



Our King's Promises Fulfilled

LEADER'S Review

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Letter to Parents (1 copy/family)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- Supplies Needed for Hearing the Word Activity: Cardstock, crayons/markers, stickers, pictures, and palm branches (real or paper)

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

*These items will be needed every week.

Palm Sunday—that triumphant entry marks the start of Jesus's last week here on earth. It was the moment that screamed in the face of the religious leaders of Jesus's time that the people really did think Jesus was the Messiah and King. Palm Sunday was the beginning of the end and the beginning of our future.

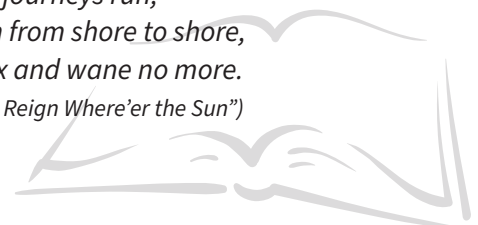
Jesus had been walking through the country of His people for 33 years. Preaching and teaching the Word of God to the masses must have been exhausting for Him. Then, as a new week started, He was ushered into town with the shouts and exaltation of the people.

Until then, Jesus most often told those He helped not to reveal who He was or what He had done for them. He wanted to keep the mystery of His purpose here on earth—the salvation of His people—quiet for a little longer. On Palm Sunday, the time had come.

This day, He didn't quiet the crowds or try to exit in a secretive fashion. Instead, He stood His ground and acknowledged who He is—the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. In doing so, He marked His head to become the ultimate sacrifice.

Our King loves His people so much He gave His life that we may have the victory over sin and death. And by His resurrection, He proved His kingdom will never fail and is everlasting.

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does His successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
(Verse from "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun")*



Call to Worship – Mark 11:9

Read the following verse. (1 minute)

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise

Sing worship songs with the children. (5 minutes)

- “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
- “The King of Glory Comes”
- “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Tithes and Offerings

Sing the Doxology before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Confession of Faith

Lead the children in confessing their faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed. (3 minutes)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1-2 minutes)

John 12:12–19

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”



Prayer

Have a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus is the King of kings and He has called us to be His people. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Jesus, what a glorious day that must have been to see the crowds gather and hear them proclaim You as king. Yet, Lord, they did not know what kind of king You are, One who gave His life to save Your people from death and sin forever. Thank You for calling us to be Your people. How much more glorious it will be when all Your people from throughout the ages will shout Your praise in heaven, O King of kings and Lord of lords! In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-8 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for activities)

Today is the day known in the Church as Palm Sunday. Why do you think we call it Palm Sunday? *(Wait to see if the children can answer.)* That’s right. As we heard in the scripture passage we read, when the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they cut palm branches, waved them and lay them on the road as Jesus rode in. What did the people cry out as Jesus rode in? “Hosanna! Blessed is He who come in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” Even the King of Israel? Who was that King? Jesus. How did they know Jesus was the King? Did He come in with an army behind Him? No. Was He wearing a crown of gold and royal robes? No. They recognized that Jesus was the promised King of God, because in riding in on a donkey colt, He was fulfilling a prophecy from the Old Testament.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

That prophecy can be found in Zechariah 9:9, and it says: “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 was a prophet of God who lived about 500 years before Jesus lived on the earth. As a prophet, Zechariah’s job was to listen to God and then tell God’s people what God wanted them to know—about Him, about what He wanted them to do, and, sometimes, even about things that would happen in the future.

Since Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, God had been promising His people that a King would come one day to save them. God used Moses and David and Daniel and other prophets for hundreds of years to share this promise with His people. Many times, God gave the prophets prophecies, or clues to that special King’s identity, how the people would be able to recognize Him when He came. In fact, there are over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled while He was on earth. Israel was anxious for their King to come, so they were familiar with the prophecies given about Him.

Still, for quite some time Jesus’s followers and even those who had just heard of Him thought He was a king who would fight against the Romans and make Israel an independent nation again. The people who had witnessed His miracles had seen His power, even His closest disciples thought He was going to save His people by overthrowing the present government. But Jesus was a King like no other.

Most of the time in the ancient world, and even for hundreds of years afterwards, kings would ride into their capital city on a beautiful big horse or other large animal with lots of flags and music and fanfare to show how strong and mighty they were. For centuries, Israel had expected their saving King would do the same. So, why would God have Zechariah tell Israel their King was going to ride in on a donkey, not even a grown-up donkey, but on a colt? ***(Wait for answers before explaining.)*** God wanted Israel to know that the King whom God was sending would be different from any other king who ever lived. Can you tell me some of the things that made Jesus different from other kings? ***(See if the children can call out differences before you share some.)***

- Jesus was born in a stable and slept in a manger instead of in a palace on a nice soft bed.
- Jesus grew up in a small town as the son of a carpenter instead of in a palace as a prince.
- Jesus probably worked as a carpenter until He began His ministry instead of as a prince ruling over people.
- When Jesus started His ministry, many people followed Him, but many did not. No one made the people follow Him as an army would make people follow another king.
- Jesus died for His people, to save us from sin.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

And just as the verse from Zechariah says, King Jesus was (and is!) righteous, brings salvation, and is humble. Let's talk about those character traits for a minute. What does righteous mean? It means Jesus is holy, He's perfect, He has never done anything wrong or bad. No other king in the whole history of the world has been perfect—only Jesus.

We'll come back to salvation in a minute, but the verse also says King Jesus is humble. What does that mean? It means Jesus didn't go bragging about who He was or bullying people. He had a lot to brag about too, didn't He? After all, He's the perfect Son of God, and He could have shown His power in ways stronger than any earthly warrior, but He didn't. He was gentle and kind to the people who came to Him, healing many, and holding little children in His lap, and talking with those who listened. Jesus's greatest acts of humility were leaving heaven and being born as a poor baby in an animal's stall and then growing up to let men crucify Him as if He were a common criminal.

That brings us back to salvation, doesn't it? Zechariah said this righteous, humble King would have salvation. Did He? Yes! That's what Easter is all about! Jesus came to bring salvation to His people. He, the perfect One of God, died as the only sacrifice acceptable to forgive all our sins. He came to save us from the wrath of the holy God who cannot tolerate sin. King Jesus came to let His own blood wash away our sin so that when we stand before God's throne, God doesn't see all our bad deeds and actions, He sees Jesus and His righteousness instead! No other king could do that. Only King Jesus could, and everything in Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled in Jesus: He came riding on a young donkey, He was righteous, He was humble, and He brought salvation.

One day Jesus is going to come back to earth, and then it won't be as a poor preacher on a donkey to be crucified in a few days. When Jesus comes back, it will be in His full glory and power with all His people marching victoriously into the new Jerusalem behind Him. He also will be recognized by everyone, not just a few followers, but everyone who has ever lived, because the Bible tells us in Philippians 2:10-11, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." That will be exciting, won't it? I want to be there as one of those marching in with Jesus, don't you? If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, if He lives in your heart because you've accepted His sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and you have given your life to Him, then you will march in victoriously with Him on that day when all the earth will praise Him. Hallelujah!

Let's sing His praises right now. *(Lead the children in singing the chorus of "Praise Him! Praise Him!")*

Praise Him! praise Him! tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

ACTIVITY: Jesus's Entrance into Jerusalem *Let the children act out the two different entrances of Jesus into Jerusalem, the one when He rode in on a donkey and the people lay down palm branches and their coats on the road before Him, and the one in the future, when all God's people will celebrate His victory and His triumphant return.*

ACTIVITY: Easter Cards *Make Easter cards that the children can give to friends or family this week. Have plenty of stickers, markers, and ideas pictured for them to copy—crowns, crosses, empty tombs, lilies, palm branches, pretty flowers, bright sunshine, etc. You may want to write some phrases for them to title their cards: He is Alive; King Jesus Lives; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; Victory in Jesus.*

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph 3:20–21).



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1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043
Bookstore: 678.825.1100
www.pcabookstore.com

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