

# united kingdom

TRIUMPHAL  
ENTRY

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

(Based on NLT)

## Introduction

*Jesus continued to travel around teaching people about God's Kingdom and calling them back to a right relationship with God. He had twelve close followers who were always with Him and went wherever He went. Jesus decided it was time for Him to go to Jerusalem, the capital city. He sent two of His closest followers ahead of Him to prepare for His arrival. ...*

## Luke 19:30-35

*Jesus said to them, "Go into that village over there. As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it, and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that donkey?' just say, 'The Teacher needs it.'" So they went and found the donkey, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that donkey?" And the followers simply replied, "The Teacher needs it." So they brought the donkey to Jesus and threw their garments over it for Him to ride on.*

## Luke 19:36-40

*As He rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of Him. This was the typical way to welcome home a victorious king returning from battle. As He came near the city, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. They shouted, "May God bring good things to the King who is coming in His name! This King is bringing peace between God and His people!"*

But some of the *religious leaders* among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!" Jesus replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

## Luke 19:41-44

... As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, He began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will ... close in on you from every side. They will crush you ... and will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognise it when God visited you."

## Luke 19:45-48

*When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the place of worship and began to drive out the people who were selling as if it were a market place. He said to them, "It is said, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."*

After that, Jesus taught daily ... but the *religious leaders* and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill Him. But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word Jesus said.

# TELLING THE STORY

## Why this story?

*Jesus knows that it is now time for Him to head towards Jerusalem, the capital city. The religious leaders are growing in discontentment about all Jesus is saying – especially how people are responding to him – and His message about God’s Kingdom. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem as a King, and so will begin the fulfilment of many of God’s promises and the working out of His ultimate salvation plan.*

Jesus accepts the people’s praise as King. We see the miraculous in the way He obtains the donkey and His heart breaking at those who don’t accept who is He and the new Kingdom He is about to usher in. We see His fury at the misuse of the temple (the place of worship).

## Key concepts to include in your story

- **Jesus decided it was time to go to Jerusalem ...** Set the scene for your audience by transitioning from the Sending the 72 story to this story highlighting that Jesus continued to travel around teaching about God’s kingdom. Mention that Jesus had 12 close friends who were always with Him, and He sent two ahead to prepare for His entry into Jerusalem, the capital city
- Jesus tells the men
  - Go to that village where you will find a young donkey tied up
  - Untie the young donkey and bring it to Me
  - Tell anyone who asks what you are doing that the *Teacher* needs it
  - All happened as Jesus said it would, and they brought the donkey to Jesus
- Jesus rode on the donkey and the people spread their garments on the road, shouted and praised God
- The religious leaders told Jesus to stop His followers from shouting out. Jesus replied that if they were quiet, the stones on the road would burst in cheers
- As Jesus came close to Jerusalem, He stopped and began to weep. He declared:
  - “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will ... close in on you from every side. They will crush you ... and will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognise it when God visited you.”
- When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He went to the place of worship and began to drive out those selling. He said:
  - “It is said, ‘My house will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”
- Jesus taught daily but the religious leaders began to plot how to kill Him ... however, the people hung onto every word Jesus said

## Notes about how the story was crafted

We have used the phrase **close followers** rather than **disciples** as we felt it portrayed most of the important elements of what being a disciple means in this particular story. People may not understand what a disciple is, or the word may have negative connotations.

Interestingly, **young donkey** is used in the NLT at the beginning of the story, and changes to **colt** later. For consistence and ease of retelling, we have used young donkey through the whole story.

**Lord** has been replaced by **Teacher** in the example story to avoid overly religious words.

**This was the typical way to welcome home a victorious king returning from battle** has been added into the story. This was just to explain what Luke’s hearers would have understood by the crowds laying garments on the road before Jesus.

**As He came near the city** is replacing **when He reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives**. This is to make the story simpler to tell and easier to remember. The important element is that Jesus was nearing Jerusalem.

**Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!** has been summarised in the example story to **They shouted "May God bring good things to the King who is coming in His name!"** Blessings may not be understood by all, so to say **God bring good things** is more understandable.

**This King is bringing peace between God and His people!** has replaced **Peace in heaven**, and **glory in the highest heaven!** The Greek phrase **peace in heaven** implies that there is something more happening than just a man simply riding a donkey into Jerusalem. The reconciliation between God and His people is moving forward as God's redemption plan plays out, and it is as Jesus, the Promised King, comes that the reconciliation begins to happen. In heaven peace reigns because, God's plan is being fulfilled.

**Pharisees** has been replaced by **religious leaders** to make the story accessible to more listeners.

Verses 41-44 have been slightly summarised. Details such as their enemies **will build ramparts against their walls** have been removed to make the story easier to learn, without missing the key message that a difficult time was to come and that Jesus was distraught that God's people, the Jews, hadn't recognised that God had come to them as He had promised.

**When Jesus reached Jerusalem** has been added. Verse 45 begins **when Jesus entered the temple**, however we have not used the idea of the temple through the story set, and people hearing the Gospel being read would have understood that when 'Jesus entered the temple,' it meant that He had arrived in Jerusalem. We have continued to use **place of worship** in the examples stories rather than **temple** to keep consistency within the story set and make the story accessible to more listeners.

Verses 45-48 have details about animals being sold for sacrifices and how this practice was being used to extort money from people wanting to offer worship to God. Jewish people would want to offer animal sacrifices to God; however, the animals had to be bought from the temple. Those who were selling the animals were charging prices far above what they should have. It is also believed that the selling of animals was taking place in the area of the temple where Gentiles were allowed to go. Therefore, not only did the prices of animals being sold mean it was prohibitive for some Jews to offer sacrifices as they couldn't afford the inflated prices, but there was little physical room for Gentiles to go to the temple either as the market place was in the gentile court. Jesus was clearly furious about the inequality of what was happening and the prevention of people being able to access His Father.

**The Scriptures declare** has been replaced by **it is said** in the example written story. Again, this is to make the story accessible to more listeners.

**My temple** has been replaced by **My house** in this story. Jesus calls the temple a house of prayer, so we have replaced temple with house for ease of retelling.

# DISCUSSION POINTS

## Retelling the story

As your group practises retelling this story, help them see the different scenes in this story.

- Transition
  - Jesus continues to teach about the kingdom of God. He sends two of His close friends to Jerusalem to prepare for His arrival
- Jesus tells the two followers to get a donkey from a village – there is the detail about what to say to the owners!
- Jesus rides on the donkey and people spread garments on the road. He is welcomed as a victorious King.
  - The religious leaders ask Jesus to rebuke His followers. Jesus declares the stones would burst into cheers!
- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
  - Wishes that people would understand the way to peace
  - Too late, so peace is hidden
  - Enemies will close in, crush and leave not a stone in place
  - Because they didn't recognise when God visited
- Jesus reaches Jerusalem and drives out the sellers in the temple
  - 'My house will be a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a den of thieves'
- Jesus taught daily in the temple
  - Religious leaders began to plan how to kill Jesus
  - ... But the people hung on every word Jesus said

## Questions for discussion

*You don't have to ask all of these questions in your discussion times. These questions are discussion starters, but you will find that often, once people feel comfortable, they talk about many of these things naturally. However, these questions are helpful to keep a conversation going where needed, and they provide a logical sequence of working through the story. Even if you don't ask all the questions in a group, try to ask people what this story means for them personally. You'll find that as you continue to interact with God's Word at a deep level, God's Spirit will reveal things for your life in a wonderful way!*

- What do you like about this story?
- What bothered you about this story?
- What does this story show you about God?
- What does this story show you about people?
- What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
- How will you remember this story? (*Tell it!*)
- Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to? Or anyone you would like to practice with? E.g. Your children, your best friend, your wife, your husband, a mum at the school gate, your work colleague, your neighbour. (It's true that the best way to learn a story is to tell it. So why don't you give it a go and chat to each other next week about how you found it?)
- How does this story contribute to our understanding of the Gospel? How is this story part of the Gospel?

## Questions people may have

*This section can never be exhaustive. Remember that during your group discussion times, you want to focus on the above questions rather than get side tracked by deeply academic issues. Part of the joy of experiencing and studying God's Word in this way is allowing God's Spirit to teach us and reveal His truth to us through the narrative of the individual stories, and ultimately through the narrative of the larger story line. However, we understand that sometimes people feel they need some deeper answers. Sometimes, the storyline has to speak for itself, and we have to trust it to do so. However, if your group needs some deeper answers in order to go on, here are some basics that you can discuss. If you have unresolved questions, please come and ask, and we'll help you find the answers.*

- Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey?

*It was a fulfilment of Zachariah 9:9. "Look your King is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet He is humble, riding on a donkey."*

- When Jesus stopped and wept over Jerusalem, why was it "too late?" Where was a show of grace or a second chance? *There could be two elements to answer this question. Firstly, God had sent His only Son for the human race, and the Jewish nation had been waiting for the Promised King for hundreds of years. Here Jesus was about to embark on the most crucial event in all of history, and yet the very people He came to reclaim were about to reject Him in the most vicious way. He knew their shouts of joy and praise were about to turn to jeers and shouts of death. How His heart broke – that those He came to restore to the Father were about to so completely reject Him. The people didn't recognise God's visit to earth.*

*Secondly, the people in Jerusalem had been told by Jesus that He was the one they were waiting for. Luke 17:20-21 records Jesus saying to the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was among them. The people were without excuse – it had been made clear that the King had come, yet they chose to reject Him or simply not accept Him. Time and again Jesus had shown that He was different – fulfilling the ancient prophecies about a different type of King.*

*It seems that God extended grace time and again, calling the people into His kingdom, calling them to accept the Promised King ... but it seems, in God's holiness, a time has to come when judgement is finally exercised. Therefore, Jerusalem was without excuse and liable to judgement. We know from subsequent passages in the Bible that many in Jerusalem do become believers (especially in Acts!). However, those who persistently cling to the old power structures and old laws without experiencing the fulfilment of Jesus in those laws do receive judgement, and it will be "too late" for them as long as they persist in their old ways.*

*We know that Jesus was put to death at the shouts of those in the city. However, we also know so much more ... that God raised him from the dead! Jesus overcame death! Jesus is the Promised King! He offers all humanity a way back to the Father. That includes every person living in Jerusalem at the time and everyone who has lived since then.*

- Was the "too late" directed at the people in the city, or to the city itself?

*"Jerusalem" in Luke and Acts often represents the corrupt or prideful hierarchical system of leadership and power that God's original religious and cultural system for His people had transformed into. As a representation of that, Jerusalem's fall to the Romans and subsequent destruction (including the Temple being razed to the ground) in 70AD would seem to be a picture of the consequences of such a persistent yet wrong belief system.*

- Why did the religious leaders react so badly to what the people were saying?

*There is a sense that the religious leaders thought Jesus actions were inappropriate. Although the people weren't saying that Jesus was God, they were saying that He was the Promised King. The religious leaders simply didn't understand whom Jesus was and were annoyed, confused, frustrated and upset that people continued to think He was the Promised King. They were probably worried that the people would want to make Jesus king. This would cause the religious leaders anxiety about what those in authority would say. At the time, the people in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas were living under Roman occupation. The central Roman authorities would allow a certain degree of autonomy for the Roman rulers in Jerusalem. However, if there was any indication of a revolt, Rome would immediately respond and quash any uprising. For this reason, the Pharisees were likely to be very fearful of the people declaring Jesus as King – especially as He wasn't a warrior who would be able to overthrow the Roman rule in Jerusalem. Although the religious leaders didn't like the Roman occupation, they were allowed to carry on their practices and lead the people in the way they always had. Jesus threatened to destabilise everything.*

# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY – for children

## Introduction

*Jesus continued to travel around teaching people about God's Kingdom and **how to have** a right relationship with God. He had twelve close followers who were always with Him and went wherever He went. Jesus decided it was time for Him to go to Jerusalem, the capital city. He sent two of His closest followers ahead of Him to prepare for His arrival.*

...

## Luke 19:30-35

*Jesus said to them, "Go into that village over there. As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it, and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that **donkey**?' just say, 'The Teacher needs it.'" So they went and found the **donkey**, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that **donkey**?" And the followers simply replied, "The Teacher needs it." So they brought the **donkey** to Jesus and threw their **coats** over it for Him to ride on.*

## Luke 19:36-40

*As He rode along, the crowds spread out their **coats** on the road ahead of Him. **This was the way people usually welcomed home a king who returned after winning a battle.** As He came near the city, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. **They shouted, "May God bring good things to the King who is coming in His name! This King is bringing peace between God and His people!"***

But some of the *religious leaders* among the crowd said, "Teacher, **tell** your followers **not to say** things like that!" Jesus replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

## Luke 19:41-44

... As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, He began to **cry for it**. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will ... close in on you from every side. They will **destroy** you ... and will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognise it when God visited you."

## Luke 19:45-48

*When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the place of worship and began to **throw** out the people who were selling **things** as if it were a market place. He said to them, "It is said, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a **place for robbers!**"*

After that, Jesus taught **every day** ... but the *religious leaders* and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill Him. But they could think of nothing, because all the people **were listening closely to** every word Jesus said.

# TELLING THE STORY – for children

## Key concepts to include in your story

The story will need to be simplified at varying levels based on the age group of the children you are teaching. This means that many of the details in the story will need to be summarized. However, you should include the following concepts in your story.

- **Jesus decided it was time to go to Jerusalem ...** Set the scene for your audience by transitioning from the Sending the 72 story to this story highlighting that Jesus continued to travel around teaching about God's kingdom. Mention that Jesus had 12 close friends who were always with Him, and He sent two ahead to prepare for His entry into Jerusalem, the capital city
- Jesus tells the men
  - Go to that village where you will find a young donkey tied up
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- As Jesus came close to Jerusalem, He stopped and began to weep. He declared:
  - "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will ... close in on you from every side. They will crush you ... and will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognise it when God visited you."
- When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He went to the place of worship and began to drive out those selling. He said:
  - "*It is said, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves.*"
- Jesus taught daily but the religious leaders began to plot how to kill Him ... however, the people hung onto every word Jesus said

### *Example of a simplified version of the story for children*

*Jesus continued travelling and teaching people about God's Kingdom and how to have a good relationship with God. He had twelve close followers who were always with Him and went wherever He went. Jesus decided it was time to go to Jerusalem – the capital city. So Jesus sent two of His closest followers ahead of Him to prepare the way. Jesus told them, "Go into that village over there. When you enter the village, you will see a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just tell them that the Teacher needs it." So the two men went and found the donkey just like Jesus had told them. And when they untied the donkey, the owner asked them what they were doing. The followers of Jesus said, "The Teacher needs it." Then they brought the donkey to Jesus and put their coats on its back for Jesus to sit on. As Jesus rode on the donkey, the crowds of people spread their coats on the road ahead of Him. That's how people usually welcomed home a king who returned after winning a battle, and now they did it for Jesus. As He got close to the city, all of Jesus' followers began to shout and sing as they walked along. They thanked God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. They shouted, "May God bring good things to the King who is coming in His name! This King is bringing peace between God and His people!" But some of the religious leaders who heard this were not happy. They told Jesus, "Teacher, tell your followers not to say things like that!" Then Jesus said, "If my followers kept quiet, the stones on the road would start cheering for Me!" As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem, He started crying for the city ahead of Him. He said, "I wish you knew today what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from you. The time is coming when your enemies will surround you. They will destroy you and all your people. Not a single stone will be left in place, because you didn't recognize the time when God came to save you." When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the place of worship. Then He began to throw out the people who were selling things like they would at a market. Jesus said to them, "It is said, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a place for robbers!" After that, Jesus taught in the place of worship everyday. Some of the religious leaders and other leaders of the people wanted to kill Jesus. But they didn't know how they could do it, because all the people were listening closely to every word Jesus said.*

## Retelling the story

The following activities can be used to vary your storying sessions with the children and keep the action fresh and exciting. They also help the children learn the stories in different ways. You'll find as children journey through this story set with you, they become more and more capable of learning even complicated stories quickly and well. Varying activities and keeping it fun helps the children write the stories on their heart so that they can pull them out of their toolbox whenever a situation comes up where they can use them!

- **Charades** – Have participants choose one line from the story and use actions to convey that line to the rest of the group. The child that guesses correctly goes next.
- **Skit** – Assign parts to groups and have them act out the story as you or a participant narrates. This can be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, you may choose to have each team act out the whole story, or assign sections and have them perform the skits in chronological order one after the other.
- **Song** – This activity seems to work best in small groups of older and more advanced students. If you believe your group would enjoy this activity, have them write and perform a song based on a story or a portion of a story. To make this task easier, have each group choose a song melody as their foundation and change the lyrics as needed, as opposed to starting from scratch.
- **Sign Language** – This is a great way to incorporate kinaesthetic learning into storying. Work with the participants to develop "sign language" for keywords in the story. This will help them to remember the order and progression of the story. This activity may also be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, have a participant from each team narrate as the group demonstrates their motions. The more creative, the more likely they are to remember it! Sign language is a good activity if younger and more inexperienced storytellers are part of the group.
- **Perspective Shift** – This creative and critical thinking activity works best later in the story set. Assign groups of children different characters in the story. They then adjust the story they have learned to the perspective of that character. For example, they could tell the Fall story from Adam and Eve's perspectives or the Abraham story from Abraham's perspective.
- **Memory** – The storyteller starts this activity by saying the first line of the story. The story then moves around the circle as each participant tells a line. An alternate method is to go back and forth between partners as they tell the story to each other.
- **Popcorn** – The storyteller also starts this activity. As children remember, they raise their hand. When ready, the storyteller yells "pop" and the name of someone with their hand raised. That person will then jump in until more hands are raised and they shout "pop" to pass the story to another child. You will likely need to demonstrate how this works.
- **Interview** – Children are assigned different characters. A child designated as "interviewer" asks the characters questions about what happened in the story and the character answers according to his or her role. For example, the interviewer could ask Adam about what he witnessed or the actions he took in the garden when he ate the fruit, and Adam would give his answer.
- **Action words** – Before telling the story, the storyteller gives instructions associated with particular words. Children listen for those words in the story, and must do appropriate action when heard. For example, the storyteller would tell the participants to wiggle their arm like a snake anytime they hear the word "snake." There should be multiple words associated with actions in the story. This activity also works well with a younger audience.

# Children's Teaching Materials

Sunday mornings will begin in the warehouse with a joint children's worship time led by a youth worship band followed by a storying session with the roving storyteller. Then groups will disperse to their usual meeting locations for the age-appropriate teaching of the story and activities that reinforce that story's message.

## Sparks

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:30 | Retell the story. Use a Storybook Bible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Resources Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storybook Bible</li><li>• Rice cakes</li></ul>                                                                     |
|       | Snack – rice cakes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10:45 | Craft:<br>~ Make a collage on paper. Use circles for faces, brown paper down the middle for stones and pieces of cloth for garments. Cut out a donkey to put on the collage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coloured paper</li><li>• One long piece of paper</li><li>• Circles</li><li>• Pens</li><li>• Scraps of cloth</li><li>• Glue</li></ul> |
| 11:10 | Song: "He'll be Riding on a Donkey"<br>(Sing to the tune of "She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain")<br><i>He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!</i><br><i>He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!</i><br><i>He'll be riding on a donkey; He'll be riding on a donkey; He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!</i><br><br><i>Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Our King!</i><br><i>Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Our King!</i><br><i>Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him; Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him; Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Praise God! Our King!</i><br><br><i>We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. God's Son!</i><br><i>We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. God's Son!</i><br><i>We'll be waving our palm branches; We'll be waving our palm branches; We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. Praise God! Our King! God's Son!</i><br><br><i>We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" when He comes. We're saved!</i><br><i>We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" when He comes. We're saved!</i><br><i>We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" when He comes.</i><br><i>Praise God! Our King! God's Son! We're saved!</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music</li></ul>                                                                                                                      |
| 11:15 | Video: (use the same video of the triumphal entry that was used on Palm Sunday)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Video of triumphal entry</li></ul>                                                                                                   |
| 11:20 | Play                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                              |

Resources Needed:

- 10:30 Begin with prayer. (Don't repeat a specific prayer, but follow the general idea of the prayer below.)  
~ Say "Hi" to God, tell Him we're glad He's there with us and ask Him to help us see Him, hear Him and know Him. Invite Him into everything we'll be doing today.  
  
Keep today's focus in mind: "I welcome Jesus as my King."
- 10:35 Retell the story. Then tell the story again using a "sound scape." Groups of children are assigned to make different/relevant noises as the story is told. Examples: Jesus riding on the donkey, palm branches, crowds, shouting "hosanna," angry leaders, etc. The story can be told a third time with the children helping act it out – dressed in various clothing/outfits.
- 10:45 "Knowledge Harvest" conversation: (use similar questions as below)  
~ What was Jesus teaching people as He travelled?  
~ What did Jesus send two of His closest followers to do?  
~ What were the followers supposed to say if anyone asked why they were taking the donkey?  
~ What did the crowd put on the road as Jesus rode the donkey?  
~ Why did the crowd put their coats on the road?  
~ What did the people shout as Jesus rode by them?  
~ What did the religious leaders say about the crowd?  
~ How did Jesus respond to the religious leaders?  
~ Why did Jesus cry?  
~ What did Jesus do when He entered the place of worship in Jerusalem? Why?  
~ What did the religious leaders want to do to Jesus?
- 10:50 Games:  
~ "Pin Jesus on the Donkey" – Follow the rules of "Pin the tail on the donkey."  
~ "Musical Cloaks" – Follow the rules of "Musical Chairs" using either real clothes or drawn pictures.
- 11:00 Biscuit break – Use this relatively calm opportunity for a little chat and prayer time.  
  
Discussion: "How can you show Jesus that you welcome Him as your King?"
- 11:05 Popcorn Prayer  
~ Have simple prayers, popcorn style: "Thank you, Jesus, for \_\_\_\_!"
- Clothing or various outfits
  - Donkey poster
  - Picture of Jesus
  - Tape or blue tack
  - Clothing or pictures of clothing
  - Music
  - Biscuits

- 11:10 Song: "He'll be Riding on a Donkey" • Music

(Sing to the tune of "She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain")

*He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!*

*He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!*

*He'll be riding on a donkey; He'll be riding on a donkey; He'll be riding on a donkey when He comes. Praise God!*

*Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Our King!*

*Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Our King!*

*Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him; Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him; Oh, we'll all go out to meet Him when He comes. Praise God! Our King!*

*We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. God's Son!*

*We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. God's Son!*

*We'll be waving our palm branches; We'll be waving our palm branches; We'll be waving our palm branches when He comes. Praise God! Our King! God's Son!*

*We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" when He comes. We're saved!*

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*We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" We'll be shouting out "Hosanna!" when He comes.*

*Praise God! Our King! God's Son! We're saved!*

- 11:15 Learn the words of the week: "I welcome Jesus as my King."

- Visuals to help learn the phrase

- 11:20 Craft:  
~ Make donkeys either out of clothespins/paper or handprints/paint.



- Printed picture of donkey
- Wool
- Clothespins
- Beady eyes
- Crayons
- Grey paint
- Black markers
- Paper

- 11:30 If there is any remaining time (or the previous activities finish early), allow the children to freely choose to do whatever they want to do. Play story-relevant music in the background. Leaders should engage with the children during this time: celebrate them, pray for them, love them.

~ Play with story-oriented toys

~ Role play

~ Play-dough creations

~ "Pin Jesus on the Donkey"

~ Colouring station

~ "Musical Cloaks"

- Story-oriented toys
- Play-dough
- Colouring sheets
- Blank paper
- Crayons
- Music
- (Earlier game supplies)

- 10:35 Welcome, reminder of last week's story and straightforward telling of the new story. Then play "Praise Bingo" to help the children retell the story.

| PRAISE THE LORD! |       |       |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SING             | CLAP  | DANCE | PRAY  | JUMP  |
| JUMP             | AMEN! | SHOUT | DANCE | CLAP  |
| CLAP             | SHOUT | ★     | PRAY  | SING  |
| AMEN!            | DANCE | SHOUT | JUMP  | SING  |
| CLAP             | PRAY  | SHOUT | SING  | AMEN! |

~ Divide into teams. Give each team a bingo card with words like "praise" and "sing." Each time a team answers a question correctly about the story, they pick a word from a hat and cover that word on their bingo card. The words should represent different ways to praise the Lord. Words may be repeated, but only one word can be covered at a time (even if the same word is on the card more than once).

#### Resources Needed:

- Bingo cards (one for each group)
- Hat
- Labels with words about praise that go with the bingo cards

- 10:45 Discuss the questions in small groups:

~ What do you like about this story?  
 ~ What bothered you about this story?  
 ~ What does this story show you about God?  
 ~ What does this story show you about people?  
 ~ What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?  
 ~ How will you remember this story? *Tell it!*  
 ~ To whom will you tell this story?

- 11:00 Craft:

Have a prepared frieze on the wall with a cutout of Jesus on the donkey. Have the kids cut paper into the shape of coats/cloaks, write a praise on them, decorate them and then stick them onto the frieze (in the road ahead of Jesus).

- Prepared frieze already on the wall
- Construction paper or coloured paper
- Blue tack
- Decorating supplies

- 11:15 Game: Donkey Relay

~ Let children get into groups of two. One child will be the donkey and the other one will have to ride the donkey to a certain point. Then they have to quickly switch positions/characters and "ride" back to where they started. Let them race the other teams to determine a winner.

- 11:25 Circle Time: praying, reflection, responses and offering

- Container for the offering

- 10:35 Welcome, reminder of last week's story and straightforward telling of the new story. Then play "Praise Bingo" to help the children retell the story.

| PRAISE THE LORD! |       |       |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SING             | CLAP  | DANCE | PRAY  | JUMP  |
| JUMP             | AMEN! | SHOUT | DANCE | CLAP  |
| CLAP             | SHOUT | ★     | PRAY  | SING  |
| AMEN!            | DANCE | SHOUT | JUMP  | SING  |
| CLAP             | PRAY  | SHOUT | SING  | AMEN! |

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- 11:30 (As they leave) Activity pages

- Word search
- Colouring pages