

# People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to admire, and sometimes even idolize, media figures such as sports heroes, movie stars, and television personalities. Unfortunately, the private lives of some of these figures are less than admirable. Use this lesson to introduce kids to the greatest personality of all time—Jesus! Help them see that Jesus is worthy of their admiration and that they can honor him every day as their king.



### ► Bible Point

Jesus is our king.

### Key Verse

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will honor Jesus every day this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Fire!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw or write what things they would take with them in a fire.</p>	<p>CD player, pens, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Celebration Preparation</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make different crafts in groups.</p>	<p>Bibles; tissue paper in several different colors; glue; several pairs of scissors; tape; 10-foot roll of red paper (such as wrapping paper); markers; 2 craft sticks and 1 sheet of card stock for every 3 children <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline</p>	<p>Set up the following 3 tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pompom Table:</b> Place a pair of scissors and 1 craft stick per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, tape, and several colors of tissue paper.</li> <li>• <b>Hand Sign Table:</b> Place a pair of scissors, 1 craft stick, and 1 sheet of card stock per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, glue, and markers.</li> <li>• <b>Mural Table:</b> Place Bibles, the poster boards (or wrapping paper), scissors, and markers at this table.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Making a Big Entrance</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Perform a re-enactment of the Bible account on the CD using craft projects.</p>	<p>Bible, craft projects from the “Celebration Preparation” activity, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Honoring Jesus Every Day</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures of how they spend their time each day.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Words and Actions</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Work in groups to create actions to the Key Verse song.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***

# People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Prophecies Fulfilled

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This moment in Jewish history had long been anticipated. Zechariah 9:9 predicts that the Messiah would come “gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Without question, the Jews along Jesus’ path made this connection and knew what it meant. Their celebration made this clear as they covered Jesus’ path with their outer robes and palm branches—a demonstration of honor and submission.

## The King Comes

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The cries of the people were significant. As they shouted “hosanna,” they were saying, “Lord, save us!” As they referred to Jesus as “he who comes in the name of the Lord” and spoke plainly of “the coming kingdom of our father David,” they were making clear references to the Messiah predicted many times in the Old Testament.

## Confusing Events

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After the excitement of his triumphal entry, Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem to spend the night in Bethany, where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. No mention is made of the crowd following them. After all the cheering had died down, everyone must have gone home. Jesus had spoken earlier of his imminent death, but the day’s events probably encouraged the disciples to think about Jesus being made king. How could things possibly turn against him as Jesus said they would?

As events unfolded, the disciples’ heads must have been spinning. Throngs honored Jesus that day, but only a few days later the disciples hid in fear of the authorities, trying to find a way to live for the crucified Jesus.

## Changed Lives

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Fortunately, we know what happened next. After the Resurrection, everything changed. And that’s how it can be in our lives. When we choose to live for Jesus, everything changes. We don’t honor him just by cheering and praying and singing great worship songs. We honor him—as the disciples did—in every facet of our lives. We honor him through our worship but also through our obedience, service, witness, and gratitude.

## The Jesus Connection

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“Hosanna! Lord save us!” Jesus answers that plea: Through a relationship with him, we can experience this great gift of salvation.

It’s easy to unintentionally develop a ho-hum attitude about faith. Yet in this passage, the crowds honored Jesus with extravagant, public displays of worship. What can you do to break free of complacency? How will you extravagantly worship Jesus this week? Pray about actions you can take or words you can say this week to honor Jesus as the Messiah. You can write your prayer here.

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## Fire! Supplies

CD player

pens

paper

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Tick Tock" (track 8)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Fire!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Ask kids to stand at one end of the room, and give each child a sheet of paper and a pen.

Say: **Pretend your home just caught on fire. You have one minute to choose what you'll take with you, and it must be something you can carry. Think about what you would take.**

Give kids a few moments to think about what they would take.

Say: **Now when the clock starts ticking, draw or write what you would take out of the house in a fire. When the siren begins, you'll need to crawl to safety on the floor, under the pretend smoke, to the opposite side of the room, carrying your paper with you.**

Play the "Tick Tock" segment (track 8 on the CD). This will begin the one-minute countdown. When the siren begins, remind children to crawl on the floor under the smoke. Also remind kids to leave their pens but to take their sheets of paper with them as they crawl. After kids are on the safe side of the room, stop the CD. Ask willing kids to share the most important thing they would want to save in a fire.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are the most important things in your life?**
- **How do you show that these things or people are important to you?**
- **How can we honor Jesus and make him as important as these other things?**

Say: **We all have things that are important to us, and we all have priorities in our lives. These are the things we spend the most time doing and the things that get most of our attention. We show honor to people and things that are important to us. Today we'll think about how there's no person more important than Jesus, because ► JESUS IS OUR KING. Let's look at the Bible and see how people honored Jesus as he arrived in Jerusalem one day.**

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Celebration Preparation

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We're going to discover how the people in Jerusalem greeted and honored Jesus as he came into the village one day. Let's prepare our own modern-day celebration for Jesus' arrival by making some things to show how we can honor Jesus.**

Show kids the "People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem" picture on the Bible Timeline. Help kids form three groups.

Instruct one group to go to the pompom table. At this table, kids will read Mark 11:4-10 and use the verses to inspire them to make pompoms with craft sticks and colored tissue paper. Ask kids to cut strips of tissue paper about 8 to 10 inches long and no more than 1 inch wide. Then have kids gather the strips of tissue paper together at one end and tape them together. Have them tape the bundled end to one end of a craft stick. As kids make their pompoms, have them suggest ways people use pompoms today; for example, they could be used as a way to cheer for a team.

Ask the second group to read Mark 11:1-7 and use the verses to inspire them to make "number-one" hand signs from card stock. Instruct kids each to hold one of their hands in a number-one sign, place that hand on the card stock, and trace it. Then they will cut out the "number-one" hand sign and glue it onto a craft stick. Kids may choose to write "We're number one!" or "Jesus is number one!" on the hand. Explain that one way "number-one" hand signs are used is to cheer on a sports team.

Ask the third group to read Mark 11:8-11 and use the verses to inspire them to make a road for Jesus' entry. Have them cut the two poster boards in half lengthwise and place the four pieces end to end to create a 12-foot section (or have them unroll the wrapping paper). Encourage these group members to draw or write things they would want to lay at Jesus' feet to honor him. (These can be both positive things, such as talents kids can offer Jesus to use in his service, and negative things, such as selfishness kids might offer to give up in order to follow God's will only.) After the kids have finished their mural, ask them to pick up the the pieces of the board. Explain that this will be used as the red carpet when the Bible version is read.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

As the groups are creating, go around and lead kids in discussion based on their groups.

Group 1

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day waved palm branches to celebrate victory, we wave pompoms. As you make your pompoms, discuss this question with your group.**



### Celebration Preparation Supplies

- Bibles
- tissue paper in several different colors
- glue
- several pairs of scissors
- tape
- 10-foot roll of red paper (such as wrapping paper)
- markers
- 2 craft sticks and 1 sheet of card stock for every 3 children

### Teacher Pack

Bible Timeline

### Celebration Preparation Easy Prep

Set up the following 3 tables:

- **Pompom Table:** Place a pair of scissors and 1 craft stick per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, tape, and several colors of tissue paper.
- **Hand Sign Table:** Place a pair of scissors, 1 craft stick, and 1 sheet of card stock per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, glue, and markers.
- **Mural Table:** Place Bibles, the poster boards (or wrapping paper), scissors, and markers at this table.



Ask:

- What are some other ways we celebrate victory in our world?

Group 2

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day worshipped Jesus to show he was important to them, we wave "number-one" hand signs at sporting events to show our favorite team that they are first with us. As you make your "number-one" hand signs, discuss this question with your group.**

Ask:

- What are some other ways you can show Jesus that he is "number one" with you?

Group 3

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day laid down their coats and palm branches on the road to welcome him and show him he was important to them, we "roll out the red carpet" when important people come to visit our town. As you create your "red carpet," discuss this question with your group.**

Ask:

- What are some other ways we can show Jesus he is welcome in our lives?

After the three groups have finished with their projects, return to one large group.

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING, and we're going to illustrate that by reading the Bible passage from Mark 11:1-11. At the appropriate time, each group will honor Jesus with its creation.**

## Making a Big Entrance

### Making a Big Entrance Supplies

Bible  
craft projects from the "Celebration Preparation" activity  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Read aloud Mark 11:1-11. As you read, allow kids to participate at the appropriate times. Kids will be using their pompoms, "number-one" hand signs, and red carpet while shouting praises to Jesus to go along with what happens in the Bible passage.

Say: **We've honored Jesus by "rolling out the red carpet" and cheering and shouting. Now let's honor Jesus by singing to him.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). After they listen once, lead kids in singing along with the CD.

🎵 **Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.  
For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.**

**We are always under his care.  
He is always there.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.**

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved .

Encourage kids to wave their pompoms or “number-one” hand signs during their worship. You can also roll out the “red carpet” here. As a large group, you may want to create motions to the song to help everyone remember the words.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Jesus was coming toward his death. Why was this occasion worthy of celebration?**
- **What’s a way we can honor Jesus every day?**

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING, and we can honor him—like the people did on Palm Sunday—with our songs and our movements and in all our lives. Although other things in life can be very important to us, Jesus wants us to honor him as our king, and to make him the most important thing in our lives.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Honoring Jesus Every Day

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **We can honor Jesus with actions and words every day.**

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “My Time” activity. Explain that they may fill in the two clocks (a.m. and p.m.) with the things they do every day. They may draw pictures to represent what they do at each hour. For example, they might draw a bed to represent sleep, a book to represent school, or a sandwich to represent eating.



### Honoring Jesus Every Day Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

### Honoring Jesus Every Day Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.



## Words and Actions Supplies

Bibles  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "At the Name of  
Jesus" (Philippians  
2:10-11) (track 9)

After kids have finished their clocks, instruct them to form pairs. Have kids share with their partners the way they spend a normal 24-hour period.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is most of your time spent?
- Is spending time with Jesus a priority in your day? Why or why not?
- How can you better honor Jesus with your time?

Say: **The things we choose to do with our time show our priorities. And if ► JESUS IS OUR KING, it would be good for our priorities to show that—just like the people in Jerusalem who made it a priority to praise Jesus.**

## Words and Actions

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play "At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) (track 9 on the CD) and lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **He is Lord!**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth.  
At the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness;  
And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness.**

*(Chorus)*

**He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then sing chorus three times.)*

**He is Lord!  
He is Lord!**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Great job singing! In a few minutes, we're going to sing the song again, but this time, let's do it differently. We're going to acknowledge that ► JESUS IS OUR KING through actions and words by making up actions to go with the words of this song!**





Help kids form groups of three, and encourage them to work in their groups to choreograph actions to match the words. Give groups about five minutes to come up with actions.

When each group has created motions, have groups take turns leading the whole group in doing the actions with the words.

After all groups have presented, gather everyone together. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have the kids open to the Key Verse, Philippians 2:10-11. Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why will everyone bow before Jesus?
- Why does Jesus deserve all the glory?
- What are some ways we can “bow” and “confess” that Jesus is Lord?

Say: **When we sang our song, our words and actions worked together to honor Jesus—just like on Palm Sunday. We can honor Jesus with actions and words in our lives, too. We honor Jesus when we give to others and help people. We honor Jesus when we tell others about him. And we honor Jesus when we spend time with him. We honor Jesus because ► JESUS IS OUR KING.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **For this week’s Daily Challenge, you’ll list on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages seven ways that you will honor Jesus with actions and words every day this week. For example, you might write, “Pray at the dinner table” for Monday or “Work hard on my school project” for Thursday. Or you might write, “Help with yard work” on Saturday or “Help my brother with homework” on Tuesday.**

Give kids several minutes to complete their Daily Challenge lists on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Be sure to commit to a Daily Challenge as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING.** He wants to be the Lord of our lives, and that means we honor him in everything we do. We can honor him just like the people did on the first Palm Sunday. Let's demonstrate our willingness to show him honor 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 Jesus being our king. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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).

Say: **We can show that ► JESUS IS OUR KING with our actions and words every day. We can play fair. We can love others. We can obey our parents. Let's pray and say one thing to Jesus that honors him. I'll start the prayer, and anyone who wants to can pray after me.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us today about honoring you. I adore you for creating these wonderful children.**

Allow anyone who wants to pray to do so, and encourage kids to remember to make Jesus the most important thing in their lives and to honor him this week.



**Lyrics** ■■■■

## At the Name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11)

**He is Lord!**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth.  
At the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness;  
And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness.**

*(Chorus)*

**He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then sing chorus three times.)*

**He is Lord!  
He is Lord!**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



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**Lyrics** ■■■■**Let Us Bow Down in Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)**

Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

"Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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