



People Praise Jesus

Scripture: Mark 11:1-10

Bible Memory: John 20:31

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” (*ICB*)

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ We can praise Jesus.

Special Unit: Triumphal Entry

Use this lesson on
Palm Sunday.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

You praise God when you rise to a new day, pray for food and for loved ones, sing or listen to music, and study your Bible. Your children are involved in praising God too. They know simple prayers, songs, and Bible stories. Rejoice with God at every opportunity you have to lead these little ones to explore ways to praise God!

Bible Background for the Teacher

In addition to Mark 11, read Matthew 21, Luke 19, and John 12. Bethany and Bethphage were on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. A colt (or young donkey) was probably used as a sign of Jesus' kingdom being one of peace, rather than His riding a horse—the symbol of war. The carrying or spreading of palm branches was used to recognize a victory. The word *hosanna*, which means “save us,” was shouted by those people who would later cry, “Crucify, crucify.”

Triumphal Entry Lesson at a Glance

1 GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore getting ready for a special guest*.



- Quick Step**
Welcome Parade
- Preparing for a Guest
- Here Comes Jesus!

HeartShaper Materials

- Resources CD
- none
- Teaching Picture Triumphal Entry, Resources CD Palm Branch printable file

Other Materials

- CD player, musical instruments
- cleaning cloths, toy dishes, child-size broom
- green paper, tape, jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors

2 BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell what people did when Jesus came to Jerusalem*.



- Sing and Pray**
- Bible Time**
People Praise Jesus
- Bible Review**
- Bible Memory**

- Resources CD; Resources sheet 1 Bible story figures TEa-TEc and palm branches; Resources CD Special Unit Bible Memory Motions

- CD player, tape, Bibles, highlighter, bookmarks

3 GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *choose a way to praise Jesus*.



- Quick Step**
Ways to Praise
- Singing, Saying, or Playing Our Praise
- Choose a Praise Prayer

- none
- Resources CD Microphone printable file, Resources CD
- Make-n-Share and stickers for Triumphal Entry lesson

- none
- CD player, paper towel tube, tape, musical instruments
- washable markers, blunt-tip scissors, hole punch, paper fasteners

Closing the Hour

- Heart Tugs Triumphal Entry issue

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore getting ready for a special guest**.

Welcome

- Use a Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering.

Quick Step Welcome Parade

SAY: Sometimes when special people visit, the town has a parade. Bands march and people wave flags to welcome the special person. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a time when people had a parade to welcome Jesus. Let's have our own parade. ♥ We can praise Jesus.

Play “He Is Alive.” Have children march around the room as they play instruments or wave streamers. Let them take turns pretending to be the important person.

ASK: If Jesus was the important person in our parade, what would we say to praise Him? Say sentences that praise Jesus as you march. (Examples: “Jesus, You are great.” “Jesus, You are strong.”)

What is your favorite thing about a parade?

How would you feel if Jesus came to our town? What would you do?

Preparing for a Guest

SAY: In our Bible story today, people got ready for Jesus to come to their town. They wanted to praise Jesus. ♥ We can praise Jesus too.

Let's pretend that we are going to have a special guest today. Let's clean our room to get ready. Who will dust? Who will sweep? Who will set the table? Assign each child a chore. Encourage each child with a high five as he completes his job.

ASK: How do you feel when someone special comes to your house? What do you do to get ready for a guest at your house?

Here Comes Jesus!

Before class, make a copy of the palm branch and write the Bible Memory on it. Then make more copies on the green paper.

SAY: Have you ever been excited because someone special was coming to your house? Show the teaching picture. In Bible times when important guests visited, people would lay down their coats or palm tree branches for the guests to walk across. This picture shows a time when Jesus came to visit a town. Let's make some palm branches. Then ♥ we can praise Jesus too. Distribute supplies. As children make their branches, talk about welcoming special people.

ASK: How do you welcome guests to your home? What can you do or say to praise Jesus?

Especially for 4s!

Before class, cut out the branches so 4s can glue on the sticks. They will enjoy waving the branches up and down, high and low, fast or slow.

Focus


- ♥ We can praise Jesus.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources CD track 1, CD player, musical instruments (or crepe-paper streamers)



 Offer behind-the-head earmuffs or noise-canceling headphones for children who experience noise sensitivity.

Materials

cleaning cloths, toy dishes, child-size broom (or vacuum cleaner)



Teaching Tip

Do the action rhyme, “Then and Now,” from *Heart Tugs*.

Materials

Resources CD Palm Branch printable file (color or black and white), marker, *Teaching Picture* Triumphal Entry, green paper, tape, jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors



Something More!

Have an adult crawl around like a donkey, as the children parade, waving their palm branches.

Cleanup

Play “He Is Alive” (track 1). Have children march from area to area, straightening as they go.



Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell what people did when Jesus came to Jerusalem.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 1 and 4 and sheet 1 Bible story figure TEc, CD player



Materials

Resources sheet 1 Bible story figures TEa–TEc and palm branches, tape, Bible (optional: sand pan)



Teaching Tip

As the story is being told, stand figures in a sand pan. A plastic 9" x 12" storage container with a lid makes a great sand pan. Cornmeal or rice can be used in place of sand if desired.

Materials

palm branches from Getting Started



Teaching Tip

If you did not make palm branches, let children do so at this time.

Materials

Resources CD Special Unit Bible Memory Motions, Bibles, highlighter, bookmarks



Sing and Pray

Sing “He Is Alive” and “Jesus Is the Christ.”

PRAY: **God, thank You for letting Jesus come to us. ♥ We can praise Jesus for the wonderful things He does. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Smile at the children. **Show me your happy faces.** Have children do so. Show TEc. **Look at these happy faces. The Bible tells us why they are happy.**

Bible Time

Before class, attach the easels from sheet 1 to the backs of the story figures. (Or place figures in a sand pan as you tell the story.)

SAY: **Our story is from the Bible book called Mark, chapter 11.** Show Mark 11. **Have you ever ridden on a colt? This person rode a colt.** Show Jesus TEa. **Who do you think He is?** Give hints if needed.

Jesus and His 12 followers were coming to Jerusalem. Show followers TEb. **Where do you think Jesus got the colt?** Allow children to guess. **Just before entering Jerusalem, Jesus told His followers to get a young colt that was tied outside a house. Nobody had ever ridden on this colt.**

Jesus’ followers put their coats on the colt, and Jesus sat on it. Today was a very special day. Show people TEc. **When the people saw Jesus coming, some of them put their coats down on the road. Other people cut branches from trees and put them on the roadway.** Add palm branches. **When the people laid the branches on the road, it showed that the people knew Jesus was an important person.**

The people were very happy and excited. They wanted Jesus to be their king. They shouted and said, “Praise God!” and “God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” and “Hosanna,” which means “save us.” The people were praising Jesus. ♥ We can praise Jesus too. Have children shout each phrase.

Bible Review

Ask questions about the Bible story. If the answer is yes, have children wave their branches and say, “We can praise Jesus.” If the answer is no, have children quietly hold their branches.

- ASK: **Did Jesus tell His followers to find a chariot?** (no)
Did some people put their coats on the road? (yes)
Did some people pick berries from the fields? (no)
Were the people sad? (no)
Did the people want Jesus to be their king? (yes)
Did the people shout and say, “Praise God!”? (yes)

Bible Memory John 20:31

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD. In each Bible, highlight John 20:31 and place a bookmark.

Help the children find and point to the Bible Memory in their Bibles. Read the verse and have the children say it with you as you teach the motions.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **choose a way to praise Jesus**.

Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

Quick Step Ways to Praise

SAY: Let's choose some ways to praise Jesus. Then ♥ we can praise Jesus.

Name a way to praise, and encourage children to do the action. (Possible ways to praise: Jump up and down and say, "Jesus, You are great." Wave your hands and say, "Jesus, You are the Son of God." Fold your hands and pray, "Jesus, You are special." Clap your hands and sing, "You are great and awesome.")

**ASK: What is your favorite way to praise Jesus?
How will you praise Jesus this week?**

Singing, Saying, or Playing Our Praise

Before class, print and prepare the microphone from the CD, using the paper towel tube.

SAY: ♥ We can praise Jesus. Let's choose a way to praise Jesus by singing, speaking into a microphone, or playing an instrument.

Ask each child to choose a way to praise Jesus: sing, speak, or play an instrument. Play "Jesus Is the Christ" and have singers sing. Next, ask speakers to take turns saying the Bible Memory into the microphone. Finally, play the memory song again and let the instrumentalists play their instruments. If time allows, children can switch roles.

**ASK: What is your favorite way to praise Jesus?
When we praise someone, we tell that person how special he is.
What can you say is special about Jesus?**

Choose a Praise Prayer

SAY: Just like the people in Jesus' day, ♥ we can praise Jesus. When we praise Jesus, we tell Him how special He is. Let's make a spinner game that tells words we can say to praise Jesus.

Assist children in completing their projects. Encourage each child to point his arrow at one praise sentence. Talk about places where children can praise Jesus (home, church building, school, playground). Lead children in saying the praise sentences as they pray.

**ASK: Where can you praise Jesus this week?
What can you say to praise Jesus?**

Especially for 4s!

Have spinner boards and arrows cut out. Have 4s turn their arrows to the same sentence. Say the sentence together. Repeat with other sentences.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and a copy of *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to make the mini fruit kabobs at home with their children. Note: *A Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

none



Materials

Resources CD Microphone printable file and CD track 4, paper towel tube, tape, CD player, musical instruments



Read the Special Needs Help for the Triumphal Entry lesson on the *Resources* CD for a way to enrich this activity for children who are non-verbal.

Materials

Make-n-Share and stickers for Triumphal Entry lesson, washable markers (or crayons), blunt-tip scissors, hole punch, paper fasteners





People Praise Jesus

Scripture: Mark 11:1-10

Bible Memory: John 20:31

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” (ICB)

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” (KJV)

Focus: ♥ We can praise Jesus.

Special Unit: Triumphal Entry Extra Hour

Use this lesson on
Palm Sunday.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

You praise God when you rise to a new day, pray for food and for loved ones, sing or listen to music, and study your Bible. Your children are involved in praising God too. They know simple prayers, songs, and Bible stories. Rejoice with God at the opportunity you have to lead these little ones to explore ways to praise God!

Bible Background for the Teacher

In addition to Mark 11, read Matthew 21, Luke 19, and John 12. Bethany and Bethphage were on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. A colt (or young donkey) was probably used as a sign of Jesus' kingdom being one of peace, rather than His riding a horse—the symbol of war. The carrying or spreading of palm branches was used to recognize a victory. The word *hosanna*, which means “save us,” was shouted by those people who would later cry, “Crucify, crucify.”

Triumphal Entry Lesson—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED
Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore getting ready for a special guest.*



Active Play

Quick Step
Preparing for a Guest Game



Blocks & Buildings

A Toy Parade



Food

Preparing a Meal for a Guest

HeartShaper Materials

- none
- none
- *Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue

Other Materials

- none
- blocks; toy people, animals, and cars
- wet wipes, grapes, pineapple chunks, melon chunks, toothpicks, paper plates

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY
Use all these activities to help children *tell what people did when Jesus came to Jerusalem.*



Sing & Pray

More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time

Bible Time—Another Way!
People Praise Jesus



Bible Review

More! Bible Review



Bible Memory

More! Bible Memory

- *Resources* CD, *Teaching Picture* Triumphal Entry, *Resources* CD Special Unit Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, Bible, tape

3 MORE! GROW AND GO
Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *choose a way to praise Jesus.*



Scout

Quick Step
Scout Puppet Story



Craft

Praise Bracelets

- none
- *Resources* CD Praise Bracelets printable file, *Resources* CD
- *Teaching Picture* Triumphal Entry, *Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue

- Scout puppet, small bag, dog bone, praise CD, toy cell phone, small Bible
- colored paper, tape, crepe-paper streamers, CD player

- none

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore getting ready for a special guest.**

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Gather children to sing praise songs to Jesus.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Preparing for a Guest Game

SAY: Today's Bible story is about a time when people prepared to praise Jesus when He came to their town. ♥ We can praise Jesus too. Let's play a game to help us remember how we welcome guests.

Have the children stand side by side in a line. As you name ways to prepare for a guest, have them take a step forward. As they move forward, have them act out that motion. If you name something that is not a way to prepare for a guest, have the children stand still. (Examples: clean house, say hello, frown, sing, light candles)

ASK: Have you ever had a guest come to your house? Who? What are ways you welcome a guest?

Epecially for 4s!

Before playing, name ways children prepare for a guest. Then play the game, adding statements that are not ways to prepare for a guest.

A Toy Parade

SAY: Have you ever been to a parade? Were there important people in the parade? Today's Bible story is about a parade of praise for Jesus. ♥ We can praise Jesus too. Let's make a pretend parade.

Help the children make a road with their blocks. They could add block barriers and bleachers. Show the children how to use the toy people as spectators and participants in the parade. The children could use cars and animals in their parades as well. As the children play, talk about welcoming guests to your town.

ASK: Have you ever been to a parade? Have you ever been *in* a parade? What important people are in parades?

Preparing a Meal for a Guest

SAY: Today's Bible story is about a time when Jesus was a special guest and the people praised Him. ♥ We can praise Jesus too. We prepare food when special people come to our homes. Let's make a snack to give to some special guests.

Show the pictures of A Welcome Treat in *Heart Tugs*. Have children wash their hands. Help children skewer two pieces of fruit on a toothpick. Have them place two or three fruit skewers on each plate. As they work, talk about welcoming guests into their homes. They can take turns being the special guests and serving the snack to one another.

ASK: Who are guests in your home? How do you prepare for a guest in your home?


Focus

- ♥ We can praise Jesus.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials
none



 Acting out one way to prepare for a guest as a whole group provides modeling for children who may have difficulty following this activity.

Materials
blocks; toy people, animals, and cars



Materials
wet wipes, grapes, pineapple chunks, melon chunks, toothpicks, paper plates, *Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue



Teaching Tips

Check food allergies before serving snacks, and have an alternative one available.

For an alternative kabob, use cheese chunks and bologna pieces.

Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell what people did when Jesus came to Jerusalem.**

Materials

Resources CD track 1,
CD player, *Teaching*
Picture Triumphal Entry



Materials

Bible



Materials

Teaching Picture
Triumphal Entry, tape,
Resources CD track 4, CD player



Materials

Resources CD Special
Unit Bible Memory
Motions printable file, Bible



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “He Is Alive.”

PRAY: **Thank You, God, for many wonderful things, especially for Jesus, Your Son. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the teaching picture. SAY: **These people were excited to see this man on the colt. We are going to find out why.**

Bible Time—Another Way!

Each time you say “Hosanna! Praise God! Bless His name!,” have children repeat the phrase and then jump up and wave their arms over their heads. Practice several times. Explain that the word *hosanna* means “save us” and that the people who said those words were excited about praising Jesus.

SAY: **Today’s story is from a New Testament book of the Bible called Mark, chapter 11.** Show the New Testament division page and then show Mark 11. **Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. There was a crowd of people with Him and a crowd of people waiting for Him. The crowd loved to say “Hosanna! Praise God! Bless His name!”** Pause for children to respond.

Some of Jesus’ followers got a young colt for Jesus to ride on. Because this was a special occasion, people in the crowd laid their coats and palm branches down on the road Jesus was traveling on. It was like a parade. The people were ready for Jesus. They were waiting to wave and say “Hosanna! Praise God! Bless His name!” Children respond.

The people were excited. They wanted Jesus to be their king. Jesus rode on the young colt like a king. And the people were so happy. They shouted, “Hosanna! Praise God! Bless His name!” Children respond.

Just like the people praised Jesus, ♥ we can praise Jesus too. Let’s say our phrase one more time: “Hosanna! Praise God! Bless His name!” Have children do so.

More! Bible Review

Tape the picture to a chair. Arrange the chairs in two lines back to back. Each child should have a chair. Play “Jesus Is the Christ” as the children move around the chairs. Stop the song and have each child rush to sit down. The child who sits in the chair with the picture can name an event from today’s story. Continue playing until each child has had a turn. Do not remove children from the game.

More! Bible Memory John 20:31

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Show John 20:31 in the Bible. SAY: **Our Bible Memory is the highest praise we can give to Jesus: “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” Let’s practice saying our Bible Memory.** Encourage the children to follow you as you lead them in saying the verse while doing the motions. Then have the children be seated on the floor in pairs. One person in each pair should jump up, say “Jesus is the Christ,” and then be seated. Then have the other partners jump up and say “the Son of God.” Do this several times. Switch partners and repeat the activity.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **choose a way to praise Jesus.**

Quick Step “Scout’s Bag”

Place all items except the dog bone inside the bag. Bring out Scout with the bag. SAY: **Scout, what do you have there? Have you been shopping? Scout shakes his head and then whispers to you. You’ve been collecting items from the neighborhood children? Let’s show the children what you have.**

Scout was having a normal day. He was taking naps and chewing on his bone. While he was chewing on his bone (give Scout the dog bone to chew), **Scout noticed the children. They were talking about Jesus. They were praising Jesus, telling Him how special He is. They were using the items Scout has in his bag.**

Scout gives you the CD. **Scout saw a boy in his family listening to a praise CD. He was singing praises to Jesus.** Scout gives you the cell phone. **Scout watched a girl talking about Jesus on the phone to her grandma. The little girl said, “Jesus is the Son of God. He is very special.” The girl was praising Jesus.** Scout gives you the Bible. **At the end of his day, Scout’s family was sitting on the children’s beds. Before they turned out the lights, the family prayed together. They praised Jesus in their prayers. They said, “Jesus, we praise You for loving us, for taking care of us, for creating us.” That’s praise. ♥ We can praise Jesus too.**

ASK: **What is your favorite way to praise Jesus?**

What is your favorite song to sing to praise Jesus?

What can you say in your bedtime prayers that praises Jesus?

Praise Bracelets

SAY: ♥ **We can praise Jesus. Let’s make praise bracelets to use while we praise Jesus.**

Make copies of the bracelets onto colored paper and cut out. Guide the children to fold the bracelets on the dotted line and tape crepe-paper streamers to the edges. Help them tape the bracelets around their wrists. Play “He Is Alive” as the children move around the room, waving their bracelets in praise.

ASK: **How can we use our bracelets to praise Jesus?**

What is another way we can praise Jesus?

Especially for 4s!



Hold the streamers for the younger children to tape. Demonstrate several movements with the bracelets before you turn on the CD.

Saying Good-bye

- Guide children in playing the teaching picture musical chairs game from More! Bible Review as they wait for parents.
- Be sure children have projects made in class and this week’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to make the mini fruit kabobs at home with their children. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

Materials

Scout puppet, small bag, dog bone, praise CD, toy cell phone, small Bible



Teaching Tips

If a dog bone isn’t available, print one from the Scout folder on the *Resources* CD.

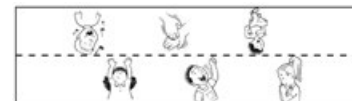
If you do not have a Scout plush puppet, make a stick puppet or a paper-bag puppet, using the files from the Teacher Helps on the *Resources* CD.



Many children with special needs may identify with Scout as the recurring character in class each week. Use him during a transition time that seems particularly difficult.

Materials

Resources CD Praise Bracelets printable file, colored paper, tape, several colors of crepe-paper streamers, *Resources* CD track 1, CD player



Cleanup

Sing “He Is Alive” one more time as the children help clean up.

