37a

GAME: MEMORY VERSE CIRCLE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

You are important to Jesus and He loves you very much. He wants you to love Him with all your heart (your feelings), **and with all your soul** (the part of you that will live forever), **and with all your mind** (your thoughts).

Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children and hold hands.
2. Walk in a circle as you say the verse together, taking one step with each word.
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart.”
3. Play again, but walk in the opposite direction.
4. Play several times, doing different motions each time. Motions may include: jumping in place, clapping, hopping, etc.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: I SEE SOMEONE JESUS LOVES

Purpose: To see Jesus loves everyone.

Supplies: Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)

You are important to Jesus; He loves each and every one of you. I'm going to use my binoculars (or spy glass) to see who Jesus loves. Let's see if you can guess who I see.

Directions:

1. Scan the room with the binoculars. In your mind, choose one of the children without revealing who you have chosen to the children.
2. Say, "**I spy with my little eye someone Jesus loves. It's a girl wearing a pink dress. Do you know who it is?** Allow the children guess until they guess correctly. You may choose to give a second hint, if needed.
3. **That's right! Jesus loves child's name.**
4. Play several times.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Jesus riding into Jerusalem.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 13: Riding into Jerusalem

PONDER! Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while the people welcomed Him (Mark 11:1-10). What did the people say and do to praise Him? How can you praise Jesus?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Jesus, we praise You as our Lord. Help us remember Your miracles. Help us remember that You are the Lord of our lives. We love You. Amen."

PLAY! Act out the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Lay blankets and paper palm leaves to make a path. Take turns pretending to be Jesus while others praise Jesus by shouting, "Hosanna!" That is a word of praise that means, "Save!" We praise Jesus as the one who saves us!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
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