

LESSON 30

Triumphal Entry

JOHN 12:10-50



BIBLE TRUTH

THE PEOPLE CELEBRATE THEIR KING WHILE OTHERS PLOT HIS DEATH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 108)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 30—one for each child; markers or crayons

A Hammer and a Palm

SUPPLIES: green construction paper palm fronds (one for each child); black construction paper cut into the shape of a hammer (enough for half the class to get one); black construction paper cut into the shape of a nail (enough for half the class to get one)

On the Way Home

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In this lesson the children will learn that some celebrated Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem while others wanted to kill him.

To introduce the lesson use the following discussion questions:

- **Has anyone ever seen a parade?**
(Allow children to share stories about the different parades they have seen.)

- **If I've never seen a parade, can someone describe for me what they are like?**
(lots of people, fun, music, drums)

- **Does anyone know if there are any parades in the Bible?**
(Though they may not know this, there are the accounts of King David accompanying the ark into Jerusalem and of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday—his triumphal entry.)

Parades normally celebrate something. Our lesson today is a story of a parade in the Bible.

Take time to pray and thank God for giving us grace to celebrate him. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 108, "The Triumphal Entry," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **How did the disciples get the colt for Jesus to ride on?**
(Jesus instructed them to go into a village where they would find a colt.)

- What is unusual about the way they found it?
(Jesus demonstrates his divine knowledge because he knows in advance where the colt will be and that the owners of the colt will object at first to the disciples taking it.)
- The disciples are instructed by Jesus to tell the colt's owners, "The Lord has need of it." What does the word "Lord" mean?
("Lord" refers to the king of the universe and implies divinity and supreme authority.)
- Why did the colt's owners allow the disciples to take it when they heard that the Lord had need of it?
(The disciples said to the owners, "The creator of the universe has need of it." God allowed the owners to believe this and gratefully let them have the colt.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- Why were the people so excited to see Jesus come into Jerusalem?
(The people had heard about the great wonder of Lazarus being raised from the dead and were probably hoping Jesus would do greater wonders. Some may have wanted to make him king hoping he would overthrow their Roman rulers.)

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!"

- What did the people do to pay honor to Jesus?
(They laid palm branches and cloaks on the ground for him to walk on. They called him king and shouted “Hosanna!”)
- What did the Pharisees think of Jesus?
(They were jealous of Jesus and all the attention he was receiving. They said, “Look, the world has gone after him.”)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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 were not praising 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.)

A Hammer and a Palm

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ green construction paper palm fronds (one for each child)
- ✓ black construction paper cut into the shape of a hammer (enough for half the class to get one)
- ✓ black construction paper cut into the shape of a nail (enough for half the class to get one)

Before class, make enough palm fronds, nails, and hammers for each child to hold a palm frond and either a nail or a hammer.

Give every child palms for his right hand and a paper hammer or nail for his left. Explain to them to lay down the palms as you pretend to be Jesus riding a colt. If they ask what the hammer is for tell them you will explain it in the end.

After the palms have been laid down, ask your class if they know why they are holding the hammers and nails. (Note: There are no hammers or nails in the story.) This is the answer: Some of the same people who on Palm Sunday welcomed Jesus with praise shouted “Crucify him!” the following Friday.

Explain to the children that our hearts are equally sinful. We can say we believe in God, but we continue sinning. Share with them that the reason for Jesus’ trip into Jerusalem was to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven.

On the Way Home

Talk to the children about the story of the colt and how the disciples found it just as Jesus had said. Ask them what they think the disciples might have said about

this amazing incident as they walked back with the colt (e.g., “I can’t believe it!”; “It was just like Jesus said!”; “He is amazing!”).

After drawing this out, pick a couple of children to play the roles of the colt owner and two disciples. Act out the scene and add the comments as they walk home. Give several groups a chance to reenact the scene.

When done, ask the children, “What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?” (Jesus is all-knowing and all-powerful. Jesus knew exactly what would happen, before it happened! Jesus is no mere man—Jesus is God!

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

