

Jesus, the King of Kings

Theme: God sent Jesus to show us how to live

Opening Game - “Splat!”: Children stand in a circle, facing inward, while one child, the 'splatter', stands in the middle facing the rest of the group. The 'splatter' spins round, stops, points his fingers at someone in the circle, and shouts “*Splat*”, as if shooting them with a gun. The player aimed at must duck, and the players either side must turn and face each other, point their fingers and shout “*Splat*”. The last one to say “*splat*” is out and sits down. The game continues until there are two remaining players, who must stand back-to-back and take 3 steps, then turn and “*splat*” each other. The first person to be “splatted” loses, with the other becoming the new Splatter, standing in the middle of the circle.

Memory Verse: “See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey.” Matthew 21 verse 5. Make simple hobby horses, with small canes and cardboard donkey heads stuck on them. Have a relay donkey race to collect pieces of the memory verse which is cut up in jigsaw piece fashion. The first team to put all their pieces together in the right order is the winner.

Introduction: Children are all given a person outline with a circle in the centre. Get the children to write or draw all the things they love to do on the body but NOT inside the circle. Tell them that Jesus came to show us how to live because He wants to be the centre of our lives.

Story: Matthew 21 verses 1-9. See the resources section for the story. You could act it out, making palm leaves, etc. or tell it using pictures.

Application: Jesus is the perfect King, greater than anyone else we have talked about this term. God's own Son, sent to be a perfect model of how God wants us to live. Jesus was humble, not proud or nasty. He actually came down from Heaven and suffered a terrible death so that our sins could be forgiven and we could live with God in Heaven forever. What sort of things can we do to become more like Him?

Prayer: Look again at the person outline the children drew earlier. Ask them if they think it would be good if Jesus was in the centre of their lives and why. Draw the word “Jesus” in the circle. Pray together, saying the following words which can be written out on a large sheet of paper. *Dear God, Thank you for sending your son Jesus to be our perfect King. Please help us to grow more like Him every day. Amen.*

Song: “*King of Love*” Track 9 Doug Horley’s “Whoopah Wahey!” CD

Closing Game - Pictionary: Divide children into teams, each with paper and pencil. Have a list of ten words, each word chosen from today’s story, such as “Donkey”, “King”, “Palm tree” etc. The first child from each team approaches the leader and is given the first word. They are not allowed to speak but must DRAW the item so their team mates can guess what it is. Once a word is guessed correctly, the next child goes to the leader for the second word, they draw that and so on. The game continues until a team has guessed all ten words correctly.

Resources: The story, fun sheet and person outlines are in the resources section.

Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Jesus was travelling with His *disciples* to Jerusalem. He had been teaching the people about The Kingdom of *God*; He'd healed the sick and performed many miracles, including raising people from the dead. As they approached the city, *Jesus* made a strange request to His *disciples*: "Please go to the next village and there you will find a *donkey* and a colt tied up which I want you to bring to me! If anyone says anything, you must tell them that the Master needs them."

This happened in order to make what the prophet had said come true:

"Look, your *King* is coming to you!
He is humble and rides on a *donkey*
And on a colt, the foal of a *donkey*."

So the *disciples* did as *Jesus* had asked. They found the *donkey*, just as *Jesus* had said, threw their cloaks over the *donkey* and the foal and took them back to *Jesus*.

As *Jesus* rode into Jerusalem on the *donkey*, the *crowd* threw their cloaks down and cut palm tree branches to spread on the ground. This was a *King's* welcome for *Jesus*! The *crowd* shouted, "Praise to David's Son! *God* bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise *God*!"

The *crowd* wanted *Jesus* to be their *King*. A *King* who would help them fight against the Romans. But *Jesus* was *God's* Son; the *King* of love and the *King* of *Kings*!

Jesus – touch palms

Disciples – walk on the spot

God – point up to Heaven

Donkey – say "EE-AW!"

King – act as though you're putting a crown on your head

Crowd – shout "Hurray!" and wave your arms in the air

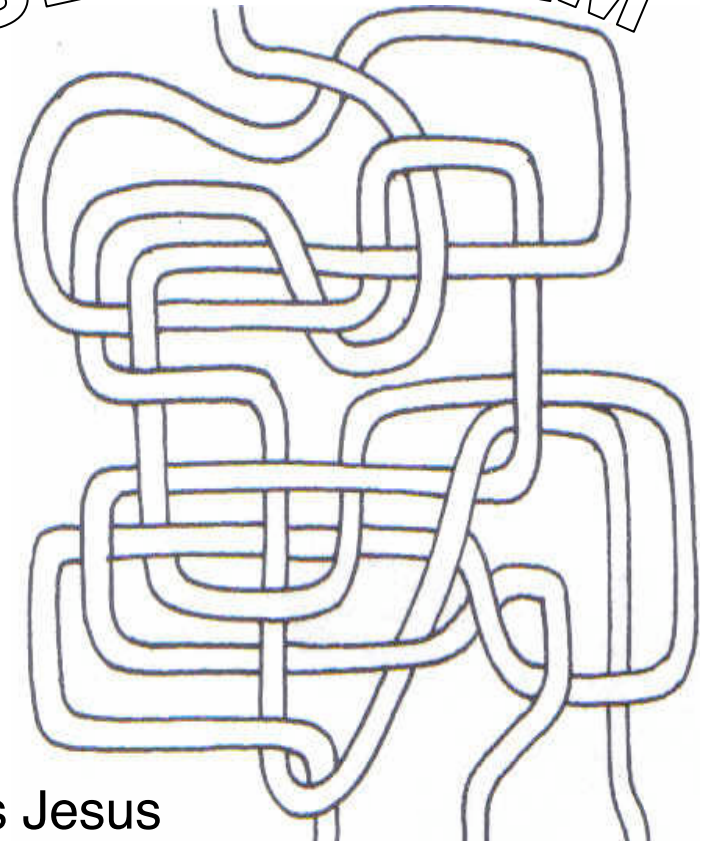
Jesus Enters Jerusalem



CELEBRATION
DISCIPLES
DONKEY
HOSANNA
JERUSALEM
JESUS
KING
PALMTREE
PASSOVER

S	K	V	Y	P	Y	Z	G	P	B	N	P
U	O	M	S	E	R	V	A	M	O	N	A
S	E	Z	D	I	K	L	I	I	Z	B	S
E	B	V	T	I	M	N	T	J	G	N	S
J	I	Y	T	T	S	A	O	N	P	X	O
B	G	X	R	P	R	C	I	D	L	Y	V
N	Y	E	B	B	H	K	I	C	T	D	E
B	E	H	E	B	X	P	B	P	O	D	R
E	W	L	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
W	E	A	N	N	A	S	O	H	I	E	N
C	L	N	M	W	G	W	D	X	D	J	S
N	K	Z	C	Y	R	W	N	O	N	N	M

JERUSALEM



A B C

"See, your king
comes to you,
gentle and riding
on a donkey"
Matthew 21 v 5

Which path takes Jesus
to Jerusalem?

