

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 29 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Jesus is King! / Hosanna!
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus came to save us

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus was not an earthly king, but that He saved the world through His death.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their King and Saviour.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with 'float or sink' props inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Media clip of a 'hero' or celebrity arriving (e.g. a film star on the red carpet, the arrival of a king or queen or statesperson, a victorious sports team, etc. You can find many clips online, e.g. on Youtube.)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

people were safe because they had the lamb's blood on their doors. Then, Moses led God's people out of Egypt, across the Red Sea to freedom! And every year, they remembered how God had saved them after the angel had passed over their homes. The Passover party.

As well as the Passover Party, there was another reason why Jesus was going to Jerusalem. He knew that the time was coming for God's plan to come together.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus had a chat with two of His disciples. This is what He told them:

"Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt (a little donkey) tied there, which no-one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

(Mark 11:2-3)

The two disciples went on ahead of Jesus and the others to the next village, and they did exactly what Jesus had asked them to do. They found a little donkey tied up at a doorway in the street. When the disciples were untying the donkey's rope from the door, some of the villagers thought the men were stealing! They shouted over to the disciples, "What are you doing?" The two disciples answered how Jesus had told them – "The Lord needs the donkey and will send it back here shortly." – and so the villagers let them go.

The two disciples led the little donkey back along the road to Jesus and the others. They took off their coats and laid them over the donkey's back, and then Jesus climbed up and sat on the donkey! Jesus rode the little donkey into the big city of Jerusalem.

The news that Jesus was coming to town started to travel. You see, everyone had heard the stories about the miracle man. Jesus had calmed a storm! Jesus had fed thousands of people with one little boy's lunch! Jesus had made a blind man see! Jesus had done so many amazing things that He *must* be special – He *must* be from God! The men working in the fields started to make their way down to the city; the ladies at home called on their neighbours and went out of their houses down to the Jerusalem road; little children playing in the streets were running around, telling everyone they saw that Jesus was coming to town! Jesus was like a celebrity, a hero, and the people wanted to be there when he arrived.

Crowds of people went out to line up along the sides of the road leading into Jerusalem. When they saw Jesus coming, they were surprised! He was riding on a little donkey! Not like a king in a carriage, not like a superstar in a limo, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey, just as God had planned. The crowds of people took off their coats and spread them out on the road. Other people cut branches off the trees and laid them down on the road. Soon the road into Jerusalem was covered in branches and coats, a bit like a red carpet rolled out for a star. Jesus rode on the donkey down the carpet of coats and leaves, with crowds of people going on in front of Him, and crowds of people walking behind Him, following Him into Jerusalem. The people were cheering and waving their branches

<p>excitedly in the air, shouting out for everyone in the city to hear:</p> <p><i>"Hosanna to the Son of David!"</i></p> <p><i>"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"</i></p> <p><i>"Hosanna in the highest!"</i></p> <p>(Matthew 21:9)</p> <p>The people were so excited! Just like we watched the crowds welcome the Irish rugby team in Dublin, the crowds in Jerusalem were happy and cheering and couldn't wait to see this man, Jesus – the man they hoped was going to save them and become king of the world.</p> <p>4. Explain</p> <p>The word 'hosanna' means 'save us'. The people were shouting out, "Save us, Jesus, save us!" These people had heard about the miracles. They knew that Jesus was a special man. They believed that He was sent from God and they wanted Him to be their king. How surprised they were when they saw this amazing man, the man who they thought should be king of the world, riding into the capital city on a little donkey! They wanted a warrior king, a great soldier, a powerful man who loved his people. The people didn't realise that Jesus was God and that He was going to save them in a very different way.</p> <p>Next week, we're going to hear how Jesus saved the world. But you know that we talk about this every time we meet because it's so important for us. Jesus died. Jesus died to save you and me from our sin. And when you believe in Him and trust Him, then He becomes your Saviour, the King of your heart, and your best friend.</p> <p>Boys and girls, if you haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sin and live in your hearts, and you would like to do that today, please talk to me, or one of the leaders, before you go home. We would love to talk more with you about living for Jesus!</p>	
<p>C. Prayer Net 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Ask kids to imagine that Jesus is riding into our town today. What would they do? How would they welcome Him? What would they ask Him to do for them? Encourage kids to understand that the same Jesus who performed those miracles, and who rode into 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i></p> <p><i>Small cards / postcards</i></p> <p><i>A pen</i></p>

<p>Jerusalem on the little donkey, is the same Jesus who hears our prayers and watches over us.</p> <p>7. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</p> <p>8. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.</p>	
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p>2. Sing a closing song. (<i>I Love You</i>)</p> <p>3. <i>Remind kids:</i> Next Sunday is Palm Sunday – the day on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem while the people threw down and waved palm branches and shouted ‘Hosanna!’ Next Sunday, when you come to church, remember to shout out ‘Hosanna!’ when you come to pick up your badge!</p> <p>4. Remind kids to come back this evening.</p> <p>5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>7 minutes</p> <p><i>You’ll need ...</i> <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 29 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making palm leaves ahead of Palm Sunday worship.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide (Zechariah 9:9)
 - Blindfold or scarf
 - Donkey's tail (made from paper or card)
 - Blu-tack
 - Picture of donkey
 - Pencil
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Pre-made palm branch (see below for instructions and photos)
 - Sheets of brown A4 paper (at least one per child)
 - Sheets of green A4 paper (at least one per child)
 - Sticky tape
 - Pencils
 - Safety scissors
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Treasure chest
- ✓ Name tag box

E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (Jesus in My Life / I Love You) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat and sit in a circle.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)
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F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>"Rejoice! ... your king comes to you ... gentle and riding on a donkey ..."</i> (Zechariah 9:9)	You'll need ...
1. Ask a few questions to recap today's story of Jesus entering Jerusalem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why were Jesus and the twelve disciples on their way to Jerusalem? <i>They were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.</i> - What was the Passover? <i>It was a party or celebration when God's people remembered how He had saved them and led them out of captivity in Egypt.</i> - Jesus had another reason for going to Jerusalem. It was time for God's plan of salvation to come into action. What did Jesus tell two of His disciples to do? <i>"Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt (a little donkey) tied there, which no-one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"</i> (Mark 11:2-3) - The two disciples took the donkey back to Jesus, and spread their coats on its back for Jesus to sit on. What happened when the people heard that Jesus was coming? <i>They ran and threw their coats down on the road. Others pulled branches off the trees and laid them down to make a carpet on which Jesus would ride into Jerusalem.</i> - What did the people shout as they waved their branches? <i>"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"</i> (Matthew 21:9) 	
2. <i>Explain:</i> These people had heard about the miracles. They knew that Jesus was a special man. They believed that He was sent from God and they wanted Him to be their king, king of the world! How surprised they were when they saw Him riding into the capital city on a little donkey! They wanted a warrior king, a great soldier, a powerful man who loved his people. The people didn't realise that Jesus was humble and gentle, and that He was going to save them in a very different way.	
3. <i>Explain:</i> Let's read our verse together. <i>Show verse on screen.</i> Just like people were surprised when Jesus – the promised Saviour – was born in a stable, they were just as surprised when He came riding into Jerusalem on a little donkey. No golden carriage, no horses, no trumpets, just gentle Jesus riding a donkey along a carpet of coats and branches.	Memory verse slide (Zechariah 9:9)
4. Repeat the memory verse a few times together as a group, and individually. When you feel the kids know the verse, move to a blank screen.	

<p>5. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to play <i>Pin the Tail on the Donkey</i>. I'm going to choose someone to say the memory verse. When you say it correctly, I will put a blindfold on you and spin you around a few times. Then I will give you the donkey's tail and you must try to stick it in the right place on the donkey.</p> <p>6. Choose a child to say the verse. Blindfold them with a scarf and spin them around a few times. Give them the donkey's tail (you should have this cut out of paper or card with a piece of blu-tack attached for fixing to the picture). Lead them to a picture of a donkey which you have fixed to the wall before the session. Without feeling the edges of the picture, the child should try to stick the tail in the correct position. Remove the blindfold from the child. Let everyone see where they stuck the tail and mark the spot with a pencil.</p> <p>7. Repeat step 6 to allow as many kids as possible repeat the verse and play the game in the allotted time.</p> <p>8. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Blindfold or scarf</i> <i>Donkey's tail & blu-tack</i></p> <p><i>Picture of donkey</i></p> <p><i>Pencil</i></p>
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<p>G. Activity</p> <p>1. Set up tables as a workspace and ask kids to find a space around the tables.</p> <p>2. <i>Explain:</i> What was that word the people shouted out as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? <i>Hosanna!</i> Does anyone remember what it means? It means, 'Save us!' The crowds of people were so excited that Jesus, this amazing man, who had performed so many marvellous miracles, had come to save them and be their king. Even though they didn't understand how God's plan was going to work, the people gave Jesus a hero's welcome, laying out a carpet of coats and branches, waving and cheering and shouting for Him.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> Every year, before Easter, we celebrate Palm Sunday. Next week is Palm Sunday. We call it that because those crowds of people probably picked leaves and branches from the palm trees in Jerusalem to welcome Jesus. Today, we're going to make our own palm branches so that we can wave them next week when we sing. <i>Show kids your pre-made palm branch.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Explain and demonstrate:</i> I'm going to give everyone a sheet of paper. You need to roll it up, lengthwise, and secure it with sticky tape to make the branch. Then I will give you a sheet of green paper. You should fold it in half, lengthwise. Then you need to take a pencil and draw half the leaf on one side, like this. Take a pair of scissors and cut out the leaf shape, keeping your page folded down the middle. When you have finished cutting, open out the leaf. Then you can take another piece of tape to secure it to your branch.</p>	<p>15 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ... <i>Tables</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made palm branch</i></p>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Give each child a sheet of A4 paper (brown if possible). Help kids roll the paper, lengthwise, and fasten with tape. 6. Give each child a sheet of A4 green paper. Help kids to fold their pages in half, lengthwise. 7. Help kids draw half the leaf fronds on one side of the folded page. Help them to cut out the leaf shape with safety scissors. 8. Help kids attach the leaves to the branches with tape. 9. Make sure kids write their names onto their leaves. 10. Allow kids to make another palm branch if time allows. 11. Collect palm branches and keep until next week. The kids can wave their palm branches next Sunday – Palm Sunday – during the worship time. 	<p><i>Sheets of brown paper</i> <i>Sticky tape</i> <i>Sheets of green paper</i></p> <p><i>Pencils</i> <i>Safety scissors</i></p>
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>Jesus in My Life</i>) 2. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 3. Put your pre-made palm branch into the treasure chest to be taken out next week. Close in prayer. 4. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>7 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Treasure chest</i> <i>Pre-made palm branch</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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