

# JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;  
John 12:12-19

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 6:9

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus is alive.

## The Bible Story

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

Jesus and His friends were going to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Long ago, one of God's messengers said God's special King would ride a donkey into Jerusalem. Everyone came out to see Jesus. They put their coats on the ground in front of Jesus. They put palm branches on the ground too. They treated Jesus like a king! The people shouted, "Hosanna!" Jesus went to the temple. Some people were not treating the temple the right way, so Jesus made them leave. Sick people came to Jesus, and He healed them. Even children shouted, "Hosanna!" They knew Jesus was their King.

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- \* Jesus is God's Son.
- \* God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.
- \* People praised Jesus as their King.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

## Babies Activities



### LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to one of the Bible passages. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY:** Jesus is God's Son. People praised Jesus as their King. **JESUS IS ALIVE!** [*Pray for the babies.*]



### SING A SONG

Sing the chorus of "Oh, How I Love Jesus":

"Oh, how I love Jesus! [*Repeat three times.*]

Because He \*first loved me!"

\*Substitute *died for me* and *rose again* in the subsequent rounds.

**SAY:** Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### MAKE PALM BRANCH ART

Paint washable green finger paint on a baby's hand and gently press her open palm on heavyweight paper. Wipe her hand immediately.

Use a green marker to draw the stalk of the palm branch. Write the Main Point on her paper and set it aside. Repeat with each child.

**SAY:** You made a palm branch! People praised Jesus as their King and waved palm branches when He came to town. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### WAVE AND CHEER

Sit with a baby in a bouncer or on your lap facing you.

Demonstrate how to wave your hand and cheer as you say the Main Point. Encourage the baby to wave his hands too.

**SAY:** Jesus is God's Son. We can celebrate and cheer because **JESUS IS ALIVE!** God sent Jesus because He loves [*baby's name*].

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

## Toddler Activities



### CIRCLE TIME (5 MINUTES)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to one of the Bible passages. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Main Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.



### SHOUT FOR JOY

Play music and invite toddlers to move freely around the room. Stop the music, guide the toddlers to freeze, and help them shout, "Hosanna!" Start the music and play again as time allows.

**SAY:** *Hosanna* means "save now." Jesus is God's Son. Only Jesus can save. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY

Tape a large sheet of paper to one wall and draw a donkey profile on it. Cut a strip of gray paper to be the donkey's tail. Guide each toddler to close her eyes and try to pin the tail on the donkey. Praise each child's attempt and play as time allows.

**SAY:** Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, where people praised Jesus as their King. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### LOOK AT BOOKS

Provide a variety of different books and Bible storybooks for toddlers to look at. Provide pillows and blankets for toddlers to use.

**SAY:** Books are fun to read, but the Bible is the best book ever. The Bible tells us Jesus is God's Son and **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



### MAKE A PALM LEAF RUBBING

Post an allergy alert. Tape a palm leaf to the table. Provide paper and unwrapped crayons. Show toddlers how to make a rubbing. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers work.

**SAY:** People waved palm branches to praise Jesus. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## Bonus Teaching Hour

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#### TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE DONKEY EARS

Provide long paper strips to make a headband for each toddler.

Cut donkey ears from gray construction paper and glue them to the headband. Provide stickers and crayons for toddlers to decorate their headbands. Tape headbands so toddlers can wear them as they make donkey sounds. Briefly review the Bible story.

**SAY:** Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and people praised Jesus as their King. Jesus is God's Son, and **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



#### SING SONGS ABOUT JESUS

Provide rhythm instruments or invite toddlers to dance and clap their hands as you sing songs about Jesus, such as "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "Jesus Loves Me," and "I Love You, Lord."

**SAY:** People praised Jesus as their King. Even children praised Jesus, and you can praise Jesus too. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



#### WORK PUZZLES

Provide puzzles featuring Jesus. If you do not have puzzles, print the Bible story picture and cut it into four pieces.

**SAY:** Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Main Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.