



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

SCRIPTURE: [Mark 11](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Years ago, I traveled to London as part of a mission trip with my youth group. One of the stops we prioritized was Buckingham Palace. It was as regal as you'd expect. I've never seen anything quite like it. We didn't get any glimpses of the royal family, but being that close was a once in a lifetime experience.

Imagine that you have the chance to be in the same room as a royal family member. What do you think you'd see, hear, smell, and experience? Would you have the courage to engage them in conversation? Would you want to touch them or shake their hand?

[Mark 11](#) tells us about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. After all the miracles He performed in His short time on earth, you'd think His triumphal entry would be on a grand scale. Yet very little about this King was what the Jews would have expected. He didn't charge in with a sword to overthrow the Romans. And He didn't enter the city with pomp and circumstance. Instead, He rode in on a colt as the crowd covered the road with branches and coats and shouted, "Hosanna!"

- How does Jesus' entry model humility for you as a leader?
- As a child of God, do you consider yourself royalty?
- What does Jesus' kingship look like in your life?

King Jesus died on the cross so that you and I could be part of His family forever. You're an heir to the throne!

—**Kathie Phillips**

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus was a descendent of King David, and the Jews knew the Messiah would come from David's line. Jesus entered Jerusalem as king. Israel's hopes were in Him to be the fulfillment of God's promise to bring a shoot from the stump of Jesse ([Isaiah 11:1](#)).

WHAT?

The people shouted, "Hosanna," which is a Hebrew exclamation meaning roughly "Save us now!" They spread cloaks and palm branches in front of Him as a sign of royal welcome for a deliverer: not even His animal's hooves would need to touch the dirt.

WHERE?

Jesus was near Jerusalem by the Mount of Olives, which is just east of the city. From this spot, the temple would be visible. The people joyfully welcomed a king to His kingdom, inviting Him to take His throne in the city of David.

WHEN?

Jesus knew that danger was drawing near. Although the common people didn't understand, the kingship of Jesus would be realized through His sacrifice on the cross. Their ultimate rescue would come from Jesus' willingness to give His own life.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised David that his descendant would rule as king forever ([2 Samuel 7:16](#)). God kept this promise by making Jesus King forever and ever, a reign without end ([Daniel 7:14](#)). In Christ's kingdom, the merciful—not the conquerors—are blessed ([Matthew 5:7](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: masking tape, table tennis balls, building blocks, toy donkey and/or person, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Triumphal Entry Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Path Parade

Set-up: Before kids arrive, use masking tape to make several paths on the floor. Set out some table tennis balls nearby.

Play: Encourage kids to try to blow the table tennis balls along the path on the floor without allowing the balls to travel outside of the lines. They could even have a race to see who can get their ball down the path first.

Play Station: Jerusalem Block Building

Set-up: Set out some building blocks along with a toy donkey and/or a toy person.

Play: Kids can use the blocks to build the temple and a path to the temple. Then they can use the donkey and/or person to follow the path to the temple.

Play Station: Triumphal Entry: Jesus Enters Jerusalem Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn over the sheet and trace their hand to create a palm branch shape.



9:00 Service

Belief

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, our King, we praise You and celebrate You today. We welcome You into our hearts just as the people welcomed You into Jerusalem. Help us listen to what You have to say to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p 246

The Triumphal Entry

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of His mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins.

—from Titus 3:5

Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- What do you need to ask Jesus' forgiveness for?
- How does Jesus save us?



Faith

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Active Game: Cloak Relay

SUPPLIES: towels (2 per team)

Split your group into two or three different teams and have each team form a line. Give each team two coats, t-shirts, or towels.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was riding on a donkey's colt. We're going to play a game to see who can get their "donkey colt" to the other end of the room the fastest. The first player on each team will pretend to be donkey colt for their team. The trick is that the donkey colt can only move forward if he is standing on a "cloak." The rest of the team's job is to move the cloak across the room. Place one cloak at the front of the line and invite the first player on each team to stand on it. Hand a second cloak to the next player in line.

When I say "Go," the player with the cloak will place it in front of the cloak that their "donkey colt" is standing on. They will then run back and tag the next player in the line. The person playing the donkey colt will then move forward to the cloak that was just placed on the ground. The next person in line will grab the cloak that the donkey just stepped off and place it in front of donkey. The game will continue until the donkey colt reaches the other end of the room.



9:00 Service

Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Responding in Worship: Palm Sunday Parade

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments (1 per kid), ribbons, die cut palm branches

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, set out several different toy musical instruments such as cymbals, shakers, and bells.

Set out long strips of ribbon and, if available, palm branches.

Gather kids together near the instruments, ribbons, and palm branches.

Today we're going to enjoy our very own Palm Sunday parade to worship Jesus as King!

Everybody can choose a musical instrument, a ribbon, and/or a palm branch to wave. Allow time for kids to pick an instrument, ribbon, or palm branch.

What do you think it was like to be one of the people along the road to Jerusalem that day? How can you worship Jesus as King today? Allow the kids to respond. **As we play the music, we'll march around the room (or hallway!) as a parade, worshipping Jesus.**

Turn on music from the [Risen Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Lead kids in a parade around the room (or hallway!). Encourage kids to worship like people did in today's part of God's big story when they welcomed Jesus as King.

We can worship Jesus as King just as the people welcomed Him to Jerusalem.

Allow kids to trade instruments, ribbons, and palm branches as time allows.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus as our King.

Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to earth as our King. Help us always worship Him as our King. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go out today remembering that Jesus is your King. Worship Him in everything you do and everywhere you go. Never forget God's love for you—the love He displayed by sending Jesus to earth.

9:00 Service