



People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

As young children become more independent, their heroes become bigger and stronger. They like dinosaurs and superheroes. They also know the difference between “good guys” and “bad guys.” Use this lesson to help your preschools know that Jesus is our king and that he’s the best hero they can have.



► Bible Point

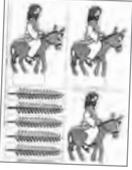
Jesus is our king.

Key Verse

“Jesus Christ is Lord”
(Philippians 2:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will honor
Jesus as their king.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Lord and King Pretend to be princes and princesses.	Bible, safety scissors, tape, 1 copy per child of the “Crown” page (at the end of the lesson)	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Discover why Theo has a palm branch.	CD player, Theo puppet, string, scissors Teacher Pack: CD, “Jesus on the Donkey Figures and Palm Branches” page 	Cut off a palm branch from the page, and tie it to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: A King Is Coming Celebrate Jesus as king while experiencing what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem.	Bible, scissors, 3 to 5 dish towels Teacher Pack: “Jesus on the Donkey Figures and Palm Branches” page, “People Praise Jesus” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out the Jesus figures and palm branches. Set aside the Jesus figures.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Preparing for a King Decorate pictures of Jesus on the donkey.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons, facial tissue, glue	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut four 1-inch squares of tissue per child.
	<p>Center 2: A Royal Snack Enjoy a snack fit for a king.</p>	purple seedless grapes, knife, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	Cut grapes in half.
	<p>Center 3: If I Were a King Use figures to tell what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem.</p>	three 9x13-inch baking pans, sand, palm branches and Jesus figures from the "Bible Time" activity.	Put about 2 inches of sand in each baking pan.
	<p>Center 4: A Donkey to Ride Make donkeys to ride.</p>	10 newspaper pages and 1 sheet of white card stock per child, crayons, tape, scissors, "Donkey Head" page (at the end of the lesson)	Copy onto card stock 1 "Donkey Head" page per child, and cut it out.
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Praise Jesus with pretend palm branches.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "I Am So Happy" (track 10), "Worship God" (track 8)

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 on the floor.

Lead children in singing "I Am So Happy" (track 10 on the CD), to the tune of "I Have the Joy." Encourage children to shout and do the motions as the text in parentheses indicates.



I am so happy, happy, happy, happy

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) What?

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) What?

That you are here.

I am so happy, happy, happy, happy

That you are here.

(children shout and throw their hands in the air) Where?

Here in God's church today.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll hear about some people who were so happy to see Jesus. They knew that ► JESUS IS OUR KING, so they worshipped him. What are some ways you worship God?** Allow time, and encourage children to tell ways they would like to worship God, such as by standing to sing, clapping, or raising hands.

Lead children in singing "Worship God" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." Encourage children to show the ways they mentioned they'd like to worship God as they sing. For example, you may lead the children to clap as they sing the verse the first time, and then lead them to bop up and down, as if they're standing for each line, on the second time through.



This is the way we worship God,

Worship God,

Worship God.

This is the way we worship God.





Let's worship him today.
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's great to worship God—he's the one who made us, and he loves us and takes care of us. The people in the Bible we'll hear about today knew that**
▶ **JESUS IS OUR KING, and they worshipped him in the streets of Jerusalem.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Lord and King

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11). This means that Jesus is God and king, and he's in charge of everything. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**

Say: **Not everyone knows yet that Jesus is God and king of the world. But someday everyone will see that Jesus is king.** Give each child a "Crown" page, and show them how to cut the shapes from the page. Help them cut slits in the correct places on the crowns, fit the pieces together, and tape them to fit children's heads.

Say: **Kings are important people. They're in charge of entire countries. Some countries have kings instead of presidents. Their children are called princes and princesses. Since Jesus is king, when we believe in him, that makes us his children—and princes and princesses.** Have kids put on the crowns.

Say: **Show me you're a prince or princess.** Encourage the children to stand and pretend they're princes and princesses. Then say: **Because Jesus is king and he made you, that makes you important. But Jesus is the most important one of all. He's King over all kings, and he'll always be in charge of the whole world!**

Say: **Let's say our Key Verse again.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about being a prince or a princess because of Jesus?
- What's so special about Jesus being king over the whole world?



Lord and King Supplies

- Bible
- safety scissors
- tape
- 1 copy per child of the "Crown" page (at the end of the lesson)





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
scissors

Teacher Pack

CD: “Here, Theo” (track 5)
“Jesus on the Donkey
Figures and Palm
Branches” page

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Cut off a palm branch
from the page, and tie it
to Theo’s paw.

Say: **We know all kinds of people who are in charge in the world, like presidents or kings. But Jesus is in charge of all those people—he’s king of the whole world. We’ll hear today about some people who knew that ► JESUS IS OUR KING, and we’ll learn what we can do now that we know Jesus is king.**

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 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It’s nice of you to come to church with us today. That’s a big leaf you brought with you.

Theo: It’s a palm branch.

Teacher: Wow—that’s neat!

Theo: What should I do with it?

Teacher: You could wave it.

Theo: Really?

Teacher: That’s what people did with palm branches a really long time ago.

Theo: Why did they do that?

Teacher: They would wave them at parades for kings. It’s a good thing you brought a palm branch with you today because it’s Palm Sunday.

Theo: What’s that?

Teacher: It’s the day all the people waved palm branches for Jesus. Friends, let’s tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► JESUS IS OUR KING.)

Teacher: Thanks for stopping by to talk about Palm Sunday with us.

Theo: No problem! I’ll see you again next week.

Teacher: Boys and girls, say goodbye to Theo!

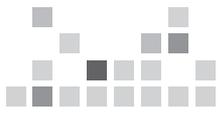
Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s neat about waving something like a palm branch?**
- **What other things could someone do to show they’re excited or happy about someone?**



- What do you like to do to show Jesus you're excited about him?

Say: Theo brought a palm branch today—which is what the people waved when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. They knew that ► JESUS IS OUR KING, and they were celebrating. We can celebrate that ► JESUS IS OUR KING, too.

Bible Time: A King Is Coming

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit facing each other in two parallel lines about three feet apart. Open your Bible to Mark 11:1-11, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Jesus and his special friends, the disciples, went on a long journey to Jerusalem.** Have kids pat their knees to make walking noises. **They walked many days, and finally they came close to Jerusalem.**

Say: **Jesus sent two of his special friends ahead. He told them to go into the next village. Jesus said they would find a young donkey tied there. Jesus told them the donkey would have never been ridden before. He told his friends to bring the donkey back to him.** Have the children put their hands together as if they're holding a rope, and pretend to pull a donkey that's walking behind them.

Have a leader get on his or her hands and knees at the end of the aisle your kids are making. Say: **There's our donkey now.**

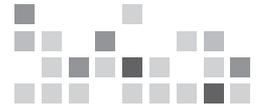
Show the "People Praise Jesus" poster. Say: **When the two friends returned with the donkey, all of Jesus' disciples put their coats on it so Jesus would have a soft place to sit. Then Jesus got on the donkey's back.** Invite children to place the dish towels on the donkey's back.

Say: **Then the people in Jerusalem put their coats on the road because this was a way to show that ► JESUS IS OUR KING.** Have the children pretend to cover the aisle between your two rows with coats.

Say: **And then, as Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the townspeople waved palm branches at him because this was another way to honor a king.** Pass out the palm branches, and have the children take turns waving them as you walk the donkey between the lines of children. The first three kids in each row can wave them twice, and then pass them down the line.

Say: **All of the townspeople shouted "Hosanna!" because that's another way to honor a king.** Walk the donkey between the lines of children again, and have the children call out "Hosanna!"

If time allows, let the children take turns riding on the donkey's back as he or she slowly crawls between the two lines of the children. Have the other children wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" Collect the palm branches for use later in the lesson.



Bible Time: A King Is Coming Supplies

Bible
scissors
3 to 5 dish towels

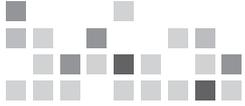
Teacher Pack

"Jesus on the Donkey Figures and Palm Branches" page
"People Praise Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: A King Is Coming Easy Prep

Cut out the Jesus figures and palm branches. Set aside the Jesus figures.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to pretend to be the people in Jerusalem?
- What makes you excited about Jesus?

Say: **The people in Jerusalem were so excited for Jesus to come to their town. They knew he was going to save them and take care of them. We can be excited about Jesus, too, because ► JESUS IS OUR KING. When we believe in him, he saves us, too. Let's celebrate Jesus this week.**

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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.

■ CENTER 1:

Preparing for a King

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 5 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **In the Bible, it says ► JESUS IS OUR KING. We learned today about some people who knew Jesus is king and they worshipped and praised him.**

Put kids in pairs, and encourage them to talk about their favorite parts of what happened with Jesus as they color Jesus on the donkey and the cloak.

Give each child tissue squares, and have kids glue them to the pathway. Encourage kids to talk about ways they can show Jesus they want him to be king in their lives.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Just as the people rejoiced with Jesus and worshipped him. We can worship Jesus. When we show that we know ► JESUS IS OUR KING, it makes God very happy.**

Center 1: Preparing for a King Supplies

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My Bible Hugs
crayons
facial tissue
glue

Center 1: Preparing for a King Easy Prep

.....

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut four 1-inch squares of tissue per child.



CENTER 2:

A Royal Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Today we're learning ► JESUS IS OUR KING.** Hold up a grape. **Purple is a color for kings and queens.**

Choose a child to pray and thank God for the snack, and then serve purple seedless grapes. Say: **Since these grapes are purple, they're a snack made for kings.**

Have the children sit in pairs to take turns pretending to be a king or queen and servant. Have the "servant" feed the "king" or "queen" three sliced grapes (one at a time for safety), and then have the pairs switch roles and shout, "Jesus is king!" Kids can continue switching roles, feeding their partners, and shouting "Jesus is king!" until all the royal grapes have been eaten.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be a servant in this activity?
- What can you do to serve Jesus, your king?

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING.** He's in charge of the whole world. The people we read about in the Bible knew he's king, and they served him by putting their coats down for him to walk on. We can serve Jesus, our king, too. When we sing to him, when we help others, or when we listen to him, we show him we know he's king.

CENTER 3:

If I Were a King

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Put kids into three groups and have each group gather around a baking pan. Give each group two palm branches and one Jesus figure.

Say: **When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people worshipped him! Take turns in your group using the figures to act out what happened.** Three children in each group will each hold one of the items and tell what happened, while the others draw pictures in the sand with their fingers to show cloaks, palm branches, the road, or other things they heard about. Then children will switch roles.



Center 2: A Royal Snack Supplies

- purple seedless grapes
- knife
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: A Royal Snack Easy Prep

Cut grapes in half.

Center 3: If I Were a King Supplies

- three 9x13-inch baking pans
- sand
- palm branches and Jesus figures from the "Bible Time" activity

Center 3: If I Were a King Easy Prep

Put about 2 inches of sand in each baking pan.





Center 4: A Donkey to Ride Supplies

10 newspaper pages
and 1 sheet of white
card stock per child
crayons
tape
scissors
“Donkey Head” page (at
the end of the lesson)

Center 4: A Donkey to Ride Easy Prep

Copy onto card stock
1 “Donkey Head” page
per child, and cut it out.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain whether the parade you created here is like other parades you’ve seen.
- Why would you like to have a parade for Jesus?
- What can you do to celebrate Jesus in your life?

Say: The people had a parade for Jesus because they knew ► **JESUS IS OUR KING.** They laid their coats and waved palm branches. Even though we can’t see Jesus with our eyes right now, we can celebrate Jesus in our lives, too.

■ CENTER 4:

A Donkey to Ride

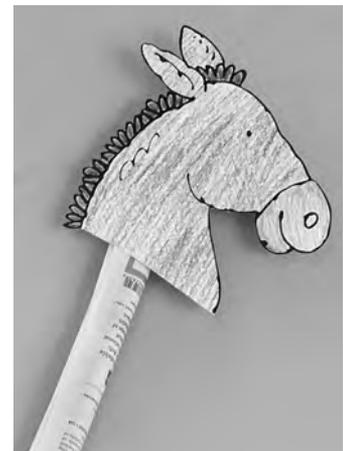
What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: Today we’re learning that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people praised him. Let’s make donkeys as we think about what happened that Palm Sunday.

Give each child 10 sheets of newspaper, and help him or her tightly roll the paper lengthwise to form a long tube. Tape the paper to hold the tube closed.

Give each child a donkey head you cut out before class. Encourage children to color their donkey heads. When children finish coloring, tape each donkey head to the end of a newspaper roll so the head hangs over the end of the roll.

Say: **When Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, it was like a parade.**





Encourage children to ride their donkeys around the room as if they're entering Jerusalem. Have some children pretend to wave palm branches while the others ride their donkeys, and then tell kids to switch roles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a parade you watched.
- Tell about the special people in the parade.
- Why do you think Jesus is the most special person ever?

Say: **When Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, it was a very special day because Jesus is very special. ► JESUS IS OUR KING. Like the people worshipped Jesus on that day, we can worship Jesus. We can show him we love him when we sing to him, pray to him, and listen to him.**

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 ► JESUS IS OUR KING. I would like each of you to choose a way to show that Jesus is our king this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Make a crown for Jesus and keep it in your room as a reminder that ► JESUS IS OUR KING.**
- **Sing a song to worship Jesus, your king.**

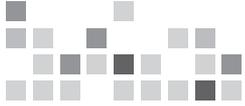
Say: **If you want to make a crown, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to sing a song, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Say: **Jesus Christ is Lord! ► JESUS IS OUR KING! Let's praise him with a prayer that tells him we know who he is.**

Show kids how to make a pretend palm branch by putting one hand on top of the other, and wiggling their fingers. Invite each child to say, "I praise you Jesus because [have the child tell a reason]." Then close the prayer.



Pray: **Jesus, you're our Lord and our king. Thank you! In your name, amen.**

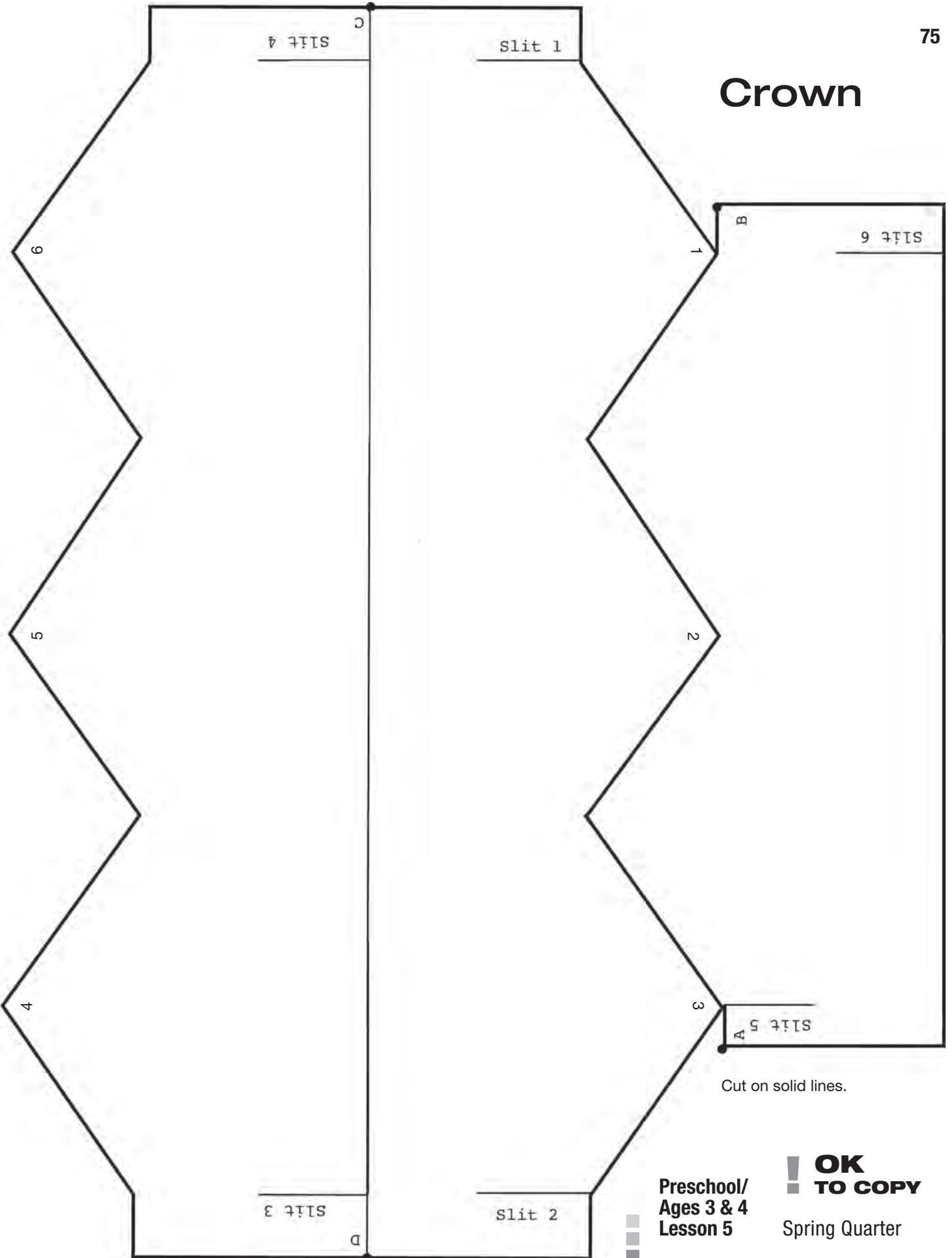
Weaving Faith at Home

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 during 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.



Crown



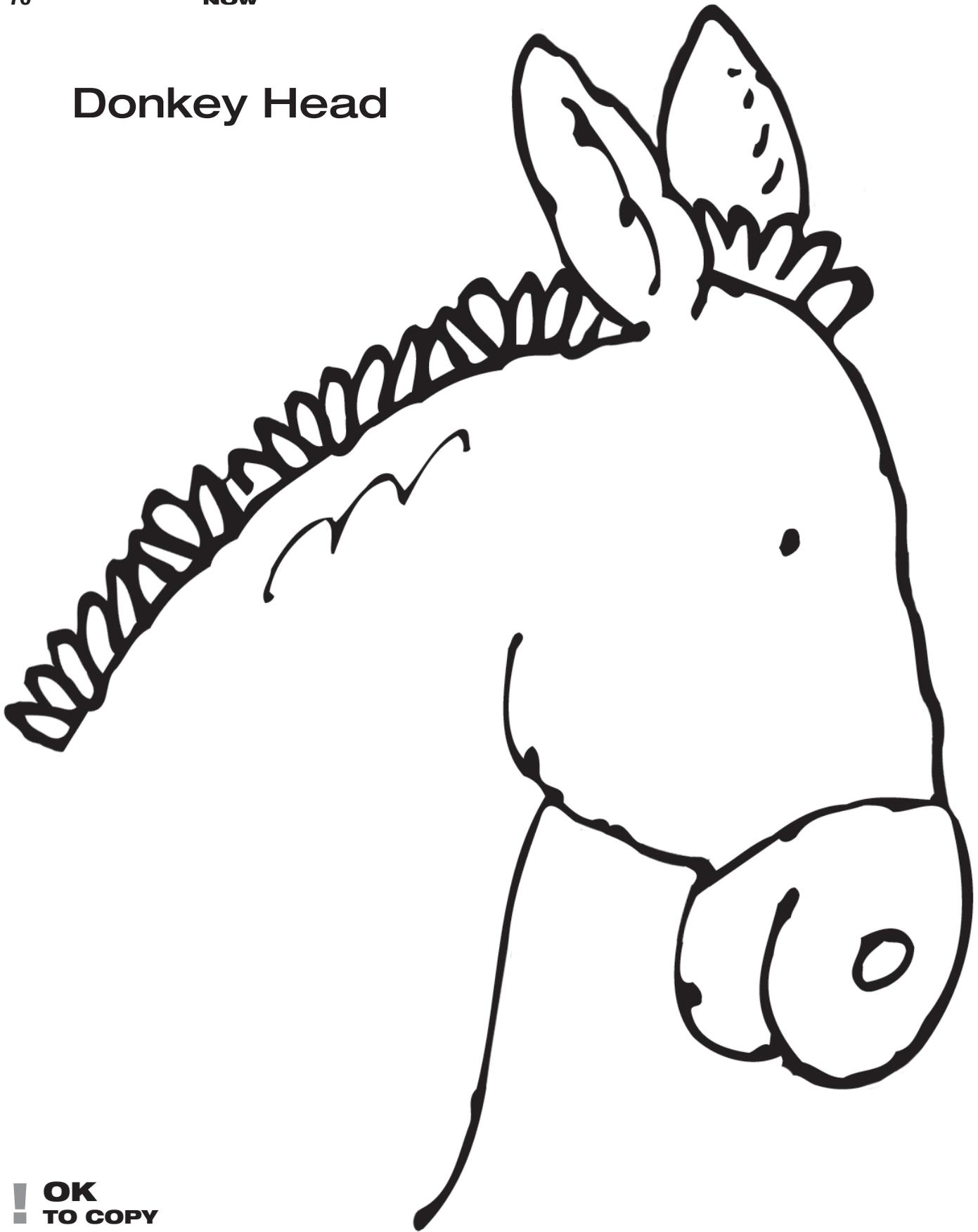
Cut on solid lines.

Preschool/
Ages 3 & 4
Lesson 5

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Spring Quarter

Donkey Head



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