

The Triumphant Entry
Into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 21:9b

"...Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna is the highest!"

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many pieces of construction paper as the number of children in your class, glue, scissors, magazines and newspapers, or crayons or markers.

A dry erase board with dry erase markers, tape, and seven donkey tails with the words "Passover," "pilgrim," "plan," "prophecy," "parade," "proclamation," and "plot" written on them.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

The Seven Word Collage

Write up on the dry erase or chalk board the words "Passover," "pilgrim," "plan," "prophecy," "parade," "proclamation," and "plot." Have your children choose one or more words that they understand and make a collage representing that word.

Supply magazines and newspapers from which the children can cut out words and pictures, which illustrate their word, to glue to a piece of construction paper. For younger children, you may want to just let them draw pictures with crayons or markers representing the word or words of their choice.

LESSON TIME!

Today's lesson is about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, which happened only a few days before His death on the cross. Jesus was popular at this time with the people, and many thought He was the promised Messiah (the anointed one from God), and they worshipped Jesus as He entered the city. We will learn in today's lesson that **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

To help us remember our lesson about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we are going to try to remember (memorize) seven words that start with the letter "P." Each of the words that start with "P" will remind us of the important parts of our lesson.

MATTHEW 21:1

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples...

Our first word is "Passover."

It is important for us to know why Jesus went to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was an important city. Jerusalem was the place where the Passover feast, a very important Jewish holiday, was held. This was the biggest holiday of the whole year for all the Jewish people, a holiday like Christmas or Easter would be for us.

The story is found in Exodus chapter 12. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, the final plague God used to get Pharaoh to release them was the death of all the firstborn children in Egypt. While the Egyptian nation was being judged for their sin, God used Moses to tell His people to put the blood of a lamb over the doors of their homes if they wanted to be protected from the plague. As God judged Egypt, the Spirit of God passed over all the houses which had the blood of a lamb put over the, protecting the people inside.

After this happened and God's people were released from slavery, God wanted His people to have a feast each year to remember His protection and salvation forever.

Take time to explain the story of the Passover. Remember to point out that Jesus is to be the Passover Lamb for us. We can apply the blood of Jesus to the door of our hearts and have salvation. Jesus is our salvation.

It is interesting that Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover because He was the Passover Lamb that would be sacrificed for the sins of the world. In fact, the very night that Jesus was crucified on the cross was the night of Passover. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

Our second word is “pilgrim.”

Jesus had traveled many days with His disciples to get to Jerusalem. They were not the only ones going to the Passover Feast. People had come from near and far to take part in the Passover. The city was full of pilgrims. A pilgrim is someone who travels a long distance to visit a holy or special place. Just as the pilgrims traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover in our lesson, many people today travel to far away places or spend many years looking for looking for a Passover. They are searching for salvation. People all over the world are looking for a savior who can save them.

Anyone can receive salvation by simply coming to Jesus. Just by placing your faith and trust in Jesus, you can be forgiven of all of your sins and have a brand new life. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

MATTHEW 21:2-3

saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.

"And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

Our third word is “plan.”

How did Jesus know that there would be a donkey tied up and waiting for Him in the village? Because Jesus had a plan. Jesus knew He was going to Jerusalem. He had it all planned out. God has had a plan of salvation for us since the foundation of the world. Jesus is that plan of salvation. Before man was created, God knew we would need a savior, and He had a plan to send us His Son to die in our place.

Jesus also knew that He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. As we will see, it was all done to fulfill what God promised would happen long ago. God told us a lot of things about Jesus in the Old Testament in order to help us recognize Him as our Savior when He came. The donkey was one small part of God’s big plan. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

Pin the Tail on the Donkey

Draw a tail-less donkey on the dry erase board. Make seven tails with the words “Passover,” “pilgrim,” “plan,” “prophecy,” “parade,” “proclamation,” and “plot.”

Choose several children to tape the tails on the donkey. Blindfold each child one by one, turn them around several times and point them in the direction of the donkey.

Reinforce the seven words that help us remember the account of Jesus’ triumphal entry.

MATTHEW 21:4-7

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

Our fourth word is “prophecy.”

When Jesus sat on the donkey and rode into Jerusalem He fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah. A prophecy is when someone speaks for God and reveals what will take place in the future. In Zechariah 9:9, it was prophesied that Jesus would enter Jerusalem and be worshipped, while riding on a donkey. You see, God had a plan, and He revealed it to men thousands of years before Jesus even came to earth. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

MATTHEW 21:8

And a very great multitude spread their garments on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Our fifth word is “parade.”

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the people lined up in the street to form a parade. They took their coats off and put them in front of the donkey Jesus was riding. They also put branches down so Jesus could parade over them. This was a celebration that people would only do for a triumphant king. When a king would return home after conquering his enemies, he would ride into his kingdom, and the people would form a parade to celebrate his triumph. Jesus is triumphant over sin and death (Colossians 2:15). When He died on the cross, He conquered our enemies for us. The parade reminds us that Jesus is our King who has triumphed over our enemies. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

A Children’s Parade

Have your children line up and parade around the room. The demonstration will work best if you can get them to act very orderly and militarily. Lead them in a song of “Onward Christian Soldiers,” or “I’m in the Lord’s Army.”

Explain to your class that Jesus is our Lord and King. He has truly triumphed over our enemies, and we have reason to praise Him and celebrate. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

MATTHEW 21:9-11

Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Our sixth word is “proclamation.”

A proclamation is when someone speaks out publicly and boldly about something they believe in. The people in the parade were proclaiming Jesus as their King (Psalm 118:25-26). It is important that we not only believe in our hearts that Jesus is our King, but that we proclaim with our mouths that He is our King (Romans 10:9-10). We must proclaim that Jesus is our King to be saved. They yelled “hosanna” which means “save now.” **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

Lets review our words:

Passover

We need to remember that Jesus is salvation (the Passover Lamb).

Pilgrim

We need to remember that we are pilgrims who need a Passover lamb, a Savior.

Plan

We must remember that it is God's plan to bring us (pilgrims) His salvation (the Passover Lamb).

Prophecy

God told men His plan long before His plan was revealed in Jesus.

Parade

We need to acknowledge that God's plan to conquer death and sin for all mankind is a triumphant plan. The parade is to remind us that Jesus triumphed over our enemies (sin and death).

Proclamation

Salvation comes to us when we proclaim our belief in God's plan to send us His Son (the Passover Lamb) and that Jesus was triumphant over sin and death. Jesus rose from the dead after He won the victory for us on the cross. His triumph was revealed to us by His resurrection.

Now we will continue with the seventh word!

The seventh word is “plot.”

Not everyone in Jerusalem wanted to proclaim Jesus as King. Not everyone in the world will accept Jesus as their Savior. It is a sad ending to the lesson for anyone who does not proclaim Jesus as their King (John 19:6 and John 10:10). When the people proclaimed Jesus as King, there were men who began to plot together to find a way to kill Jesus. They would not proclaim Him as King; so they plotted to do away with Him. Do not push Jesus away today; proclaim Him as your King. The plots of men will never succeed because Jesus has risen from the dead, a triumphant King. The question is left to each of us. Will we proclaim Him as our King?

Finally, those who hated Jesus will arrest Him and crucify Him, as we will see in the coming weeks. But we need to remember that God has all things in control and that

dying on the cross was all part of God's plan for Jesus. Because Jesus died, many can come to know Him as their savior.

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will return to judge the earth. The first time Jesus rode a donkey, a symbol of humility and peace. The second time He will ride a white horse, a symbol of judgment. If we do not accept Him on the donkey we will be left to face Him in judgment. **Jesus is worthy of all of our worship.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.