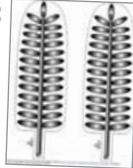




# Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem

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

Preschoolers like to sing and clap their hands with enthusiasm. They enjoy stories that are exciting and activities that are full of action. Young children can readily embrace the idea of a worship experience that is joyful and lively. Use this lesson to teach your 3- and 4-year-olds to rejoice and praise Jesus because he deserves our praise!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Circle of Praise</b> Explore a variety of ways to praise Jesus.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Tell Theo how people praise Jesus.	CD player, Theo puppet, praise music CD, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tape a CD of praise music to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Hosanna Praises</b> Shout "Hosanna!" as the Bible passage is told.	Bible, green copy paper, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Palm Branch" pattern 	Make copies of the "Palm Branch" pattern on green copy paper, and cut out the palm branches. You'll need one branch for each child.



### ► Bible Point

We praise Jesus.

### Key Verse

"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will praise Jesus.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: Prepare the Way for Jesus</b> Pretend to prepare the road for the donkey that'll carry Jesus.</p>	My Bible Hugs, scissors, glue, small cloth scraps, palm branches from the "Bible Time: Hosanna Praises" activity	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Snip small pieces from a few of the palm branches.
	<p><b>Center 2: "Praise the Lord" Snacks</b> Enjoy a fun, praising snack.</p>	graham crackers, napkins, soft cream cheese or frosting, plastic spoons, shakers of candy sprinkles, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Hosanna Hop</b> Walk the "road to Jerusalem" and wave palm branches.</p>	masking tape, palm branches from the "Bible Time: Hosanna Praises" activity	Use masking tape to create a "road to Jerusalem" on the floor.
	<p><b>Center 4: Modern Palms</b> Make pompoms, and wave them to show excitement for Jesus.</p>	one 12x24-inch piece of green tissue paper and 1 plastic straw per child, stapler, scissors	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Walk the "road to Jerusalem, and sing a prayer to Jesus.</p>	CD player, road from the "Center 3: Hosanna Hop" activity <b>Teacher Pack: CD</b>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2), "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 3)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle.

Lead children in singing "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **All the kids have come to church,** (*spread arms wide*)  
**And we're so glad to be here.** (*clap hands*)  
**All the kids have come to praise** (*raise hands toward heaven*)  
**The Lord that we hold so dear.** (*clasp hands to chest*)  
**All the children praise the Lord.** (*wave hands above head*)  
**All the children praise him.** (*wave hands above head*)  
**All the children praise the Lord.** (*wave hands above head*)  
**Now aren't you glad you're here?** (*nod head*)  
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **Are you glad to be here?** Pause. **I'm glad, too, because we can praise God together for his great love. That's something to sing about!**

Have kids stand and sing "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 3 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **God loves us.** (*cross arms over chest*)  
**God sent his Son to die for us** (*raise both arms high and lower them slowly*)  
**Because of his great love.** (*cross arms over chest and sway*)  
 (*Repeat.*)

**His great love,** (*point up*)  
**God showed his great big love** (*move hands side to side*)  
**By sending Christ to die for us** (*lower arms and march in place*)  
**While we were still sinners.**  
 (*Repeat.*)

(*Repeat from the beginning.*)



**His great love. His great love.** (*point up*)  
**His great love.** (*point up*)

“His Great Love” (Romans 5:8) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **I love it when ► WE PRAISE JESUS. He’s so great and I love telling him that!**

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**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Circle of Praise

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Galatians 2:20, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” That means that when we believe in Jesus he’s a part of our lives. It means that Jesus loved me and gave himself for me. Let’s say that together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).**

Say: **Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us! Before Jesus died for us, we couldn’t live in heaven because of all the wrong things we do. But he died so that we can be forgiven. That’s great news! And we can praise Jesus for what he did in many ways. Some people clap their hands when they hear good news.** Lead children in clapping. **Some shout when they hear good news.** Lead children in shouting, **“I just love Jesus!”** Some people sing to Jesus like we sang earlier.

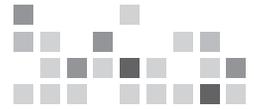
**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do people get excited about Jesus?**
- **What ways do you like to praise Jesus?**

Say: **Our Key Verse says: Jesus loved me and gave himself for me. That’s definitely something to get excited about! ► WE PRAISE JESUS to thank him for giving his life for us and to show him how we excited we are.**

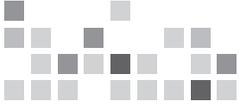


Circle of Praise  
Supplies

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Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
praise music CD  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape a CD of praise  
music to Theo's paw.

## 3

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. I see you've brought a CD with you.

**Theo:** A friend of mine gave me this CD—and I thought you'd like it.

**Teacher:** What kind of music is on it?

**Theo:** It's music about Jesus.

**Teacher:** Then you were right! I really like songs about Jesus—I sing to praise Jesus all the time.

**Theo:** Sounds great—would you show me?

**Teacher:** I'd love to—

**Theo:** *(Cuts teacher off.)*...I'm kind of shy about singing.

**Teacher:** You don't have to sing, Theo. We know lots of ways to praise God. Friends, what are other ways to praise God? *(Allow time.)*

Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:*

► **WE PRAISE JESUS.**)

**Teacher:** Praising Jesus is something we can do every day. We can sing, pray, shout, and clap our hands to celebrate Jesus' love!

**Theo:** That's so neat! Thanks so much for showing me how you praise Jesus!

**Teacher:** And thanks for bringing this CD to me. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you praise Jesus?**
- **How can you praise him this week?**

Say: **We can worship Jesus every day, whether or not we have a CD to sing with.**

► **WE PRAISE JESUS** in many different ways.



# Bible Time: Hosanna Praises

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Matthew 21, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Give each child a paper palm branch. Say: **In the Bible today, people praised Jesus. Let's hear how.**

**The people were excited; a parade was coming! This wasn't just any parade—the celebration was for Jesus! Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. As Jesus passed by, the people shouted "Hosanna!" and they waved palm branches.** Lead children to jump up and wave their palm branches and then sit back down.

Say: **Many of the people knew that Jesus was a very special person. They thought he was special because he did so many good things. They'd been waiting a long time for him to come. The people took off their coats and spread them on the ground for the donkey to walk on. And they shouted "Hosanna!" as they waved their palm branches.** Have children jump up and wave the palms and then sit back down.

Say: **Someone asked, "Who is that?" The people answered, "This is Jesus, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna!"** Have children jump up and wave the palms and then sit back down.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

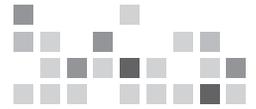
Ask:

- **What do you think about the parade for Jesus?**
- **How could you praise Jesus if he was in a parade in our town today?**

Say: **The parade we heard about in the Bible today was one of the most special parades ever. The people celebrated and praised Jesus because he is God. ► WE PRAISE JESUS, too, to show him we know how special he is.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.



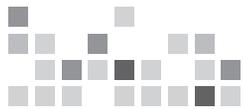
### Bible Time: Hosanna Praises Supplies

- Bible
- green copy paper
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- "Palm Branch" pattern

### Bible Time: Hosanna Praises Easy Prep

Make copies of the "Palm Branch" pattern on green copy paper, and cut out the palm branches. You'll need one branch for each child.





### Center 1: Prepare the Way for Jesus Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
scissors  
glue  
small cloth scraps  
palm branches from the  
“Bible Time: Hosanna  
Praises” activity

### Center 1: Prepare the Way for Jesus Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them. Snip small pieces from a few of the palm branches.

### Center 2: “Praise the Lord” Snacks Supplies

graham crackers  
napkins  
soft cream cheese or frosting  
plastic spoons  
shakers of candy sprinkles  
antibacterial gel (optional)

**ALLERGY ALERT**

## CENTER 1:

# Prepare the Way for Jesus

### What You’ll Do

Give each child a My Bible Hugs page. Say: **When people heard Jesus was coming, they were very excited. They laid their coats in the road for his donkey to walk on.** Encourage kids to prepare the road in the picture for Jesus and the donkey to walk down by gluing cloth scraps to it. Then say: **The people also waved palm branches as he passed by and they praised him!** Have kids glue the palm branch pieces to the side of the road, as well. **The people shouted “Hosanna!” as Jesus passed by.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can you say to Jesus to show him you love him?
- What can you do to show Jesus you love him?

Say: **The people knew that Jesus was very special, so they celebrated and praised him by laying their coats and palm branches in the road for his donkey to walk on. They also shouted praises to him. ► WE PRAISE JESUS, too, by singing to him, telling him in prayer that we love him, and in many other ways.**

## CENTER 2:

# “Praise the Lord” Snacks

### What You’ll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Give each child a graham cracker on a napkin. Then set out soft cream cheese and plastic spoons, and let kids spread the cream cheese on their crackers.

Say: **One way people celebrate is by throwing confetti. Let’s decorate our crackers with candy “confetti.”** Let kids have fun decorating their crackers with candy sprinkles. Then ask a child to thank God for the snack before children enjoy their snack. As kids eat, review all the ways the people praised Jesus in the Bible.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Think of all the ways the people praised Jesus, and explain which is your favorite way.
- What are some things people in our church do to praise God?



Say: Celebrating someone or something can be a lot of fun. And people like to do it in different ways. When ► WE PRAISE JESUS, we can do it in different ways, and we can have fun while doing it!

■ CENTER 3:

## Hosanna Hop

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Encourage children to take turns trotting or galloping down the road. Each time they go down the road, have them do something different, for example: walking backward, hopping, or skipping. While one child is taking a turn going down the road, have the rest of the kids line up beside the road with palm branches. Have kids wave their palm branches and shout "Hosanna!"

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this game like for you?
- Tell about something that you like to do more than anything in the world.
- When you're doing that thing, what could you do to praise Jesus?

Say: Jesus is God, and he loves us so much. ► WE PRAISE JESUS to show him we love him and believe in him.

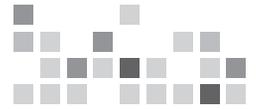
■ CENTER 4:

## Modern Palms

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a piece of green tissue paper. Have kids fold the paper in half. Then have them fold the paper in half again. Help each child slide a plastic straw inside the fold, leaving about three inches of the straw showing below the paper. (The straw will not reach to the top of the folded paper.) Use a stapler to attach the paper around the straw. Staple it all the way up to the top of the fold. Use the scissors to cut the tissue into strips, like a pompom. Then say: **The people praised Jesus with palm branches. Today, people wave things to show excitement, too—like cheerleaders at a game. Shake your pompom to show you're excited about Jesus.** Allow time. **Jesus is happy when we praise him. Let's shake our pompoms we made as we chant praise to him!**

Chant the following verse:



### Center 3: Hosanna Hop Supplies

masking tape  
palm branches from the "Bible Time: Hosanna Praises" activity

### Center 3: Hosanna Hop Easy Prep

Use masking tape to create a "road to Jerusalem" on the floor.

### Center 4: Modern Palms Supplies

one 12x24-inch piece of green tissue paper and 1 plastic straw per child  
stapler  
scissors





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Christ is king! Christ is king!  
Let's sing hosanna,  
Let's sing hosanna.  
Christ is king! Christ is king!

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: ► **WE PRAISE JESUS.** We can sing, jump, clap our hands, wave palm branches, and do many other things to show Jesus how special we think he is!

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE PRAISE JESUS.** I would like each of you to choose a way that you can praise Jesus this week.

Read the three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your mom or dad to take you on a walk. Each time you see something you like, praise Jesus and thank him for making it.**
- **Make up new actions to your favorite song about Jesus. Show your family the new actions, and ask them to sing with you.**
- **When you put on your clothes this week, remember that the people in the Bible laid their coats on the ground to praise Jesus. Sing a quick song or say a little prayer to praise Jesus.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Line kids up at the start of the "road" from the "Hosanna Hop" activity.

Have kids join you in singing the prayer "Praise, Praise, Praise You, Lord" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Encourage children to walk down the road as they sing a prayer of praise to their Lord Jesus.

 **Praise, praise, praise you, Lord.  
How wonderful you are!  
And we want to give you praise.  
We pray in Jesus' name.  
(Repeat.)**

### Talk With Kids

Say: ► **WE PRAISE JESUS** because he's our God. Let's praise him this week as often as we can!

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



### Action Prayer Supplies

CD player  
road from the "Center 3:  
Hosanna Hop" activity  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Praise, Praise,  
Praise You, Lord"  
(track 6)



