

Easter Story: The Triumphal Entry

Text: Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:28-40

Aim: To teach that Jesus came as king.



Preparation

Read Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:28-40. Answer the following questions:

- What did Jesus send his disciples on ahead of him to do? (Luke 19:29-32)
- Who does Zechariah show Jesus to be here? (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:34-36, 38)
- Why did the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke his disciples? (Luke 19:37-40)

Think about the way Jesus is acclaimed and all that points to him as king. Do you think the disciples, crowds or Pharisees understood what this meant?

Pray for the children you teach, that God would open their eyes to who Jesus is and what he came to do.



Visual Aids

Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:

- A crown and cloak. (You can make a simple crown out of gold card/paper and a cloak with some leftover cloth and two ribbons.)
- A Children's Bible containing pictures of this story.



Lesson

Show the children the crown and cloak. Let them try these items on. Ask "Who dresses like this? Who wears a crown? Are they a king/queen?" Talk to the children about what kings do. Should we listen to the king? Should we obey (do as they say)?

Today's true story from the Bible is about a real king, but he didn't wear a crown.

Retell the story from Luke 19, showing the children the pictures from the Children's Bible.

“One day Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. He sent two of his disciples ahead of him and told them to bring him back a donkey. He told them exactly where to find it and that they must tell the owner ‘The Lord needs it.’ The disciples went on and found the donkey just as Jesus had said. They told the owner ‘The Lord needs it,’ and brought it to Jesus.

They threw their coats over the donkey’s back and Jesus sat on them. He rode on the donkey into Jerusalem. It was very busy! Lots of people crowded the streets. They put their coats on the floor in front of Jesus for him to walk over, just like a king.

The people were very happy that Jesus had come and they shouted to thank God, saying “God’s king! God’s king is bringing peace! God’s king has come!” They knew who he was even though he didn’t wear a crown.



Activity

Choose either Activity A or Activity B.

Activity A – Make a flag. Print Activity A from the Media section of this webpage onto coloured paper (one copy for every two children), and cut along the bold lines. You will also need a short garden stick or length of dowelling for each child.

The children decorate their flags using stickers/glitter/crayons/gemstones, etc. Then wrap the end portion of the flag as indicated around the stick and glue/tape/staple it in place.

Get the children to wave their flags and cheer together when you tell them that King Jesus is coming. Remind them that Jesus didn’t wear a crown, but he was still God’s chosen king. We should thank God that Jesus is king.

Activity B – Make a string of bunting. Print Activity B from the Media section of this webpage onto paper (one copy per child), and cut along the bold lines.

Give each child a length of ribbon/wool, roughly a metre long. The children decorate the bunting with crayons/glitter/stickers, etc. Then help them to fold the tops of the individual flags over their ribbon as indicated. Staple these in order along the length of their ribbon to read “Jesus came as king. Luke 19:38”.

Remind the children that the people who followed Jesus were happy and celebrated because Jesus came as king.



Game Idea

Option 1: Before the lesson, paint or draw on a long roll of paper to make it look like a road. Spread this out along one side of the room. Attach pictures of coats/clothes to a number of beanbags/rolls of socks.

The children stand a short distance from the ‘road’ and must throw their ‘coats’ onto it.

Whenever one child manages to throw their coat on the road, the whole group can shout "Hooray! The king is coming!"

If they are finding the game too easy, increase the distance between the children and the road. Remind the children that Jesus came as king.

Option 2: Act out the story. Send one child to go and find the 'donkey'. Get a leader or a cuddly toy to act as the donkey. Give the other children a number of coats/jumpers/cloths to lay down on the floor. Encourage them to call out that the king is coming! Remind the children that Jesus is God's chosen king.

Option 3: Donkey Pin. Print the Game Option from the Media section of this webpage onto A3 paper. Cut the cloak out and stick the donkey onto a wall or board. The children take turns to be blindfolded and attempt to place the cloak onto the donkey. Whenever one of the children manages to do so, the rest of the children can shout "Hooray! The king is coming!" Remind them that Jesus came as king.



Prayer

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus as king. Amen.

Get the children to think of something that a king has that Jesus never had like a palace, crown, money, soldiers etc. They can choose one of these items and pray, *Thank you, God that Jesus doesn't need [a crown] to be king.*

Reinforcement

Print the Reinforcement Slip page from the Media section of this webpage and give one slip to each child to take home. This will encourage parents to reinforce today's lesson. Alternatively, you could copy the text below and edit as appropriate for your context. This can then be printed or emailed to parents.

Today your child learned that Jesus came as king.

To reinforce this lesson this week:

1. Talk to your child about what a king does. Show them a crown and take turns wearing it. Whoever wears the crown can give commands and the rest of the family must obey. Jesus came as king, but some people still didn't want to obey him.
2. Show your child a picture of the king/queen/president/ruler of your country. Talk about the things that they do and how it is important to obey the rules they make. Jesus came as king of the whole world; he is the perfect and the best ruler.

