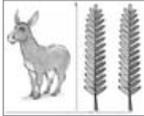




# Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem

Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

First- and second-graders know the name of Jesus and may know that this Easter season is all about him. But they may not fully understand who Jesus is, why Jesus is worthy of their praise, or even how they can praise him. Use this lesson to help children understand who Jesus is and why he is worthy of praise.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Find the Donkey</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a fun game of searching for hidden donkeys in the room.	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> 1 copy per child of the donkey from the "Donkey/Palm Branch" sheet 	Hide all the donkey pictures around your room.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>On a Donkey</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create moving pictures to recreate Jesus' triumphal entry.	Bible, My Bible Fun, scissors, crayons, yarn, hole punch or pencil, tape, glue	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.  Cut one 12-inch length of yarn for each child.



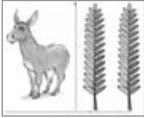
► **Bible Point**  
We praise Jesus.

**Key Verse**  
"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will learn that Jesus deserves our praise.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>I Can Praise Jesus</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Visit praise stations to learn who Jesus is and why he's worthy of praise.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, paper, markers, nature pictures, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, 2 copies per child of a palm branch from the "Donkey/Palm Branch" sheet</p> 	<p>Set up 4 "praise stations" in your room with the following supplies. Station 1: copies of the lyrics page, copies of the palm branches, CD player, and CD Station 2: paper and markers Station 3: nature pictures and a Bible Station 4: copies of the palm branches</p>
	<p><b>Jesus Is Worthy</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and act out reasons Jesus is worthy of praise.</p>	<p>Bibles</p>	
<p><b>4</b> Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		







### Find the Donkey Supplies

#### Teacher Pack

1 copy per child of the donkey from the “Donkey/Palm Branch” sheet

### Find the Donkey Easy Prep

Hide all the donkey pictures around your room.

### On a Donkey Supplies

Bible  
My Bible Fun  
scissors  
crayons  
yarn  
hole punch or pencil  
tape  
glue

### On a Donkey Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Cut one 12-inch length of yarn for each child.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Find the Donkey

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Today we're going to play a fun searching game. I've hidden pictures of donkeys in our room. Let's search for them. As soon as you find a donkey, come and sit down by me.**

Make sure each child finds a picture. If kids have trouble finding the pictures, give them clues to help them search. Wait until everyone has found a picture and is sitting down.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **In the beginning of today's Bible passage, Jesus sent out two of his disciples to find a donkey. He didn't tell them why he needed it. But they followed his instructions, anyway.**

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think I sent you to look for donkeys?
- What was it like following my directions to find the donkeys?
- Tell about some instructions you've gotten and weren't sure why you had to follow them.

Say: **We'll find out why Jesus needed a donkey and what he did with the donkey. Along the way, we'll discover why ► WE PRAISE JESUS. Let's get started!**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### On a Donkey

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-11, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today's Bible passage comes from Matthew 21:1-11. This event took place one week before Jesus' resurrection, which we call Easter. The passage is about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which is often called Palm Sunday.**



**You're going to create a "moving" picture on your My Bible Fun page to show what happened that day.**

Have kids look at the "Jesus Is Worthy" activity on this week's My Bible Fun page. Let kids cut off the bottom of the page along the horizontal cut line and then cut the picture of Jesus riding the donkey apart from the pictures of palm branches. Set out crayons for kids to share.

Say: **As I tell you what happened in today's passage, I'll tell you what to do with the items you have.**

**Jesus and his disciples were getting close to Jerusalem. Jesus told two of his disciples to go into the next village and they would find a donkey there. Jesus told the disciples to untie the donkey and bring it to him. If anyone asked what they were doing, they were supposed to say that the Lord needed the donkey and that he would return it.**

Have kids color their pictures of Jesus on the donkey. As they color, have them share with partners the answers to the following questions. After each question, invite willing children to share their answers with the whole group.

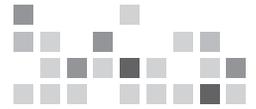
Ask:

- **In what ways do Jesus' instructions to borrow something seem strange?**
- **What would make anyone want to let Jesus borrow something as valuable as a donkey?**

As kids finish coloring, read Matthew 21:4-6 aloud.

Say: **Let's find out what the people in Jerusalem did when Jesus came riding into the city on a donkey. First add Jesus to the scene on your My Bible Fun page.**

Help kids each punch holes (with a hole punch or a pencil) where indicated on their My Bible Fun pages. Hand out the yarn, and demonstrate how to tape the center of the length of yarn to the back of the Jesus picture. Then show kids how to thread the yarn through the





### I Can Praise Jesus Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
paper  
markers  
nature pictures  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Oh, How I Love  
Jesus" (track 3)  
2 copies per child of a  
palm branch from the  
"Donkey/Palm Branch"  
sheet

### I Can Praise Jesus Easy Prep

Set up 4 "praise  
stations" in your room  
with the following  
supplies.  
Station 1: copies of the  
lyrics page, copies of  
the palm branches, CD  
player, and CD  
Station 2: paper and  
markers  
Station 3: nature  
pictures and a Bible  
Station 4: copies of the  
palm branches

holes and knot each end of the yarn. By pulling each end, kids can move the picture back and forth as if Jesus is riding the donkey across the page.

Read Matthew 21:7-8 aloud.

Say: **The people laid down palm branches and cloaks for Jesus. Then they praised Jesus. Let's add our own palm branches in front of Jesus on our My Bible Fun pages.**

Have kids cut out their palm branches and glue them to the road on their My Bible Fun pages. As they do, have kids praise Jesus by saying nice things about him.

Say: **Let's read what the people said to praise Jesus. I'll read the verse in parts, and you can repeat after me. That way, you can praise Jesus, too!**

Read Matthew 21:9 aloud, pausing after each phrase so that kids can repeat it. Then read Matthew 21:10-11.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What can you learn from the ways that people praised Jesus when he entered Jerusalem?**
- **What are ways we praise Jesus in worship?**

Say: **The crowds loudly welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with praise and excitement. Even though it happened a long time ago, we can still sense the excitement of that day. But that's not why we praise Jesus. ► WE PRAISE JESUS because he's God, he's perfect, and he chose to give up his life for us. Let's spend a few minutes praising Jesus in different ways.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### I Can Praise Jesus

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out the praise stations you set up.

Say: **We're going to visit all of these praise stations to praise Jesus.**

Take kids to the first station.



Say: **Songs that tell about who Jesus is can be a great way to praise Jesus. Let's sing one now!**

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "Oh, How I Love Jesus" (track 3 on the CD). After they listen once, give each child a palm branch and tell children to wave the branches as they sing along.



**Oh, how I love Jesus.**

**Oh, how I love Jesus.**

**Oh, how I love Jesus**

**Because he first loved me.**

**There is a name I love to hear.**

**I love to sing its worth.**

**It sounds like music in my ear—**

**The sweetest name on earth.**

*(Repeat first section 2x.)*

"Oh, How I Love Jesus" by Frederick Whitfield.

Lead children in singing along with the CD several times. After kids have finished singing, take them to the second station.

Say: **You can also praise by drawing! Draw a picture as a way to praise Jesus. Maybe you'll draw a picture of something you love about Jesus or something he's done for you.**

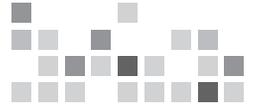
Give kids several minutes to finish their pictures. Have them find partners and share what they drew and why. Once they've finished sharing with each other, lead them to the third praise station.

Read aloud Psalm 19:1. Say: **Here we have pictures of nature. Take a look at all these pictures, and tell me why they make you think of praising Jesus.**

Pause to let kids answer.

Say: **All of creation points to how wonderful and worthy of praise Jesus is. Every day, no matter where you are or what you're doing, look around and see this wonderful world God created. And then remember to praise Jesus for what you see! Okay, now let's go to our final praise station.**

Lead kids to the fourth praise station. Have kids line up as if they're standing on the side of a road watching a parade. Give kids each a paper palm branch, and have them wave the palm branches as they shout out praises to Jesus. After kids shout out their praise, they can set their palm branches on the floor.





Say: **Our palm branches remind us that there are a lot of ways to praise Jesus, such as when the people praised Jesus by laying palm branches before him as he rode into Jerusalem. Because ► WE PRAISE JESUS, let's praise him by singing again.**

Play "Oh, How I Love Jesus" as kids sing the song again. Then gather everyone's attention.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were your favorite ways to praise Jesus that we've done today? Why?**
- **Tell about a time you really enjoyed praising Jesus.**
- **How can we make praise part of our everyday life with Jesus?**

Say: ► **WE PRAISE JESUS, not because Jesus needs it, but because we need to do it. The praising crowds in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday turned out to be just a momentary thing. In less than a week, the crowds turned against Jesus and wanted him killed. True praise happens when we praise Jesus in our hearts, and not just because everyone else is.**

## Jesus Is Worthy

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Revelation 5:12, and show kids the verse. If children have their own Bibles, help them find the verse in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud several times, and let children repeat the verse in parts after you: **"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).**

Say: **Wow! That's quite a list of all the things Jesus is worthy of! Let's act out what those things are. I'll read each word, and then let's act out what it means. You can follow my actions. Ready? Here we go.**

Read and demonstrate each of the following words: *power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise*. Here are suggested ways to demonstrate the ideas in the words:

For *power*, you could stand with your hands on your hips, telling people what to do.

For *wealth*, you could pretend to be handing out or counting lots of money.

For *wisdom*, you could point to your forehead or temple with a "knowing look" on your face.

For *strength*, you could flex your muscles.

For *honor*, you could bow down as if paying homage.

For *glory*, you could shine a light around the room showing a "glorious light."

Finally, for *praise*, you could simply lift your hands toward heaven or lead kids in singing a praise song.

Jesus Is Worthy  
Supplies

Bibles



Repeat the verse several times with kids, doing the motions each time.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Pick one of the words from our verse. Why is Jesus worthy of praise for that word?
- What are some things or people that may appear to be worthy of praise but really aren't?
- What are ways we can honor Jesus for what he's done for us?

Say: As our Key Verse in Revelation says, Jesus is worthy of praise. That's why ► **WE PRAISE JESUS.** He is God's Son! Jesus' journey to Jerusalem shows how he followed God's direction, even though it cost him enormous pain in his death. Crowds welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem—let's welcome him with our whole hearts.

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## 4

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

# Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can praise Jesus this week.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Every day, think of a reason to praise Jesus and then say a prayer to him, praising him and thanking him for that reason.
- Sing a song praising Jesus each day this week. If you run out of songs, ask a parent to teach you a new one!
- Every morning when you wake up, thank Jesus for all of his gifts to you.

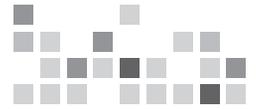
Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

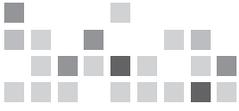
Say: Today's Bible Point was really simple: ► **WE PRAISE JESUS.** On what we now call Palm Sunday, crowds in Jerusalem praised Jesus as he passed by on a donkey. They put down palm branches and their coats to honor and praise



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Fun





him. We can honor and praise Jesus this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.

## Weaving Faith at Home

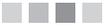
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about praising Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, telling Jesus that he deserves our praise and asking him to help us to remember to always praise him.





Lyrics 

## Oh, How I Love Jesus

Oh, how I love Jesus.  
Oh, how I love Jesus.  
Oh, how I love Jesus  
Because he first loved me.

There is a name I love to hear.  
I love to sing its worth.  
It sounds like music in my ear—  
The sweetest name on earth.

*(Repeat first section 2x.)*

"Oh, How I Love Jesus" by Frederick Whitfield.

