



Our King's Eternal Kingdom

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- Two small paper plates for each child, 5-6 1" crepe paper streamers for each child, dried beans, stapler with plenty of staples, stickers and markers

OPTIONAL:

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

*These items will be needed every week.

LEADER'S Review

During this Easter season, you have led your children through Holy Week with Jesus and His disciples. First, there was Palm Sunday and the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem with excitement in the air as the people welcomed the man who, they thought, would free His people from foreign governments. But Jesus was a different kind of King.

Then you joined Jesus and His disciples in the Upper Room for the Passover where you witnessed the disciples' perplexity as Jesus washed their feet and told them to "do likewise." You listened as on that Maundy Thursday Jesus gave the eleven—and us—a new commandment: "Love one another." Next, you recognized Jesus's provision for His disciples as He promised to send the Holy Spirit and He prayed for them—and us. He is a King like no other.

Last week, you and the children experienced the grief, sorrow, and fear Jesus's followers—and even nature—experienced on Good Friday. Then you discussed what His followers had not realized. It was a good day. Jesus had fulfilled His purpose as the perfect Lamb of God, the only Sacrifice worthy to bear all the sins of all God's people. At Jesus's death, the veil in the Temple was torn by God Himself to give His people direct access to Him. What a loving King!

Finally, you experienced the amazement and elation of the disciples as Jesus appeared to them on Resurrection Sunday. The King had not only sacrificed Himself, He had annihilated death! He returned to them the victorious King who had conquered the greatest of enemies. No other King could do that.

And today you and your children will continue to celebrate the risen Lord: first, as He appeared to followers during the forty days between His resurrection and ascension; then as He returned to His throne in heaven; and finally with expectation as we await His glorious return. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

THE Lesson

Call to Worship – Mark 11:9

Let the children join you in reciting 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)

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

kingdom to Israel?”⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Prayer

Have a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus is alive and one day will return. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Jesus, You truly are like no other king. We praise You for Your work on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and failures. And we praise You for Your victory over death and Your promise of eternal life for us. We are so glad You are alive and You will come again. Thank You, King Jesus! We pray in Your name. Amen.

Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (6-9 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for activity)

We have covered a lot of very important events this month. We can remember them by remembering the four specially named days on which they occurred. Let’s review.

Review Questions:

- The first day we studied was the day people happily welcomed Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. What do we call that day? *Palm Sunday*
- What prophecy did Jesus fulfill as He rode into the city? *Zechariah 9:9. He rode on a donkey’s colt, He was righteous, He was humble, He carried salvation.*
- The next day we studied has an unusual word that in Latin meant “commandment.” What day was that? *Maundy Thursday*
- What was the commandment Jesus gave to His disciples that night? *Love on another.*
- How does Jesus expect His people to keep that commandment? *He gave us the Helper, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Himself is always praying for us.*
- What happened on the next day, the one we call Good Friday? *Jesus was put on trial, lied about, mocked, beaten, and crucified. The sky was dark in the middle of the day, and there was an earthquake.*
- So, why do we call it Good Friday? *It’s good because Jesus was the last Sacrifice ever needed to cover the sins of God’s people. When Jesus died, God gave His people direct access to Himself. Because Jesus died, we can have a relationship with God and one day live with Him forever.*



(Hearing the Word—Continued)

- What's another name for Easter Sunday? *Resurrection Sunday*
- Why do we call it that? *Jesus rose from the dead that day.*
- How do we know? *The angels told the women in the garden, and then Jesus Himself appeared to some of His followers and to the eleven remaining disciples.*

Wow! That was a lot to remember, but it's very important to remember all the events of that Holy Week. That's why we celebrate it every year and remind ourselves of all Jesus did and taught during that week.

Today we're going to talk about what happened next and what is going to happen in the future. Let's pray first. *Dear Jesus, we have learned so much about Your last days on earth. Please give us open hearts and minds to learn more today. Help us to remember what happened in the past so that we are prepared for what will happen in the future. We love You, King Jesus. Amen.*

Last week we talked about the angels the women saw when they went to the tomb of Jesus. Remember what they told the women? *"Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen."* Then Jesus appeared to His disciples, appearing in a room that was locked to protect the fearful disciples.

For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and hundreds of His followers. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 15, He appeared to more than 500 at one time. Today we read about two of the first to see Him on Resurrection Sunday. These two men were walking from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. They were talking about the events of that weekend when suddenly a man began to walk with them. He asked them what they were talking about.

"How could you not know the events of the last few days?" they asked Him. They were sure He was a visitor to Jerusalem. The men shared their hope that Jesus was to be the king of Israel, but then Jesus was killed and buried, and that morning His tomb was found empty. They were devastated. They didn't know what had happened. Then the stranger began to show them how foolish they were! He started at the beginning of Scripture, then with Moses and all the prophets, He revealed how the Scriptures pointed to the Christ. He reminded them the Messiah had to suffer before entering into glory.

They were amazed at the man's teaching and asked Him to stay with them overnight. As the stranger sat down to eat with them, He broke the bread and gave thanks. At that moment, the two men recognized this stranger. Who was He? That's right! Jesus! And then what did Jesus do? He disappeared. The two men were so excited, they couldn't wait to tell Jesus's disciples, so they ran the seven miles back to Jerusalem with the good news.

We know from last week's lesson that while those two men were telling about seeing Jesus that Jesus appeared in the room with them and the other disciples. As I said before, for forty days Jesus appeared to His disciples and followers to prove He really was alive. They were all very excited and happy to be with Jesus again. However, many of them still believed Jesus was going to overthrow the Roman government and re-establish the

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

kingdom of Israel as it had been in King David’s time. They still didn’t understand just *Who* King Jesus was.

Then one day, Jesus had his closest disciples meet Him at the top of a mountain in Galilee. There He gave them some final instructions. He told them to go back and wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Afterwards, they were to go and tell all the world about Him. As they were thinking about what He said, the most *amazing* thing happened. Jesus rose through the air and into the clouds until they could no longer see Him! This is called the *Ascension* because Jesus ascended, or rose up, to heaven.

Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt? They couldn’t believe what they had seen and stood there just staring into the sky. Then suddenly two angels appeared in the sky and said, “Why are you staring into the sky? Jesus will return from heaven the same way He has gone back to heaven.” So, what do you think they did? They immediately went back to Jerusalem just as Jesus had instructed and they waited for the Holy Spirit to come. There was no doubt in their minds then *Who* King Jesus was. God must be obeyed!

So, they did go back, and the Holy Spirit did come, and He empowered those who had been with Jesus to go out and tell the world about Jesus. Because they were obedient and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can know Jesus today. We, too, are empowered by the Holy Spirit to tell others about Jesus, which is wonderful and amazing, isn’t it? But, let’s think about the last thing the angels said after Jesus went back to heaven. They said Jesus will return to earth the same way He left.

It’s been a long time since Jesus went back to heaven; however, we know from our studies this year that God *always* keeps His promises, even when they seem to take a long, long time. Remember, God promised all the way back to the Garden of Eden, after Eve ate the fruit, that He would send a Redeemer. All throughout the Old Testament, God gave His promise to send a Redeemer, and He told His people how to recognize the Redeemer by giving them prophecies. Do you remember how many prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus while He was on earth? *More than 300!*

There are other prophecies waiting to be fulfilled when Jesus returns to earth to establish a new earth where His people will live with Him forever. When He returns, everyone who has known Him and followed Him will be given a new body like His, a body that won’t wear out and die. Everyone throughout all time who has known Jesus as Lord and followed Him will be there—Moses, David, Daniel, Mary, Joseph, Peter, Paul—everyone! Do you know Jesus? Have you given your life to Him and do you follow Him? Will you be there with Jesus?

(If needed, you may stop the lesson here to discuss salvation.)

The Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible describes many things still to come. John the disciple was given this revelation, or vision, by Jesus to share with us. Chapter 19 of Revelation describes Jesus riding a beautiful white horse followed by all the armies of heaven. In one verse it says, “His name is Faithful and True.” Compare that scene with His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In Revelation, Jesus is on a beautiful white horse, not a donkey colt, but He is still known for His righteousness. He is even called “Faithful and True.” That passage goes on to say that Jesus is “The Word of God” and on His robe

and armor is another name for Him: “King of kings and Lord of lords.” What a beautiful scene. It makes me want to cry out with those in heaven: “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory.” Jesus is the King of kings!

Activity #1: Make tambourines. Before class, count out two small paper plates for each child. Also, cut out several crepe paper streamers for each child. On the back of each paper plate write “The King of Glory Comes.” During class, after the lesson, give each child two paper plates and let them decorate the backs with stickers and the sides with crepe paper streamers, taping the streamers in place. When the plates are decorated, staple the plates together with the fronts facing in. Leave a small opening for the children to drop in a handful of dried beans or other noise makers. Then staple the hole closed.

Activity #2: Have a parade! The children may use the tambourines made in Activity #1 or other instruments you may have available to march around the room as they sing “The King of Glory Comes” (Trinity Hymnal 240) in anticipation of Jesus’s return.



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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