Get Ready for Easter
Lesson 1 - Triumphal Entry
PreK – 1st Grade (Sumner)
PreK/K (Puyallup)

Series Verse
He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6 NASB

Prepare (Before Service)
Game Material: none
Craft Materials: Paper towels, shallow containers or spray bottles with water in them, quart size resealable plastic bags, lima beans, label with instructions and room for name, and markers.
Take Home Pages: Make sure there is enough for each child to take home.
Curriculum: Make sure each classroom has an age appropriate curriculum DVD and storybook.

The Point of the Lesson:
Each child will understand that Jesus is a King and that we need to worship Him as a King by the way we live our lives.

The Power of God’s Word:
Praise Jesus! John 12:13 Paraphrase

The Prayer of Each Child:
Dear Jesus, I pray that I will understand what this Easter season is all about. Help me to understand how to worship You every day. Help me to say and do things to show others that You are my King. I want to always sing about You and praise You every day. Amen

The Lesson in a Word:
Worship

CHECK IN AND WELCOME
STORY
(Use the Classroom Storybook as a Visual Aid)
Have children stay seated while the story is taught live by the teacher. Have the kids repeat sentences, add motions, make faces to show emotions, etc. to make the lesson come alive. Before the story starts, remind the students how to be good listeners. Encourage them to raise their hands before speaking. Here’s a great way to remind them. Say this and have them join you by saying the words and doing the motions together. Try it a couple of times through to teach them.

- **Eyes are watching.** (Point to eyes.)
- **Ears are listening.** (Cup hands around both ears.)
- **Hands are quiet.** (Hands folded in lap.)
- **Feet are still.** (Fold legs criss cross, make a pretzel with your legs.)

Wait until you have everyone doing this to start the story! Praise the students for being good listeners. (You may even want to use the container of stickers for good listeners at the end of the story and verse time.)

The Triumphal Entry
Jesus came into Jerusalem for the very last time. The disciples were told to go find a donkey and her colt that were tied up outside of town and bring them to Jesus. He then rode on the donkey into the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus made His way into Jerusalem, people began to gather from all around the city. They waved palm branches and laid their coats and palm branches on the ground before Him. This was how they showed honor and attention to Jesus as their King! It was like the people were watching a parade. This parade of people began to follow Jesus and shout “Hosanna,” (or today we would shout “Hooray!”) which was a shout of praise to Jesus. They also yelled, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!” Their excitement continued to follow Jesus as He entered into the city of Jerusalem. When Jesus finally entered the city, the people who did not know Him asked, “Who is this?” The people who knew Jesus said, “It’s Jesus from Nazareth.” (Source: Matthew 21:1-11)

Review Questions:
Use the following questions to review the lesson with the children.

1. What kind of animal did Jesus ride on in our story today? (A donkey)
2. What kind things did Jesus do to help others? (Healed the sick, helped the blind to see, etc.)
3. How did the crowd worship Jesus? (Waved palm branches & said “Hosanna”)
4. Show me thumbs up for yes, and thumbs down for no. Can we worship Jesus today? (Thumbs up for yes!)
MEMORY VERSE
Introduce today’s verse to the children by saying it with them several times. Make it a competition between the girls and boys if you want. Add hand motions and changing inflection to make the verse come alive. Explain what the verse means to the kids.

“Praise Jesus!” John 12:13 Paraphrase

PRAY
Dear Jesus, I pray that I will understand what this Easter season is all about. Help me to understand how to worship You every day. Help me to say and do things to show others that You are my King. I want to always sing about You and praise You every day. Amen

GAME TIME
Zip, Zoom, Zowie
Materials needed: none
Directions: Form two teams of equal number. Have them form two single-file lines on one side of the room, and place a chair or some other object at the opposite side.

This is a relay of creativity. Group members will each select their own way of getting to the chair and back. But each one must move in a way that hasn’t been use before. They can hop on one foot, hop on two feet, run, walk backward, skip, walk heel to toe, somersault, or use any other movement as long as no one else has done it before.

To add a sense of urgency, time the race. Then hold a second relay to see if teams can improve on their first time. During the second round, tell group members that they can do the relay any way they want, whether someone has done it before or not.

DVD LESSON
This segment is designated to reinforce the lesson and teach application with age-appropriate props, puppets and video during a large group time. On DVD player, select this week’s lesson and this will play Hear This, Picture This and Do This portions of the video here.

Hear This
Sharkey the Puppet hosts this portion of the video that teaches the Memory Verse in a fun way that includes a little song and a corny joke!

Jesus was recognized and treated like a King. A large crowd of people gathered, took off their coats and laid them on the ground along with the palm branches from the trees. This was how the people of Jesus’ day welcomed kings and queens. When they saw Jesus
entering Jerusalem they worshipped Him as a King. Our verse this week is: “Praise Jesus!” John 12:13 Paraphrase

**Picture This**

**The Triumphal Entry**

Jesus came into Jerusalem for the very last time. The disciples were told to go find a donkey and her colt that were tied up outside of town and bring them to Jesus. He then rode on the donkey into the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus made His way into Jerusalem, people began to gather from all around the city. They waved palm branches and laid their coats and palm branches on the ground before Him. This was how they showed honor and attention to Jesus as their King! It was like the people were watching a parade. This parade of people began to follow Jesus and shout “Hosanna,” (or today we would shout “Hooray!”) which was a shout of praise to Jesus. They also yelled, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!” Their excitement continued to follow Jesus as He entered into the city of Jerusalem. When Jesus finally entered the city, the people who did not know Him asked, “Who is this?” The people who knew Jesus said, “It’s Jesus from Nazareth.” (Source: Matthew 21:1-11)

**Do This:**

Jack the Rabbit and Sully the Turtle remind the kids how to apply this lesson to their lives!

Sully the turtle tells the kids that he is hosting a show called, “The Turtle Talks” and tells the kids that he is going to teach them about Easter. He says that Easter grass, bunnies, eggs and baskets all go with Easter. Jack the Rabbit reminds Sully that Easter is all about Jesus, not those other things. Then they remind the kids that Jesus was treated as a King when he entered Jerusalem and everyone praised Him. He tells the kids that we should Praise Jesus too!

_Easter is such a fun time. What do you think of when you think of Easter? Easter baskets, colored eggs, an Easter egg hunt, new clothes, maybe? Easter is really all about Jesus and what He did for us the last week He was here on earth. The first thing that happened was that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on what we celebrate as Palm Sunday. Everyone worshipped Jesus as King, by waving palm branches and saying, “Hosanna!” We should worship Jesus also!_

(Myron sings a reprise of the Theme Song to end this part of the video.)

**CRAFT**

**Bean Sprouts**

Materials needed: paper towels, shallow containers or spray bottles with water in them, quart size resealable plastic bags, lima beans, masking tape, and markers.

Preparation: For each child, fold a paper towel in half two times. Fill shallow containers or spray bottle with water.
Procedure: Children sprinkle water on folded paper towels until they are damp. Children dry hands, place dampened towels in plastic bags and then put five beans in bag as shown in sketch. Beans should not touch each other. Seal each child’s bag. Have each child write their name on the instruction label and put on bag. Have child take bag home.

Tie in: What's helping you to make your towel wet? Yes! God made your hands to help you and He made the water. And we can praise the Lord for our hands and for everything He made. Our Bible tells us that it is good to praise the Lord. On the first Palm Sunday, people shouted praises to Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem.

CHECK OUT
Provide each student with a Take Home Page for the week. Be sure they take home their craft also.