

WEEK 1

Praise Jesus, The King!

The Story of The Triumphal Entry

Week's Objective:

To desire to praise and respect Jesus just as the people of Jerusalem did in the Bible story. God wants us to praise Him enthusiastically in all we say and do. Let's remember that God wants us to **Be Full of Praise!**

Prayer as you Prepare:

Father, thank You that You love us. You bring us joy. We praise You and You alone, Jesus. Give us an enthusiastic heart to praise and worship You. Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM...

COLORING PAGE: Picture of Jesus entering Jerusalem and extra activity on the back

Hear It:

OBJECT LESSON: PRAISE HIM!

*Musical instrument

[LEADER SAY]: Can anyone tell me what my hands, singing voice and this instrument have in common? We can worship God with them! God wants us to praise Him and to be excited. Even if we do not have the best singing voice, there are many other ways that we can worship God.

The Bible tells us that in everything we do, all day long, we can be praising God. When you play sports, hang out with friends, dance, clean your room, even when you do homework, you can be praising God. God made you and takes joy in watching you do the things He created you for. When you do these things in your life with joy and enthusiasm and you dedicate them to God that is how we can praise Him. Wouldn't it be exciting if our whole life were about giving praise to God?

Today, I want to share with you a Bible story about some people who praised Jesus in a different way. Let's listen to the Bible story and find out how they worshiped Jesus.

STORY SUPPORT: CLAPPERS

*Clappers

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, have your students celebrate His triumphal entry. Use the clappers to cheer and celebrate His arrival.

Find It:

1. Who was Jesus?
God's Son
2. What was Jesus doing as He traveled throughout Israel?
Preaching, teaching, healing and loving people
3. What was the name of the city He was traveling to?
Jerusalem
4. Who did He send into the city to get a donkey?
Two disciples
5. Had anyone ever ridden the donkey before Jesus?
No
6. What did people do when they saw Jesus riding on the donkey?
Crowds formed and they placed their coats on the ground for the donkey to walk on.
7. When the people put their coats on the ground and waved palm branches at Jesus, what did it mean?
It was a sign of respect to Jesus.
8. Who was upset about this?
The Pharisees
9. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees?
Even if the people stopped singing out praises to God and Jesus, the rocks would cry out in their place.
10. What are some ways you can praise Jesus?
Answers will vary. Some ways you can praise Jesus include singing, dancing, praying, telling others about Him and be kind to others.

Say It:

Matthew 21:9b – "...Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!"

See It:

Connect the dots to reveal Jesus' animal that He entered Jerusalem on.

Be It:

[LEADER SAY]: Our Bible story this week reminds us that God wants us to be full of praise. What do you think it means to be full of praise? How can we be so full that we want to raise God in our everyday lives?

When we love God, we show it to Him in what we say and do. Like we heard in the Bible story, we can praise Jesus in so many different ways. Let's live lives that show God and others how enthusiastic we are to follow Him and His ways. If we are full of faith, we will be bursting and excited to share it with others.

CHALLENGE: FULL OF PRAISE

[LEADER SAY]: This week, your "Be it Challenge" is to show God and others how you can be full of praise. Your challenge is to think of ways that you can praise God throughout the day. Then, pick one different way to praise Him each day.

Good luck with your challenge! Do not forget that I want to know if you completed your challenge next week.

Show It:

First, we are so full that we have to put a cap on it before it overflows and pours out. Then, praise is showing our thankful hands and hearts because we love Jesus so very much. Put it together and we are full of praise!

ACTIVITY: HOSANNA!

Objective – To learn to enthusiastic about praising Jesus in all you say and do!

Materials – Colored streamers, clappers and names to draw from a hat.

Take your small group outside to a grassy area and have them form two lines facing each other. Pick one student from the hat to be the donkey.

[LEADER SAY]: This game will help us practice praising Jesus with an excited heart and attitude. We are going to pretend that Jesus is here on His donkey. The donkey will bring Jesus in by crawling down the aisle between the two lines. When the donkey passes by, you will throw the streamers up in the air and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" You can even toss the streamers back-and-forth from line-to-line. Clap your clappers with lots of excitement. Be enthusiastic as you see and praise Jesus. Even jump up and down and dance around.

Give each student a roll of streamers and clapper. Show them how to toss the streamers from line-to-line. Now, count to three and let the game begin. When the game is over, return to your classroom and sit on the story time rug for discussion.

NOTE:

- Make sure that your students are tossing the streamers high enough so they are not hitting the donkey.

Discussion –

1. Do you think you were more enthusiastic about praising Jesus because everyone else was, too?
2. What are some ways that you can show others your praise for Jesus?
3. How can you help your friends and family get excited to praise Jesus, too?

FOLLOW-UP:

Would you rather ride on a really stinky donkey or a camel that spits?