

LESSON 30

Triumphal Entry

JOHN 12:10-50



BIBLE TRUTH

THE PEOPLE CELEBRATE THEIR KING WHILE OTHERS PLOT HIS DEATH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 12:10–50 from the Scriptures or read story 108, “Triumphal Entry” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

I Was There

SUPPLIES

- ✓ simple costume made of flat sheet and rope for a belt

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

From Palm Branches to Cross

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 30—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

I Am the Light

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small dim flashlight
- ✓ large high-intensity light
- ✓ Bible

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The crowd celebrates Jesus as an earthly king—With Passover near, the crowds were streaming into Jerusalem for the annual feast. Word had spread that Jesus was the Messiah. Those who had witnessed Jesus’ latest miracles went out to meet him as he made his way into Jerusalem. The people shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Psalm 118:26). This was in keeping with the prophecy of Zechariah, who said, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). The people celebrated Jesus’ arrival, convinced he would become the earthly king over Israel. The disciples were just as confused about Jesus’ mission. At one point the mother of James and John had asked if her sons could sit alongside Jesus, believing he would one day come to earthly power. The disciples, like the people around them, thought Jesus would be a political Messiah. They would be surprised as much as anyone by his arrest.

Jesus points the disciples back to the cross—In all of the excitement, Jesus did not lose sight of his mission. He knew the cross was before him when he said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23). Jesus knew the people were looking for an earthly king. Yet, while the crowd celebrated him, the religious rulers were plotting his death (John 12:10), as they had been for some time now (John 5:18; 7:19, 25; 8:40). Matthew records their scheme: “Then the chief priests and the elders...plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, ‘Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people’” (Matthew 26:3–5).

The cross was not easy for Jesus, and he brings the disciples into his struggle. He tells them “Now is my soul troubled” (John 12:27), and indicates he will die on the cross when he says, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). Jesus would not be lifted up onto an earthly throne. Jesus would be lifted up onto a wooden cross.

The crowd did not believe—In spite of all that Jesus did, the Jews still did not believe. Who could blame them? Apart from God’s opening their eyes to the cross, there is no way that they could understand. Even when the voice of God the Father rang out from heaven, they did not believe. Those who may have understood that Jesus was referring to his crucifixion dismissed the idea and were confused saying, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up?” (John 12:34). Jesus knew that when he was arrested even his disciples would flee. He knew that when these same crowds saw Jesus tortured and mocked, they would quickly turn against him.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Even as Jesus was riding into Jerusalem, the very people who were celebrating his arrival would put him to death in a few days, Jesus would soon die for the sins of men by suffering on the cross. It is true that Jesus came to earth to be king. But he came as a heavenly king for a spiritual kingdom. That is why he said that if the people did not praise him, the very stones would cry out. The cross did not come as a surprise to Jesus (John 12:27); it was the very reason he had come to earth. Jesus even predicted how he would die (John 12:32–33). Many of those who hailed Jesus as king in his triumphal entry would soon cry out with the religious rulers, "Crucify him!"

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 12:10–50 from the Scriptures or read story 108, "Triumphal Entry" from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

I Was There

SUPPLIES

- ✓ simple costume made of flat sheet and rope for a belt

Retell the story of Jesus' triumphal entry from the perspective of a bystander that day in Jerusalem. The person in costume can talk about how she waved palm branches, and how she could hear the plotting of the Pharisees standing nearby. Have her also talk about the raising

of Lazarus prior to the triumphal entry. She should express amazement at the miracle but disappointment that Jesus was not the king they had all hoped for. Finally, have her talk about the tragedy of the crucifixion and the rejoicing at the resurrection when she discovered Jesus really was the King and Deliverer after all. Now she understands that Jesus was not going to deliver Israel from the Romans, but instead, from the bondage of sin.

Afterward draw the class out about how Jesus' death on the cross really did bring victory for all those who would believe.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

From Palm Branches to Cross

Line up the children as though they are standing along two sides of a path. Tell them they are going to play the people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. They can open their hands and wave with their fingers spread to represent the palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" as you walk by, playing the role of Jesus. Then, as you come to the end of the line of children, turn and say, "I am not an earthly king. I will be lifted up on a cross and die." Then have them make fists and shake them at you and say, "Crucify him."

After the children sit back down, explain how the people thought Jesus would be an earthly king. They didn't want Jesus to rule in their hearts, they wanted him to conquer the Romans. They wanted an earthly king. Explain to the children that Jesus wants to be king of our hearts. Draw them out, asking what they think that means. Ask them why they think Jesus didn't become an earthly king but instead died on the cross. (Jesus came to defeat sin and death, not the Romans. He came to take the punishment we deserve so that we could be forgiven and join him, the King of kings, in heaven to live with and worship him there forever.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 30—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why were the people so excited to see Jesus? What miracle had he performed recently?**
(Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead and word of that great miracle spread among the people.)
- **What did the people shout when Jesus came by?**
(They shouted hosanna and called Jesus a king.)
- **Why did the Pharisees want Jesus to correct his disciples?**
(The disciples were calling Jesus blessed and calling him a king and saying that he was from God. The Pharisees thought their praise was wrong and that Jesus should tell them to stop [Luke 19:39–40].)
- **What did Jesus say the rocks would do if he kept the disciples quiet?**
(Jesus said, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out” [Luke 19:40].)
- **What did Jesus mean when he said the stones would cry out?**
(Nature would praise Jesus if the people did not praise him. Jesus wanted to tell the Pharisees that he was worthy of praise and that the people were right in giving him such an amazing welcome. The praise and honor for Jesus was planned by God.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

I Am the Light

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small dim flashlight
- ✓ large high-intensity light
- ✓ Bible

Darken the classroom. If necessary, hang dark sheets in front of the windows.

Read John 12:46 to the class. Turn off the light and turn on the dim flashlight. (Keep the high-intensity light hidden.) Ask the class if they think the dim light is a good representation of Jesus. (Take any answer.) Ask them if they can tell you why Jesus described himself as the light. (Light in the Bible represents purity while darkness represents sin.)

Take out the bright light and ask, “Do you think this is a better representation of Jesus?” Shine the light at the children, but move it quickly so that no child is exposed to the light for more than a split second but gets enough light to turn their eyes away. (Take their answers.)

Show them on a wall or darker part of the room how the light pushes back the darkness.

Then read John 8:12 and explain that if they put their faith in Jesus and follow him who died on the cross for their sins, Jesus will forgive them their sins and his light will replace their sinful darkness. First, their sinful heart will be made new, without sin. Second, the Holy Spirit will live inside them and help them turn away from sin. Third, one day all sin will be removed from them and they will be given glorious bodies that cannot sin.

