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PALM SUNDAY

The Triumphal Entry

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Matthew 21:1 - 11

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem as was prophesied long ago by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9).
- People shouted “Hosanna” which means “God save us” and they spread palm branches on the road before Jesus, because they believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, they had been waiting for.
- Some people and some Jewish leaders did not believe that the triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus was in fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures, and therefore they did not see that he was God’s Forever King.

Memory Verse “Your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt.” (Zechariah 9:9 – paraphrased)

ACNA The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Catechism Connection

Q 29 What is in the New Testament? ...contains the record of Jesus Christ's ...life, ministry.

Q 30 How are the Old and New Testaments related to each other? ...the New Testament is to be read in light of God's revelation to Israel.

Q 227 How should you "mark" passages of Scripture? ...I should note connections between passages of Scripture in the Old and New Testaments in order to grasp the full meaning of God's Word.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Palm branches and cloaks
- Sign saying: "To Jerusalem" (with an arrow)
- Long brown sheet or green felt (depicting the road)
- Donkey ears and rope for donkey
- Scroll with Zechariah passage
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes:

- Jesus (with blue sash)
- Disciples
- Donkey (to walk/crawl in front of Jesus)
- Owner of the donkey

Memory Verse: "Your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt."
(Zechariah 9:9 – paraphrased)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (Jesus riding on a donkey, crowds, palm branches)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder why Jesus is riding on a donkey.

I wonder why the people are waving palm branches.

I wonder why some people look unhappy. (point to the Pharisees standing behind)

I wonder where Jesus is going?

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from Gospel of Matthew, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

In today's story we hear about many people who were waving palm branches and singing Hosanna, praises to God. Jesus was coming into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The people were excited to see Jesus because they believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, who they had been waiting for. The time was coming when Jesus knew he was to die. To show the people that he was their promised Messiah, the Forever King, Jesus had something special to do. When he went into Jerusalem this time, he sent his disciples to bring him a colt and then he rode on the colt into the city for all the people to see. Jesus did this to fulfill the Scripture in Zechariah that says, "Your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt, the colt of a donkey." People sang praises of "Hosanna" and threw down their cloaks and palm branches onto the ground as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. However, many of the Jewish leaders despised Jesus and didn't want anyone to follow him or believe in him. They planned a way to kill Jesus. Even though Jesus' friends and disciples did not want this to happen to him, Jesus was not afraid to die, for this was God's plan because of his great love for people - for us.

STORY:

Preparation: Give all the children a palm branch, or cloaks to lay down on the road into Jerusalem. Lay a long brown sheet (or felt) down to depict the road. Have children sit down on either side of the road as the story is told.

TEACHER: Now Jesus knew that the time was coming when he would soon be killed by some of the Jewish leaders. Some people and Jewish leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Promised Messiah (Forever King). Jesus tried to explain to his disciples that he must suffer, be crucified and die but that he would rise again on the third day. However, his disciples were very upset and did not want Jesus to be hurt and therefore they did not want him to go into Jerusalem. His disciples tried to stop him.

Here comes Jesus and his disciples now.

ACTION: *Jesus walking toward the sign "Jerusalem", but his disciples trying to make him turn back (i.e. pointing in the opposite direction, pleading with him to turn back).*

TEACHER: However, Jesus was not afraid. Jesus knew that he would fulfill the Old Testament scriptures. So he continued to walk toward the city of Jerusalem.

As they were coming close to the city, Jesus told two of his disciples that they would find a colt (young donkey) tied to a door and they were to untie the colt and bring it to him.

Jesus was going to do something that was written in the Old Testament scriptures a very long time ago.

Let's find out what Jesus was going to do.

Who would like to read this scripture in Zechariah 9:9?

ACTION: *The teacher will give a student the scroll to read which has the scripture verse below.*

STUDENT (open scroll and read): "Tell the people of Jerusalem, your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt."

TEACHER: That is amazing. Jesus is going to do exactly what was written in the scripture of Zechariah. He would come into Jerusalem as a gentle king, riding on a colt, just like God had told Zechariah long ago.

Let's continue on.... Look....there are the two disciples going to untie the colt.

ACTION: *Have the colt tied to a door. The 2 disciples see the colt and untie it in order to bring the colt to Jesus.*

TEACHER: As the 2 disciples were untying the colt, the owner came up to them and asked,

ACTION: *Have the owner approach the 2 disciples and raise their hands as if asking "What are you doing?"*

OWNER: "What are you doing untying my colt?"

TEACHER: The disciples told the person exactly what Jesus told them to say.

DISCIPLE: "Jesus needs the colt, and when he is finished he will send the colt back to you."

ACTION: *The owner “nods in agreement” and walks away. The disciples take the colt to Jesus.*

TEACHER: The disciples brought the colt to Jesus. Jesus sat on the colt (*for the comfort of the child acting as the colt, have Jesus walk closely behind the colt while holding the rope*).

TEACHER: Do you know what happened next?

TEACHER: As Jesus started to ride into Jerusalem, the people on either side of the road started to lay down their cloaks and branches onto the ground, and Jesus rode over them on the colt.

ACTION: *Have all the children who are sitting on either side of the road stand up and hold up their palm branches or coats.*

TEACHER: The people started shouting, “Hosanna, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.” (Hosanna means “save us”, and is a term used to praise God for his salvation.) The people welcomed Jesus because they believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, who they had been waiting for.

ACTION: *Children start shouting Hosanna and laying down their palm branches as Jesus rides by.*

TEACHER: Let's sing the Hosanna Song and wave our palm branches:

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Lord we lift up your name

With hearts filled with praise

Be exalted oh Lord our God

Hosanna in the highest

TEACHER: Jesus, the Forever King, rode the colt into Jerusalem, and into the temple area.

I am sure that the disciples thought with all this excitement and people praising God, nothing bad would happen to Jesus.

However, Jesus knew what was going to happen to him. He knew that within the week, some of the Jewish leaders would have him killed, and even his closest disciples would desert him for fear of their lives.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (Jesus fulfills OT prophecies about the coming King. He wanted people to know that he is a gentle and humble king. He knew what was going to happen. Jesus willingly went into Jerusalem to be crucified. He was not afraid; he was strong)
- **Where was Jesus going?** (Jerusalem)
- **Why did his disciples try to stop him?** (Jesus told them that he would die there)
- **What did he ride on?** (the colt of a donkey)
- **Why did Jesus choose to ride a colt into Jerusalem?** (to fulfill the Scripture in Zechariah and to show the people that he was a gentle and humble king)
- **Why was everyone excited to see Jesus?** (They believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, who they had been waiting for)
- **What words did they shout?** (Hosanna)
- **What does Hosanna mean?** (God save us)
- **Were there any people who did not want Jesus as king?** (yes, some of the Jewish leaders who did not believe in Jesus)
- **What kind of a king is Jesus?** (eternal, kind, humble, powerful, wise, good)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Jesus is worthy of our praise because he is God the Son, the promised Forever King. The more we get to know Jesus, the more we want to praise him all the time.

Let's use these paper palm branches to write down some of words of praise that we can give to Jesus. (King, gentle, Savior, kind, holy, eternal, wise, good, etc.)

(Note: Depending on the age of the children, the child or the teacher can print the words on either side of the palm leaf.)



People waving palm branches as Jesus and donkey enter Jerusalem

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Write words of praise on paper palm leaves.



Learning station: Children acting out story with props

"Your king is coming
to you.

He is gentle and
riding on a colt."

(Zechariah 9:9)