

# People Praise Jesus

## Special Unit: Triumphal Entry

Use this lesson on  
Palm Sunday.



**Scripture:** Mark 11:1-10

**Bible Memory:** John 20:31

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

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

**Focus:** ♥ We can praise Jesus.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

The praises of the people greeting Jesus in today’s passage seem spontaneous and heartfelt, the type of praises that Jesus not only deserves but welcomes. The crowd seems overwhelmed by their feelings—and their praises just spill out! When you praise Jesus, what do you say? As you share specific expressions of praise, the children in your class will get to know Jesus better through you.

### 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 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**  
W-E-L-C-O-M-E Sign



Clean Up!



Phone List

### HeartShaper Materials

- Resources CD Patterns for Cutting Letters and Numbers printable file

- none

- Resources CD Cell Phone printable file

### Other Materials

- scissors, colored paper, glue sticks, reusable adhesive

- brooms, paper towels, feather dusters, trash cans
- card stock, scissors, crayons

### 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 movable story frame and picture strip TEa-TEd, Resources CD Special Unit Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, Bible, bookmark

### 3 GROW AND GO

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



**Quick Step**  
Praise Sing-Along



Tell Jesus How Special He Is!



Praise Jesus Picture

- none

- none

- Make-n-Share and stickers for Triumphal Entry lesson, Teaching Picture Triumphal Entry

- Heart Tugs Triumphal Entry issue

- toy microphones

- blocks

- blunt-tip scissors, hole punch, yarn

**Closing the Hour**

- none

# 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 Scamper 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 money.

### Quick Step **W-E-L-C-O-M-E** Sign

Before class, use the patterns from the *Resources* CD to prepare large uppercase letters, one for each letter of the word *welcome*.

**SAY: ♥ We can praise Jesus by making guests feel welcome in our class. Let's make a big sign to hang in our classroom to make special guests feel welcome.**

Give each child, or a small group of children, a prepared letter and several scraps of colored paper. Let children tear the scrap paper into small pieces. Then have the children spread glue inside the letters and attach their torn pieces of paper. When children have finished, hang the W-E-L-C-O-M-E letters in order on a wall of your room.

**ASK: How do you think special guests will feel when they see the welcome sign in our room?**

**What else could we do to make our room ready for special guests?**

**What can you do at home to get ready for a special guest?**

## Clean Up!

**SAY: When a special guest is coming over to your home, you want your home to be clean, don't you? We are going to pretend that a special guest is coming to our room. Did you know that ♥ we can praise Jesus by making our room clean for our special guest? Let's do that!**

Give children cleaning supplies and let them pretend to clean.

**ASK: What did we do to make our room ready for our special guest?**

**What else could we do to get our room ready for a special guest?**

## Phone List

Before class, print the cell phones onto card stock and then cut out.

**SAY: We're going to pretend that a special guest is coming to our room today. Let's pretend we are inviting other people to come. ♥ We can praise Jesus by making sure our guest feels welcome.**

Give children the phones to color. Divide the children into small groups (or have them work with partners) and let them use their phones to take turns inviting each other to their houses to meet a special guest.

**ASK: What did we do to get ready for our special guest?**

**What else could we do to make sure we're ready to meet our special guest?**

### ***Especially for 2s!***

Give a phone to one of your 2s and use another phone to call the child. Invite that child to come and meet your special guest.

## Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

**Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.**

### Materials

*Resources* CD Patterns for Cutting Letters and Numbers printable file (Teacher Helps folder), scissors, scrap pieces of colored paper, glue sticks, reusable adhesive



### Materials

brooms, paper towels (or rags), feather dusters, trash cans



### Materials

*Resources* CD Cell Phone printable file, card stock, scissors, crayons



### Teaching Tip

If your classroom floors are bare, bring a blanket or throw rugs for the children to sit on.

### Cleanup

Sing "Cleanup Song" found in the *Resources* CD Teacher Helps printable files. Sing as children help you clean various areas of the room.



## 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, CD player, Bible



### Materials

Resources sheet 1 movable Bible story frame and picture strip TEa-TEd, Bible



### Teaching Tip

You may want to cut the picture strip into four sections (cutting after each ID). Add one section at a time to a display board or a whiteboard ledge, building the picture as the story is being told.

### Materials

Resources sheet 1 movable Bible story frame and picture strip TEa-TEd



### Materials

Bible, bookmark, Resources CD Special Unit Bible Memory Motions printable file



## Sing and Pray

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

PRAY: **God, You are our Father, and we want to praise You. ♥ We can praise Jesus because He is Your Son. Help us praise You both by listening to today’s story from Your Bible and by learning more about You. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **Have you ever wondered what some people did the first time they met Jesus? Our story today is found in the book of Mark in the Bible. Show Mark. It’s about some people who shouted “Hosanna” when they met Jesus. That word is like when we say “Yay! It’s Jesus!” Each time you hear me say “Jesus,” you say “Yay! It’s Jesus!” Practice doing this.**

## Bible Time

Before class, prepare the picture strip. Hold up the frame to show scene TEa. Pause each time you say “Jesus” so children can respond.

SAY: **Jesus was walking along the road toward the big city of Jerusalem. Jesus’ special helpers were with Him. They knew it was a time when many people were going to Jerusalem to worship God.**

Show scene TEb. **When Jesus and His helpers got to a small town near Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of His helpers to go and get a colt for Him. No one had ever ridden on this colt before.**

Show scene TEc. **After the two helpers got the colt, some of Jesus’ helpers put their coats on the colt and then Jesus got on. Other people saw Jesus riding on the colt. They knew Jesus was a special person. They cut palm branches and spread the branches on the road. There were people in front of Jesus and people behind Jesus.**

Show scene TEd. **The people were happy. They shouted, “Hosanna!” “Praise God!” The people knew Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Let’s shout “Praise Jesus!” Do so.**

## Bible Review

Show the picture strip with the story frame. Allow children to help move the story frame and tell about different parts of the Bible story.

ASK: **Who sent His helpers to go get a colt for Him to ride? (Jesus) Who shouted, “Hosanna!”? (the people)**

## Bible Memory John 20:31

Before class, place a bookmark at John 20:31. Print and display the Bible Memory motions from the CD.

SAY: **♥ We can praise Jesus by saying the words of our Bible Memory. Who would like to open my Bible and find the Bible Memory?** Choose a child to find the place marked with a bookmark. Thank the child for handling the Bible carefully. Read the Bible Memory aloud; then use the motions to help children learn the verse.

## 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 Praise Sing-Along

SAY: ♥ **We can praise Jesus when we sing to Him. Let's have a praise sing-along.**

Lead children in a praise song. (Examples: "Ho-ho-ho Hosanna," "Hallelu, Hallelujah!") Give each child a microphone. Let children suggest songs about Jesus to sing. Have several songs in mind in case children choose songs that the group doesn't know or that are not appropriate.

ASK: **How did we praise Jesus?**

**What songs can you sing at home to praise Jesus later today?**

### Tell Jesus How Special He Is!

SAY: **Do you know something special about Jesus? ♥ We can praise Jesus by telling Him how special He is. Let's build a tower of praises with these blocks.**

Gather children in a circle. Let each child choose a block, and you choose one too. Say something special about Jesus, and place your block in the middle of the circle. Have each child take a turn, adding his block to the tower as he says something about Jesus. If the tower falls, start again.

ASK: **How did we praise Jesus?**

**How can you praise Jesus at home?**

**Especially for 2s!**



Be prepared to make statements about Jesus, and have children repeat what you say, rather than having them come up with statements on their own.

### Praise Jesus Picture

Before class, cut out and punch holes around the edges of the *Make-n-Share* pictures. Cut yarn into 30" lengths, one per child.

SAY: ♥ **We can praise Jesus by telling someone else about Him. Let's make some pictures. Then we'll practice telling someone else about Jesus, using our pictures.**

Give each child a picture of Jesus. Assist as needed in weaving the yarn through the holes and tying ends into bows. Have children decorate the picture frames with stickers. Use the teaching picture to demonstrate how to tell someone else about Jesus by pointing to Jesus and by saying the Bible Memory words. Let each child practice telling someone about Jesus.

ASK: **How can you use this picture to praise Jesus?**

**Who will you tell that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?**

### Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and today's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to do the Then and Now activity with their children. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

### Materials

toy microphones (or paper-towel tubes, cylindrical blocks, or rolled-up sheets of paper)



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

### Materials

blocks



### Materials

*Make-n-Share* and stickers for Triumphal Entry lesson, blunt-tip scissors, hole punch, yarn, *Teaching Picture* Triumphal Entry





# People Praise Jesus

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**Bible Memory:** John 20:31

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“Jesus is . . . 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

The praises of the people greeting Jesus in today’s passage seem spontaneous and heartfelt, the type of praises that Jesus not only deserves but welcomes. The crowd seems overwhelmed by their feelings—and their praises just spill out! When you praise Jesus, what do you say? As you share specific expressions of praise, the children in your class will get to know Jesus better through you.

### 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 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*.

-  **Quick Step**  
Then and Now
-  My Own Palm Branch
-  Goodies for Guests

#### HeartShaper Materials



- *Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue
- *Resources* CD Palm Branch printable file
- none

#### Other Materials

- none
- green construction paper, glue sticks, jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors
- unfrosted cupcakes, icing, plastic knives, sprinkles, paper plates, napkins, wet wipes

### 2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

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



-  **More! Sing and Pray**
-  **Bible Time—Another Way!**  
People Praise Jesus
-  **More! Bible Review**
-  **More! Bible Memory**

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

- CD player, Bible, Bible-times robe, coats, palm branches from More! Getting Started

### 3 MORE! GROW AND GO

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

-  **Quick Step**  
Scamper Puppet Story
-  Praise and Prayer Circle
- Saying Good-bye**

- none
- none
- *Resources* CD, *Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue

- Scamper puppet, paper, pencil
- Bible, paper, crayons, musical instruments
- CD player

# 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.
- Have children practice inviting guests to their homes, using toy phones, or have them help clean the room.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation’s policy for restroom breaks.

## Quick Step Then and Now

SAY: **♥ We can praise Jesus by getting our homes ready when guests come over. Let’s do an action rhyme that shows how people in Bible times got their homes ready for guests and how we get our homes ready today.**

Give each child a *Heart Tugs*. Point to the pictures and allow children to tell how their homes are different from homes in Bible times. Play-act sweeping, sitting on mats or chairs, and turning on lights.

ASK: **What are some things we do to get ready for special guests? What do we do that is different from the things people did in Bible times?**

## My Own Palm Branch

Before class, print copies of the palm branch. Cut out two for each child.

SAY: **Back in Bible times, people used palm branches to wave or lay on the ground when they wanted to honor someone or praise a special guest. Let’s make palm branches. ♥ Then we’ll praise Jesus with our branches.**

Give each child two palm branches. Show how to cut fringe along the outside edges. Glue one branch to each side of a jumbo craft stick, leaving half the stick showing. Allow glue to dry. Practice waving palm branches.

ASK: **Back in Bible times, what did people do with palm branches when they had a special guest? (waved them, laid them on the ground) What would you do to say hello to a special guest?**

**Especially for 2s!**



Give children prepared palm branches. Show them how to wave hello with the palms and how to lay the palms carefully on the ground.

## Goodies for Guests

SAY: **Everyone here is special—everyone’s a special guest. Let’s make goodies for our special guests—each other. ♥ We can praise Jesus as we treat each other in a special way.**

Help each child use a wet wipe. Give each child a cupcake, a dollop of icing on a paper plate, and a plastic knife. Show children how to spread icing and add sprinkles. Place cupcakes on plates. Help children trade cupcakes. Have children repeat “Welcome, special guest” to each other. Eat cupcakes or wrap them to take home.

ASK: **How did we welcome each other today?**

**If a special guest were coming to your house, what would you do to get ready for that person?**

## Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

**Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.**

### Materials

*Heart Tugs* Triumphal Entry issue



### Materials

*Resources* CD Palm Branch printable file, green construction paper, glue sticks, jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors



### Teaching Tip

The palm branch pattern is also provided in full color on the *Resources* CD printable files.

### Materials

unfrosted cupcakes, icing, plastic knives, sprinkles, paper plates, napkins, wet wipes (optional: plastic wrap)



### Teaching Tips

You may prefer to bring frosted cupcakes and just have children decorate them with sprinkles.

Be sure to check all food allergies, and have an alternative snack available.



## 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, Bible



### Materials

coats, Teaching Picture  
Triumphal Entry, Bible,  
palm branches from More!  
Getting Started, Bible-times robe



### Option

Have a special guest tell the Bible story. Give the guest a copy of the story beforehand. Provide a Bible-times robe, if desired.

### Materials

coats, palm branches  
from Bible Time—  
Another Way!, Bible



### Materials

Resources CD Special  
Unit Bible Memory  
Motions printable file and  
track 4, Bible, CD player, palm  
branches from Bible Time—  
Another Way!



## More! Sing and Pray

Sing “He Is Alive.”

PRAY: **God, we love You, and we love Your Son, Jesus. We can praise You for being our God, and ♥ we can praise Jesus for being Your Son. Thank You for Your Son. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **When Jesus went to Jerusalem, the people greeted Him in a special way. Our story today is found in the book of Mark in the Bible. Show Mark. Let’s act out our Bible story and see what the people did.**

## Bible Time—Another Way!

Be sure children have their palm branches. Put on the robe.

SAY: **Hello, children. I’m pretending to be someone in the crowd of people who followed Jesus as He went to the town of Jerusalem many years ago. Can you pretend with me?** Allow responses. **Great! Let’s get started.**

**Many people were following Jesus that day. We all knew Jesus was special, and we wanted to follow Him. Do you know why Jesus is special? Yes, Jesus is the Son of God. Let’s stand and say those words together: Jesus is the Son of God.** Stand and repeat the words.

**Well, just before Jesus got to Jerusalem, He sent two of His helpers to get a colt. Let’s pretend we’re riding a colt.** Do so. **Jesus usually walked, but this time He rode a colt. After all, it was a special day. Some of us put our coats on the ground (put coats on floor), and the colt walked on them. Some of us put palm branches on the ground, and the colt walked on them. Let’s put our palm branches on the ground.** Do so. **Jesus rode into Jerusalem. It was a happy day! We knew God had sent Jesus to earth to help us. We shouted and praised Jesus that day. Some of us waved our palm branches.** Show the teaching picture and have children pick up their branches. **Let’s shout “Hosanna!”** Do so and wave branches. **Let’s shout “Praise God!”** Do so and wave branches. **Let’s shout “Jesus is the Son of God.”** Do so and wave branches. **You are a good crowd of people. You are good at praising Jesus.**

## More! Bible Review

ASK: Hold up coats. **What did the people do with their coats?**

Hold up palm branches. **What did the people do with branches?**

Hold up the Bible. **What does the Bible tell us the people shouted when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt?** (“Hosanna!” or “Praise God!”)

Let children use the coats and branches to act out the Bible story.

## More! Bible Memory John 20:31

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

Show John 20:31 in the Bible to the children and teach the motions. Then SAY: **When Jesus went to Jerusalem, the people shouted praises to Him. ♥ We can praise Jesus by singing our Bible Memory song.** Lead children in singing and waving the branches, as they march to the song.

## 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.**

### Focus

♥ We can praise Jesus.

### Quick Step “A List of Praises”

Bring out Scamper with the paper. SAY: **Hi, Scamper! What do you have?** Take the paper; Scamper whispers to you. **Children, Scamper has a list that some of his friends wrote. It’s a list of all the things they like about Scamper. Let’s read some of the things on the list.**

Read, “Scamper is good at helping find something when it’s lost, especially when it’s a nut” and “Scamper is good at cheering up someone who has had a hard day.” **Scamper, your friends really like you. These things are praises about you.** Scamper nods his head. **When people love someone else, they want to praise that person. Your friends wrote a lot of praises about you.** Scamper whispers to you. **Scamper, that’s a great idea! Children, Scamper has been listening to you talk about Jesus. He knows you love Jesus. Scamper wants you to make a list of praises to tell why you love Jesus. Let’s do that right now!** Lead the children in naming reasons why they love Jesus. Write them down. Have Scamper jump around as you read the list.

ASK: **What did the children in Scamper’s neighborhood do to show they love him?** (wrote a list of praises)

**What can we do to praise Jesus?** (make a list of reasons we love Jesus, say praises to Jesus, sing to Jesus)

Lead children in a time of praise to Jesus. Allow them to choose the way to praise Jesus.

### Materials

Scamper puppet, paper, pencil



### Suggested list

Jesus is the Son of God.  
Jesus loves me.  
Jesus died for me.  
Jesus loves children.  
Jesus heals the sick.

### Praise and Prayer Circle

Before class, draw a picture of a mouth and a picture of a hand, each on a separate sheet of paper.

Lay the pictures, paper and crayons, and musical instruments on the floor. Gather children around the objects. SAY: ♥ **We can praise Jesus every day. Let’s name ways we can praise Jesus, using these things.**

Allow each child to choose a picture or an object to use to praise Jesus. For example, if the child chooses the picture of a mouth, he can use his mouth to say a praise sentence to Jesus or play a musical instrument. If the child picks paper and crayons, he can draw a picture of something he likes about Jesus.

ASK: **What did we do to praise Jesus in our praise and prayer circle? Can you think of another way to praise Jesus?**

### Especially for 2s!



Have children repeat suggested actions as you show and tell how to use the various items to praise Jesus.

### Saying Good-bye

- Sing the Bible Memory song while walking, marching, or skipping around the room.
- Be sure children have projects made in class and this week’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to do the Then and Now activity with their children. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

### Materials

Bible, paper, crayons, musical instruments



### Cleanup

Encourage the children as they clean the room. Give award stickers to children as you see them helping.

