

# JESUS IS KING

## SERIES: LIVE FOR HIM

Join us throughout the months of March and April as we learn different Bible stories that show us what it looks like to LIVE FOR HIM! We will be going through the books of Matthew and John.

## REMEMBER VERSE

GALATIANS 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me .

## SCHEDULE

### *All Services*

0:00—0:35	Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
0:35—0:40	Transition to Large Group
0:40—1:00	Large Group (B100)
1:00—1:05	Transition to Small Group
1:05—1:15	Bless and Dismiss

## NOTES

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# LEADER RESOURCES

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## SERIES OVERVIEW

CURRENT WEEK: Jesus Is King

*Triumphal Entry*

WEEK 2: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

*Jesus Rises*

WEEK 3: Jesus Is Alive

*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

WEEK 4: Jesus Redeems

*Jesus Reinstates Peter*

WEEK 5: Remember & Celebrate

*Purim*

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## EQUIP

From the beginning to the end, the Old Testament records the history of God's people, the Israelites, awaiting the arrival of their promised Savior. They envisioned a king who would come with a sword and make Israel the leader of all the nations. Their hope for this sort of Messiah is evident in the way they welcomed Jesus on what we refer to as "Palm Sunday" or the "Triumphal Entry." As Jesus approached Jerusalem, crowds scurried to cut palm branches and wave them over Him as He entered the city.

The palm branch was a symbol of Jewish patriotism. It represented victory for the Jewish people. Palms were used in decorating Jewish coins, buildings, and even synagogues. They were prominently displayed during many of the major feasts and festivals. Throughout the Old Testament and various Jewish texts, palm branches were used to symbolize Jewish pride, and Israelites would only cover the ground with them for honorable and worthy individuals. For the people to lace Jesus' path with palm fronds while waving branches over Him as He passed implied that they perceived Him to be a king coming to rescue them. In fact, the people cried out, "Hosanna," which means "Save us" or "Rescue us." The people shouted it in celebration, as if to say, "Hooray—He is here to save us!"

In His first coming, Jesus didn't intend to be an earthly warrior king. He came to restore the broken relationship between mankind and God. Instead of bringing a sword, He brought a message of peace and humility for true salvation. Those who followed Jesus had to be willing to embrace a new concept of kingship, one of love and inclusion rather than domination and exclusion. And one day He'll return to earth as our conquering King.

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## ENCOURAGE

How do you honor a king? In the movies, everyone bows in the presence of a king. Sometimes a servant or messenger will kneel or walk backward so as not to turn his back to the king. This gives the king the honor and respect he deserves. Subjects bow down in submission, recognizing the power and majesty of the king.

The Bible proclaims that Jesus is the King of Kings! We probably don't bow down before Jesus—simply for the sake of giving Him honor—often enough. Sometimes we forget His position of authority and rule over us because He is such a loving and generous King. This week, each morning, spend a few minutes bowing down before God. Instead of running into His throne room with requests, spend a few moments worshipping and praising Him for who He is—the King of the universe and your life.

## WELCOME

*Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.*

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What type of animal (real or imaginary) would you like to ride and why?

## RESPOND

*A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.*

The crowd in Jerusalem greeted Jesus as an earthly king, but we know Jesus as the King of Kings.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Jesus Is King Template. Have them color the words "Jesus Is King" as well as the cutouts on the next page. Then, have them trace their hands all over the Template and color them green to represent the palm branches. Then, have the kids cut out the cutouts and glue down the crown in the center and the shouts of praise around it. Remind them that Jesus is the King of Kings.

SUPPLIES:

- Jesus Is King Template
- Pencil
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Glue

## REFLECT

*A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.*

When Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the Israelites recognized Him as King. The problem was, they didn't know what kind of king He was. We, however, have the privilege of knowing Jesus for who He really is: the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- Why did Jesus ride on a donkey? *Matthew 21:1-5; John 12:14-15*
- Why did the people wave palm branches?
- What did the people expect the Messiah to do?
- What kind of king is Jesus?
- What does "Hosanna" mean? Is there a place in your life where you feel like shouting, "Hosanna!" to Jesus?
- How can we show Jesus that He is our King?
- How can you recognize Jesus as King of your life?

## BLESS

*A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.*

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

MATTHEW 21:9 - "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

BLESSING: May you trust Jesus to be King in your life. May you know that the King of all things loves you and cares for you.

## NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

## RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Zechariah 9:9 image
- Sports Arena image
- Donkey image
- Royal Procession image
- Horse image

## STORYTELLING

Don't you love a big entrance? Well, Jesus knew how to make an entrance! And Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was prophesied more than 500 years before He was even born! *Zechariah 9:9 image*. But before we hear more, let's pause and ask the Holy Spirit to give us listening ears today. *Lead kids in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem for Passover. Passover, one of the most important Jewish festivals, celebrated how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of people traveled to Jerusalem to attend Passover. Along the journey there, Jesus had stopped in Bethany to visit friends. Here, Mary worshipped Him by pouring perfume on His feet. She knew Him as a teacher, and as healer, and soon she and everyone would know Him as King.

Many of the people coming to the Passover festival in Jerusalem hoped that Jesus would be there. Imagine a crowd of people, as many as in a sports arena (*Sports Arena image*), all hoping to see one person: Jesus. They had heard about how Jesus healed sick people, blind people, and paralyzed people—and how He'd even raised a man from the dead! Who remembers a miracle that Jesus did? *Invite a couple of kids to share.*

The Jewish people had been waiting since the beginning of The Big God Story for the promised Messiah. The Romans ruled God's people, and the people thought the Messiah would come to save them from their enemies. They expected a warrior king to ride in on a huge, powerful horse and beat the bad guys so they could be free again to live as God's people. They expected Jesus to be that warrior king.

As Jesus and His disciples came near Jerusalem, Jesus told them something. Let's turn to Matthew 21:2-3 to hear what Jesus said. *Read verses aloud as kids follow along. Donkey image*. Jesus knew exactly where to find the donkeys and that they would be given to Him. He knew this because He's God and He knows everything. He knew the ancient prophecy in the Bible that described what would happen. *Zechariah 9:9 image*. Jesus knew that His choice to ride in on a donkey would fulfill this prophecy and would reveal Him as King.

The disciples found the donkeys just as Jesus had said they would. What happened next? *Invite responses. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 21:7.* Crowds of people were

waiting to see Jesus. Imagine that you're waiting for a king. What do you think you'd see when he arrived? *Invite responses. Royal Procession image*. Good thoughts. You might imagine that the king would be surrounded by lots of marching soldiers or people riding in chariots. Maybe a trumpet would sound. Maybe the king would ride a big, beautiful, decorated horse, like kings rode as they headed to battle. *Horse image*.

Well, Jesus—the King of Kings—chose to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Why do you think He chose a donkey? *Pause for responses*. Back in Bible times, donkeys symbolized humility and peace. Jesus rode on a donkey to show His people that He was indeed the true King—but He came in peace. He didn't come to destroy their enemies, the Romans, like the people hoped. He came to do something greater.

Let's read what the crowd did when they saw Him. *Read Matthew 21:8 as everyone follows along. Palm Branch image*. Palm branches symbolized victory. The people shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" *Pass out palm branches and invite kids to act out the scene as you read John 12:13. As you read each phrase, encourage kids to repeat it.*

Jesus is the King of Kings. He is the King over everything because He is God! The Israelites had expected for so long that the Messiah would be a warrior king, and they wanted Him to save them from the Romans. And Jesus did come to save them, but not from the Romans. He had a bigger plan. Jesus came to save people by dying on the cross for their sins and rising again. He came to save people from their sins and death! He came to bring them into relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the King immortal. That means He lives forever (1 Timothy 1:17). Jesus is the King of glory. He is strong and wins every battle (Psalm 24:8). The armies of heaven follow Him (Revelation 19:14). Jesus is a righteous King. He makes right decisions that please God (Isaiah 32:1). And Jesus is a loving King. The powerful Ruler of all chose to free us from our sins by dying for us (Revelation 1:5). When we know Jesus as our King, we can cry out to Him, "Hosanna! Save us!" We can ask Him to help us bow down to who He is and what He wants to do in our lives. *Share a personal story of a time you recognized Jesus as King in your life.*