


PALM SUNDAY

Leader Guide for Grades 3 & 4

Classroom: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Grades

 Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-16

04/05/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 19:28-40; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16
- In This Passage: Jesus and his disciples head toward Jerusalem. Two disciples get there first and borrow a donkey colt for Jesus to ride. He rides triumphantly down the road as the crowds spread palm branches and robes on the road in his path. They call out praises, declaring that Jesus is the King.
- Bible Point: Jesus is the King.
- Summary Verse: "For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords" (1 Timothy 6:15).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is the King.* Although your kids might not live in a country ruled by a king, they've probably seen enough movies and read enough books to understand how powerful and special a king is. They may also see celebrities who are treated like royalty. Use this lesson to help kids see that Jesus deserves that kind of honor, too.
- Think About: How is Jesus like what you'd expect a king to be like? How is he different?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to develop a heart of worship for King Jesus.

Quick Tip

- Create a climate of encouragement, positivity, and praise in your classroom. Set a guideline that no negative or hurtful talk is allowed.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids discover which of their cotton swabs has the power to part pepper.

Supplies

- white disposable plates (1 per group of 4 children)
- cups of water (1 per group of 4 children)
- pepper
- clear liquid dish soap
- cotton swabs
- small paper cup
- large bowl
- trays (optional)

Easy Prep

- Pour the clear liquid dish soap into a small cup and stick 1 cotton swab in it for every 4 kids. Then flip the cotton swabs over so both ends get covered in soap.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make a parade and cheer for Jesus.

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- markers
- green crepe paper
- string
- tape
- river rocks (1 per child) (check in the home decor section)
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Bookmark Luke 19:37-38 in a few Bibles.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids compare a royal parade with the one Jesus had.

Supplies

- Bibles
- red crepe paper
- yellow crepe paper
- purple crepe paper
- green crepe paper
- chairs



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.

Supplies

- "Small People Productions" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Doxology” (watch or download [here](#))
- “King Jesus Is All” (watch or download [here](#))



CRAFT

Kids make palm-leaf-shaped fans.

Supplies

- “Palm Leaf” handouts printed on 11x17 paper (optional) (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- poster board
- spinach leaves
- craft sticks (2 per child)
- permanent markers
- duct tape (green or brown works best)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to follow fast commands.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose where they become king.

Supplies

- jacket
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids use rocks to do a wave of praise for Jesus.

Supplies

- rocks from Core Bible Discovery*



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

[5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids high-five three of their friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids whisper the “Happy Birthday” song.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn about a time a crowd of people praised Jesus and treated him like a king. We’ll see that Jesus is the King—even if he wasn’t what they were expecting a king to be like. In our Bible story, the crowd gave Jesus a parade.**

Share

Tell about a parade *you’ve* been to or seen on TV or in a movie.

Have kids form pairs and tell about a parade *they’ve* been to or have seen on TV or in a movie.

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **No one deserves a parade more than Jesus because Jesus is the King! Let’s see what the Bible says about Jesus’ parade. One way God talks to us is through the Bible—his special book. God is here right now, ready to talk to you!**

Pray, praising Jesus because he is the King.



OBJECT LESSON

Power Over Pepper

[10 min]

Supplies

- white disposable plates (1 per group of 4 children)
- cups of water (1 per group of 4 children)
- pepper
- clear liquid dish soap
- cotton swabs
- small paper cup
- large bowl
- trays (optional)

Easy Prep

- Pour the clear liquid dish soap into a small cup and stick 1 cotton swab in it for every 4 kids. Then flip the cotton swabs over so both ends get covered in soap.

Discover Who Has Power Over Pepper

Form groups of four kids. Have kids gather around tables in your meeting area. If you don't have tables, give each group a tray to gather around.

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is the King. Let's think more about the power of a king as we do an experiment. In fact, in this experiment we're going to see which one of you has the "Power Over Pepper."**

Give each group a plate and a cup of water. Have groups pour the water onto their plates. Then walk around and sprinkle some pepper on the water for each group.

Finally, give each child a cotton swab, making sure one child per group gets one that has been dipped in dish soap.

Say: **One at a time, you'll gently touch your cotton swab to the surface of the water. Watch closely to see what, if anything, happens to the pepper when each person touches the water. Once everyone has a chance to touch the water, we'll gather together and discuss what you observed.**

Allow time for each group to experiment before gathering everyone together again. (The clean cotton swabs may part the pepper a little bit, but the dish soap-soaked ones will have a clearer impact.) You may want to have kids dump their plates of water into the large bowl once the "Power" people have dipped their swabs; then set up a fresh plate so that the other kids in the group can also try it.

Have kids pour their pepper water into a large bowl and dispose of their plates and cotton swabs.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How could you tell who had the "Power Over Pepper" in your group?**

• **How can you tell that Jesus is the King, worthy of praise?**

Say: **Each group had someone with the "Power Over Pepper." You could tell they had power because of what they did! We can tell Jesus is King because of all the miracles he did. And in today's story, he was treated like a king!**



Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- markers
- green crepe paper
- string
- tape
- river rocks (1 per child) (check in the home decor section)
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Bookmark Luke 19:37-38 in a few Bibles.

Tip

- If river rocks are too hard to find, you can simply cut rock shapes out of construction paper.

Talk About Kings and Royalty

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus is the King. Let's think about what kings are like.**

Ask: • **How do you picture a king?**

- **If a king was going to be in a parade right near your house, what would you do?**
- **Think about famous people you've seen on TV or in real life, like the president or movie stars.**

How have you seen them travel?

Say: **The president travels in a long line of fancy cars called limousines, with people all around protecting him. Movie stars often show up to fancy events in limousines, and then they walk on a special red carpet.**

Jesus is the King, but he didn't travel like that. He walked from one place to another, and his feet probably got dirty with no red carpet to walk on. But in today's Bible story, we'll see a time Jesus was treated just like the King he really is.

Travel in Style

Have kids form six groups. It's okay if groups are only one or two kids. Give each group a piece of paper and some markers, and assign them one of the following to draw.

- limousine
- bicycle
- chariot
- airplane
- wagon
- donkey and baby donkey

Have groups line up around the room, holding up their drawings. Choose two kids to play the role of Jesus' disciples.

Have the Disciples walk around the room and analyze the types of transportation, choosing which one they think is best for Jesus, the king. Groups can try to pitch their picture as the best way for Jesus to travel.

Say: **Of course, a lot of these kinds of transportation didn't exist yet when Jesus was alive. But there was a specific way Jesus wanted to travel.**

Read Luke 19:28-31.

Say: **There's a very specific reason Jesus wanted to travel on a baby donkey. You see, way back before Jesus lived on earth, God had given a prophet a special message about who Jesus would be. Listen.**

Read Zechariah 9:9.

Say: **When Jesus told his disciples to find him a young donkey to ride on, he was showing that Jesus is the King God had told people about a long time ago!**

Have the Disciples and the group with the picture of the donkeys act out what's happening as you read Luke 19:32-34. Then have the Disciples take the donkey picture and set it by a wall, with room on either side of it.

Have a Parade

Read Luke 19:35-36. If kids are wearing extra apparel, such as jackets, scarves, or hats, have them place their apparel on the donkey picture and in front of it, making a path.

Read Mark 11:8. Have kids tear pieces of green crepe paper and spread them on the floor to continue a path all the way across the room.

Say: **With this nice path for Jesus in place, people started cheering for Jesus! It was like a parade where Jesus was the star because Jesus is the King!**

Read Luke 19:37-38.

Have kids return to their groups from earlier. Provide Bibles so they can refer to Luke 19:37-38 and paper and markers so they can write down ideas. Say: **We've heard what the people shouted to praise Jesus. And we've heard they praised him for the miracles they'd seen him do.**

What about you? Jesus is the King today, just as he was back then. What words would you use to praise Jesus if he were riding by today? What wonderful things has he done that you'd praise him for? As a group, share what you want to praise Jesus for, and combine your thoughts to come up with a group cheer. Think of how you want to praise Jesus as King.

Allow plenty of time. While groups work, tape a long piece of string to the donkey picture so you can drag it across the room over the path. You may need to remove some of the items that are on top of the picture so it's not weighted down.

When groups are ready, have them line up on either side of the path. Stand across the room from the donkey and pull it by the string, stopping it in front of each group so they can perform their cheer.

After every group has performed its cheer and the donkey is across the room, say: **What an awesome way to praise Jesus, the King! But not everyone wanted to praise Jesus. Not everyone thought he should be called the King!** Read Luke 19:39.

Make Stones Cry Out

Say: **Jesus had a great response to those Pharisees.** Read Luke 19:40.

Ask: • **What would it look like for a stone to praise Jesus?**

Say: **We're going to make some stones to praise Jesus.** Distribute river rocks and permanent markers. Have kids decorate the stones with faces, adding a speech bubble with a one-word praise for who Jesus is. For example, kids could write "King," "loving," or "amazing."

Have kids stand along the side of the path, holding their stones with their arms out. Then do a "wave" of praise. Kids will take turns lifting their arms and shouting out the words on their rocks, just like doing a wave at a sporting event (but with shouting). Tell kids to hold on to their rocks tightly so they don't fly across the room and hurt anyone. Do the wave back and forth a few times.

Say: **Jesus is the King. He deserves our praise! And if people didn't praise Jesus, he's so worthy of praise that the *rocks* would! But we don't need to let rocks praise Jesus because we can always praise him for being our King!**

Have kids help you pick up the path they made, making sure everyone gets their apparel back. You can also make a "praise pile" with the rocks in an out-of-the-way place. You'll need the rocks later for Life Application Wrap-Up.



If Jesus Is the King, Why Isn't He More Like Kings Today?

Supplies

- Bibles
- red crepe paper
- yellow crepe paper
- purple crepe paper
- green crepe paper
- chairs

Welcome a King

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is the King. Let's imagine what a royal parade for a king would look like today.**

Choose one child to represent the king.

Ask kids to think about how the king would be dressed. Have kids use crepe paper to "dress" the king. As kids add the following adornments, the king can announce his royal opinion about how they're doing.

Ask kids to think about a king's royal carriage. Have them put two chairs together, facing each other, and use crepe paper to decorate them like a carriage.

Tell kids that sometimes we roll out a red carpet for important people. Have kids use red crepe paper to make a red carpet for the king.

Have kids use crepe paper to make flags or banners to use as the king passes by on the red carpet.

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud slowly. As you read, have kids take away crepe paper to show what *wasn't* present. For example, they can dismantle the carriage when Jesus' disciples get the donkey. When all the crepe paper is cleaned up, they can throw down small pieces of green crepe paper to represent the palm leaves for Jesus.

Ask: • **How does Jesus' parade compare with the royal parade we threw?**

Say: **The people treated Jesus like a king, but *he* didn't really act like one. While people praised him, he came in a pretty humble way—on a baby donkey, probably in regular clothes. Why is that? If Jesus is the King, why isn't he more like kings today? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **To start, let's look at a prophecy about Jesus' parade. A prophecy is a message from God about what will happen in the future. Prophets who lived long before Jesus was born had some things to say about today's Bible story.**

Read Matthew 21:4-5 and Zechariah 9:9.

Ask: • **How does our Bible story show what Zechariah said would happen?**

Say: **There were also some kings back in the Old Testament—the first part of the Bible. Let's**

see how they were treated.

Read 2 Kings 9:13. Then read Matthew 21:8.

Ask: • **How was Jesus treated like an Old Testament king?**

Say: **Even though Jesus wasn't treated like we might treat a king or celebrity today, back then it was normal for people to praise kings with palm leaves and cloaks.**

But there's something else about Jesus being a king that's very different from today's kings.

Read 1 Timothy 6:15.

Ask: • **How is this different from a king on earth?**

Say: **The people who gave Jesus a parade probably thought Jesus was going to be a good king on earth. The kings that were ruling weren't very fair to God's people. The people wanted a new king, and they thought Jesus was it! They thought he would be more like our crepe-paper king. In fact, there was another time people wanted to force Jesus to be their king. Let's check it out.**

Read John 6:15.

Say: **Jesus wasn't that kind of king. In fact, here's what happened less than a week after today's**

Bible story: Jesus died. That's because Jesus is the King of all kings. He's the king *forever*, not just for a little bit on earth. Every king on earth has died or will die, and then they're not king anymore. But **Jesus is the forever king in heaven!** He died—but came back to life three days later!

Ask: • **Why is Jesus' forever kingdom better than being a king on earth?**

Say: **As you listen to these verses, think about what they say about who Jesus was on earth and who he is in heaven.**

Read Philippians 2:6-11.

Ask: • **What do these verses show about who Jesus was on earth? about who he is in heaven?**

Say: Jesus is the King, but he didn't come to earth to be a human king. He came to show us God's great love and to take the punishment for our sins so we can be part of his kingdom forever! Jesus is the King of heaven and earth! One day, everyone will bow before King Jesus!



Supplies

- “Small People Productions” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Small People Productions”

Say: **Today we're learning about the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People praised Jesus because they realized that Jesus is the King!**

Ask: • **Close your eyes and imagine the scene of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. What do you see?**

• **What do you hear?**

Say: **Let's watch a video where a couple of kids re-create the scene. We'll see how they picture it.**

Watch “Small People Productions.”

Ask: • **How did this production compare to what you pictured?**

Say: **There probably weren't rubber chickens on Palm Sunday. And I'm pretty sure a giant dog... er...colt...didn't try to eat Jesus! But people *did* praise Jesus and put their coats on the road to treat him like a king. And we can do the same because Jesus is the King!**



MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

All Creatures of Our God and King

Supplies

- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Doxology” (watch or download [here](#))
- “King Jesus Is All” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



CRAFT

Fans of the King

[20 min]

Supplies

- “Palm Leaf” handouts printed on 11x17 paper (optional) (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- poster board
- spinach leaves
- craft sticks (2 per child)
- permanent markers
- duct tape (green or brown works best)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- If you don't want to use spinach leaves, kids can just color their fans with green crayons or markers.

Make a Palm Leaf

Give each child a “Palm Leaf” handout. Have kids cut out the shape and then trace it on poster board. Have them cut the shape out of the poster board. Alternatively, kids can draw and cut out their own palm leaf shapes.

To decorate the leaf, give each child one or two spinach leaves. Have kids use their fists to hammer the leaves onto the poster board, staining it with green on both sides. One leaf should be enough to cover the entire fan.

Make a Fan

To make fans out of their leaves, have kids accordion fold them. Then have each child use duct tape to secure two craft sticks to the bottom of the leaf as a handle. On the handle, kids can write “I’m a fan of King Jesus.”

Talk About It

Ask: • **How does your leaf fan remind you of the way people worshipped Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus is the King! He deserves our worship. Sometimes kings have people to fan them so they don't get too hot. In the Bible story, people used palm leaves to worship Jesus. We can remember to worship Jesus as a king and be his biggest “fans”!**

Encourage kids to take their crafts home and use them to keep cool. They can also fan their friends or family members as they tell them about the Bible story. They can tell others why they're “fans” of Jesus.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Even the Stones

Make a Motion!

Have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **In our Bible story, the people waved palm branches and shouted out praises to Jesus as he rode by. When the Pharisees told Jesus to make them stop, Jesus told them that if the people were quiet, even the stones would burst out in cheers. Let's think more about that as we play a game.**

Stand in the center of the circle. Explain to kids you're going to randomly call out either "praise" or "stones." When you say "praise," kids will wave their hands over their heads like they're waving palm branches. When you say "stones," kids will curl into a ball on the ground and cheer. Once kids understand the actions, begin the game. Start out slowly calling either "praise" or "stones." Then begin calling out the commands faster and faster until kids can't keep up.

Talk About It

Ask: • **It was hard to keep up in this game. When is it hard for you to remember to praise Jesus?**

• **How does it make you feel to know that the stones would praise Jesus even if people wouldn't?**

Say: **Sometimes we're moving so fast or are so focused on other things that we forget that Jesus is the King. The Bible reminds us that as King, Jesus deserves our praise. Even the stones would recognize that Jesus is the King.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Run Around the Crown!

[10 min]

Supplies

- jacket
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Recommended for 6 or more kids.

Play a Version of Duck, Duck, Goose

Gather kids in a circle.

Say: **Today we've heard from the Bible how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. As he did, the people threw their robes on the ground in front of Jesus and celebrated Jesus coming as their king. Let's play a game as we think more about what that might have been like.**

Choose one child and give that child the jacket. Explain to kids that they'll be playing a variation of Duck, Duck, Goose. Instead of calling out "Duck, Duck, Goose," the child holding the jacket will silently walk around the outside of the circle and drop the jacket behind someone to indicate who will be the next "King." Kids can't peek behind them to see if the jacket was dropped. Instead, they'll need to use their hands to feel behind them. Once the jacket is dropped, the King will stand up and try to tag the child who dropped the jacket before he or she is able to make it around the circle and back into the King's place. Once kids understand the rules, begin playing. Play several rounds.

If you'd like, play music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did you feel when you were waiting and wondering if you would be picked as the next King?**

• **How do you think that might be like the way people felt when they were wondering if Jesus was the king they'd been waiting for?**

Say: **Jesus is the King. The people of Jerusalem were waiting for a king, so they praised Jesus. Jesus is the King of everything! He's a better king than they expected!**



Supplies

- rocks from Core Bible Discovery*

Do a Wave of Praise

Say: **Earlier today we used rocks to do a wave of praise for Jesus. Let's praise him again! This time, take a rock that's *not* the one you wrote on. Read what it says so you're ready to shout Jesus' praise when it's your turn!**

Allow time for kids to get rocks from the pile.

Have kids stand in two lines facing each other, with a path between them. Have kids hold their stones with their arms out. Then do a "wave" of praise. Kids will take turns lifting their arms and shouting out the words on their rocks, just like doing a wave at a sporting event (but with shouting). Remind kids to hold on to their rocks so they don't fly and hit anyone. Do it back and forth a few times.

Wrap Up

Pray: **King Jesus, thank you that you are our King! We praise you because you deserve it! You're the King of the world; please be the King of our lives. In your name we pray, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to praise King Jesus this week. They can take a rock home as a reminder. Also invite them to come back next week.

**Supplies**

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

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