

April 4th & 5th
4 Year olds-1st Grade

Bible Passage: From Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11;
Luke 19:28–38; John 12:12–19
(Triumphal Entry/Palm Sunday)

Jesus Is King

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.**

John 5:24a

Schedule

1. **Activity**
2. **Storytime**
3. **Questions to go deeper**
4. **Blessing**
5. **Optional Worship music**
-
- **Supplies**
- **Paper (construction or whatever you have)**
- **Green markers/crayons**
- **Scissors**
- **Paper for Remember Verse**
- **Bible (yours and your child's)**
-
-
-
-

//Activity//

Parents, this is a way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about Jesus entering Jerusalem.

Find a Branch!

In today's part of The Big God Story, Jesus enters Jerusalem and is greeted by the people waving palm branches.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Palm Branch template (at end of lesson)
- Paper (1 sheet per child, green or use whatever you have)
- Scissors, markers or crayons

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or draw the Palm Branch template onto paper and cut out the palm branches. Make sure to have at least one branch per child.

SET UP

Invite your children to color the palm branches with green crayons or markers and cut them out. One family member can hide the palm branches around the room.

RELATE

Have your family begin searching around the room for the hidden palm branches. As children find the branches, collect each one; they will be used later during storytelling. **Who can tell me what these branches are? What part of The Big God Story are they from? Who used them?**

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse.

- Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story
- Grab one of the palm branches you made in the activity and hide it in a box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to “seek” the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word
and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.
John 5:24a**

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Eternal: Lasting forever and ever

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Very truly I tell you: Nod head in affirmation, cup hands around mouth.

whoever hears my word: cup hands around ears.

and believes him who sent me: Point index fingers to the sky.

has eternal life: Point right index finger outward and make a circular motion.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- Secret Item/What’s It: Palm Branch
- Covered place to hide secret item

What’s It: Palm Branch

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people enthusiastically celebrated Him as their king by spreading their cloaks on the road and waving palm branches. The crowd wanted Him to become their king and “save” them by freeing them from Roman rule, supplying them with food, and healing their sick. They would soon find out Jesus wasn’t the kind of king they expected. They didn’t understand the Messiah would become their true Savior through suffering death on the cross.

RELATE

Invite one of your children (assistant) to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking into the box. Have him whisper the identity of the What’s It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is. If you have one child participating, consider giving them hints of what the secret item is and see if they can guess it.

Then lead your kids in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’s It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe/box and bring it to you.

ASK

Hmm, a palm branch in the wardrobe. Where do palm branches come from? Interact with responses. **Yes, that’s right! Palm branches are from palm trees! What can we do with a palm branch?** Children answer. **Yes, one of the things we can do is wave them in the air. And that’s exactly what some people did when Jesus came to town. It was a way to celebrate someone as king! Friends, do you know what time it is?**

The Big God Story

This is the “meat” of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people’s lives

From Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–38; John 12:12–19

Jesus Is King

Storytelling Technique: Props/Reenactment

SUPPLIES

- What’s It: Palm Branch
- King on a Chariot image
- Jesus on a Donkey image
- Palm branches from Activity (1 per child)

RELATE

Hello, family! I’m so glad we are all here to learn more from God’s Word—the Bible. Before we get started today, will you close your eyes and pray with me? Let’s invite God into our time and ask Him to be the one to teach us. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

We’re all going to need palm branches for The Big God Story today. Pass out paper palm branches found during activity to children; ask them not to wave them until given instructions. **As you listen to The Big God Story, you’ll get to wave your palm branches every time you hear the word *King!* Then when I do this** (create a signal cuing kids to stop), **you’ll stop waving your branches and hold them in your lap. Let’s practice ... ready? “Jesus is *King!*”** Children wave branches. **Great job!**

God made a promise long ago, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, that He would send a Savior. What happens when God makes a promise? Encourage responses. **He keeps it. That’s right! We know that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust Him! Do you remember who the promised Savior is?** Children answer. **That’s right ... the promised Savior is Jesus! God made a promise that Jesus would become Savior and *King!*** Encourage children and family to wave palm branches.

When Jesus was all grown up, He was getting ready to finish all the plans God had for Him here on earth. He had been teaching and healing, and now He and His disciples were going into the special city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival, which was a very important celebration that happened once a year. The people of Israel would gather together to feast and to celebrate God's care and protection of His people when they left Egypt long ago.

As Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem, Jesus did something that some people might have thought was strange. Take out Bible and open to Matthew 21:2–3. He told two of His disciples, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” We saw a donkey earlier, when you were playing the game!

Let's think about this for a minute ... Jesus told His disciples to go and find a donkey and colt tied up. What's a colt? Invite responses. A colt is a young donkey. In fact, a colt is not more than four years old. Can you show me four fingers? Interact with kids counting and holding up four fingers. Jesus told His disciples to untie the donkey and the colt and bring them to Him. And that's exactly what the disciples did!

The disciples led the donkey and the colt to Jesus. Because they loved Jesus, they laid some of their clothes on the animal's back before Jesus got up on the colt. Do you think this was the way a king (children wave palm branches) would travel? I picture a king (children wave palm branches) riding into town on a shiny chariot with big beautiful horses and armies of soldiers. **Show King on a chariot image.** In those days, if a king (children wave palm branches) rode into town on a donkey, that meant he was coming in peace!



As Jesus began riding into town, people recognized Him and began to make a parade for Him. **Show Jesus on a donkey image.**



They were praising and cheering because they had heard of all the wonderful things He had done. The people took palm branches from the trees and waved them, shouting, “Hosanna, hosanna!” which means “Save us now!” They wanted Jesus to be their king. Children wave palm branches. They wanted Jesus to save them from the rough people who were ruling over them and their country. The Jewish people wanted Jesus to be their leader and do everything *they* wanted. But Jesus knew the things they really needed. Jesus knew the people needed a Savior__He knows that we need a Savior. This was all part of God’s plan for His Son__to save us from our sin.

That day when Jesus rode into town, even the children were praising Jesus and following Him. You know what? We can praise Jesus too. We can praise Him because He is the one true God! We can praise Him

because He is the promised Savior God said He would send! We can praise Him not just today, but every day, because He is God, and He is worthy of our praise. Jesus is *King!* Children wave palm branches.

Want to make the story more interactive?

To make your storytelling even more interactive, consider having children act out motions within sections of the story. For example, when reading that the people waved the palm branches and laid them before Jesus, have children stand and wave their palm branches from side to side over their heads and then lay them down on the ground by bending down. You could also have kids make the sounds of the clip, clap, clop of the donkey hooves by clapping their hands on their laps or clucking their tongues.

Worship as Response

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Crayons and/or markers

RELATE

As we've been talking about today, when Jesus rode into town on the donkey, the people waved palm branches to celebrate and praise Him. We're going to get a chance to praise God too by creating these palm branches.

Why do we praise God? Because He loves us, He cares for us, He died for us, He made us, He is our King. There are so many reasons why God is worthy of our praise.

Take a half piece of paper and have your child draw a palm branch. (for younger children you may need to help them draw a palm branch) Inside the palm branch write or draw the reasons we praise God!

//Questions to go deeper//

RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, we heard about Jesus riding into Jerusalem and being praised by the people as a king. But He wasn't the type of king the people expected. He wore plain clothes, rode on the back of a donkey, and came to be our Savior forever. Jesus is our King and promised Savior.

I wonder ... What would I have shouted to Jesus to praise Him as He rode by?
I wonder ... Why does Jesus want to be my King?
I wonder ... How can I worship Jesus as my King?

//Bless//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

RELATE

Close your time with the following call-and-response blessing. Teach children their part (“We praise our King”) and have them repeat that after each of your blessings.

You: **May you praise the name of Jesus.**

Children: **We praise our King.**

You: **May you remember His mighty works.**

Children: **We praise our King.**

You: **May you love Him with all your heart.**

Children: **We praise our King.**

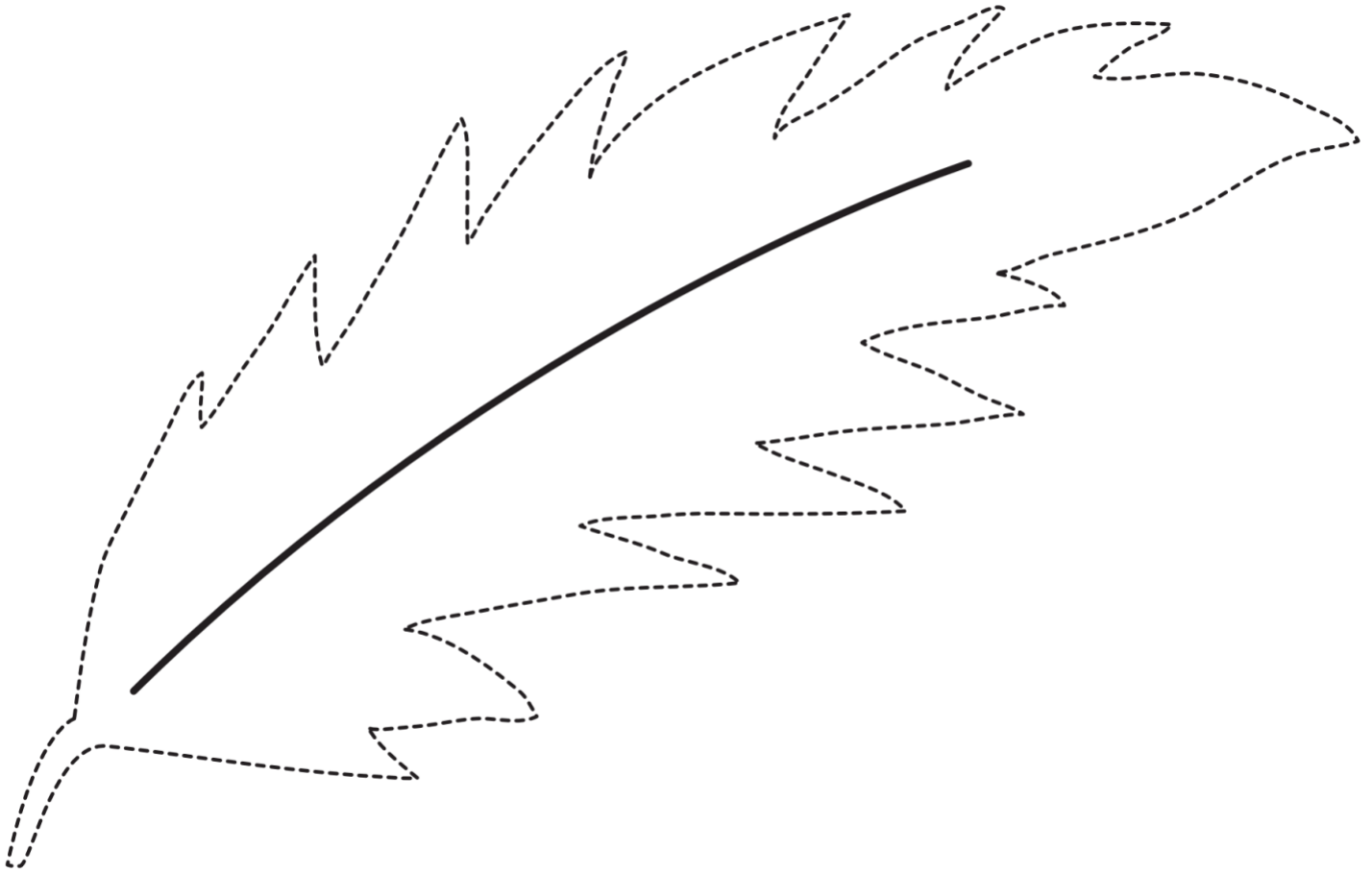
You: **May you serve the King of kings and praise Him forever and ever.**

Children: **We praise our King.**

When you've finished the call and response, gather children around you for a final blessing:

Children, may you always celebrate Jesus as your King!

Palm Branch Template



4 Year olds-1st graders

April 2020



MORNING TIME

Pray this blessing over your child: [Insert child's name], may you know and experience God's great love for you, and may you see in each day the special way you're a part of His big story.



MEAL TIME

Read to your child Luke 24:1. Ask and discuss the following questions: What happened to Jesus on the third day? What does this mean for us? What is your favorite part of the Big God Story?



CAR TIME

Practice the Remember verse from John 5:24a, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life." Try practicing the verse in different voices (ex. Cat, robot voice, slow, fast, etc.)



BED TIME

Read Exodus 12:1-30 together. Discuss with your child(ren) that The Passover Feast was a significant celebration of Passion Week. It was the remembrance of when the Lord's judgement "passed over" all those who obeyed Him during the Israelite's final days in Egypt. Jesus became our unblemished lamb and his blood covers all those who believe and choose to follow Him.

