



LESSON 18

Jesus enters Jerusalem

LUKE 19:28-44



Jesus is God's King.



“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is King.
2. Jesus is the promised King.
3. Jesus came as King to die.
4. Jesus is the King of peace.
5. Those who reject the King will suffer.

Objectives

1. Recite Luke 19:38.
2. Connect the donkey to Zechariah 9:9 and the people's praise to Psalm 118:26.
3. Explain why Jesus revealed Himself as King at this time.
4. List the things that make for peace.
5. Tell how Jesus' prophecy came true.



Lesson Summary

Until now, Jesus did not openly claim to be the promised King. But now He did. He knew the religious leaders would reject Him, and He knew the cheering crowds would make the leaders want to execute Him quickly. Jesus wept, knowing how much the Jews would suffer for rejecting Him. But He entered as King anyway, according to the Father's plan. He entered Jerusalem on the day that families chose their Passover lamb, and soon after, He died as the great Passover Lamb.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The gospel is about Jesus bringing peace. He is the King who will crush everything that is evil and rule over a perfect world. But to do that, He had to die to pay sin's penalty and satisfy the Father's wrath. He accomplished that mission, and now He offers peace and salvation to all. But each person must come to Him on His terms. All those who reject Him, or reject His terms, will face terrible judgment.

LAST WEEK



Jesus teaches the parable
of the equal wages
Matthew 19:27-20:16

THIS WEEK



Jesus enters Jerusalem
Luke 19:28-44

NEXT WEEK



Jesus teaches the
parable of landowner
Mark 12:1-12

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is God's King.

Jesus had kept quiet about His kingship. He did not allow the Galileans to crown Him (John 6:14–15) or His disciples to tell who He really was (Luke 9:21, 36). But now Jesus publically presented Himself as the promised King (19:28–44). And He did this in Jerusalem, where perhaps more than two million Jews had gathered for Passover. In order to die at just the right time, Jesus openly presented Himself as King.

Jesus planned to enter as King (19:28–34)

Jesus planned the timing of His entrance. He had recently traveled south from Galilee (Mark 10:1), but He still waited for just the right time. After confronting the rich young ruler (Matt 19:16–26), healing two blind men (20:29–34), and raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11), Jesus stayed away from the murderous Pharisees and eager crowds (11:53–56). But now He made Himself known in Bethany (12:9), just in time to be the final Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7). His entrance into Jerusalem fits the timing of Daniel's prophecy (Dan 9:26), and it came on the day when families brought Passover lambs into their homes (Exod 12:3).

Jesus also planned the details of His entrance. He sent two disciples to get a donkey, and everything happened exactly as Jesus said. But why a donkey? Over 500 years

earlier, Zechariah prophesied: "Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zech 9:9; John 12:15). This also recalls Jacob's prophecy 1,000 years before Zechariah: a ruler would come from the tribe of Judah, "binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine" (Gen 49:10–11). By choosing a donkey colt that had never been ridden (Luke 19:30), Jesus was publically identifying Himself as the *Messiah*, the promised King

who would bring Israel prosperity and peace from its enemies (Gen 49:10–12; Zech 9:9–17).

Jesus entered as King (19:35–38)

No wonder there was a huge crowd! The people were celebrating the coronation of their Messiah (cf. 1 Kgs 1:33–34). Jesus' followers began the celebration. They spread their robes before Jesus (Luke 19:36), showing their submission to Him as king (cf. 2 Kgs 9:13). Imagine people pointing to Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52), Lazarus (John 12:9, 11), and others traveling with Him, marveling at the amazing things Jesus had done (Luke 19:37).

As Jesus rode from Bethany, He crested the ridge called the Mount of Olives (19:37). What a sight it would have been! Looking straight ahead across the Kidron Valley, Jesus and His followers would have seen the temple mount with its gleaming white limestone, and perched on top, Herod's magnificent temple, flashing gold in the sun. On the other side, people on the temple mount would have heard the shouts of praise and looked across to see the crowd streaming down the ridge. So as the crowd of followers flowed down the Mount of Olives, another crowd poured out of Jerusalem's eastern gate to meet them (John 12:12). They brought palm branches with them, another symbol to honor a victorious king (12:13).

They welcomed Him as their Messiah (Luke 19:38; Ps 118:26). They called Him "King" and recited Psalm 118, the last song sung at Passover, for they believed the time of their redemption had come. They cried out, "*Hosanna!*" which means "Save!, a celebration of God's salvation" (John 12:13). They welcomed Jesus "in the name of the Lord," as God's king, coming with God's full authority. They said "Peace in heaven," for they believed God could be at rest only now that Jerusalem, His chosen city, was about to have rest (Luke 19:38).

Jesus was rejected as King (19:39–40)

This celebration was exactly what the Pharisees had been afraid of after Jesus caused such a stir over



THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus was in control even over the time of His death.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Jesus enters Jerusalem • Luke 19:28–44



THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus knew the leaders of the Jews would reject Him (Luke 18:32; 19:14).

(11:53, 57), but now that they had found Him, they could not because of the cheering crowds. All they could do was beg Jesus to stop them (Luke 19:39). J

Jesus refused (19:40), for two reasons. First, His disciples were right to honor Him, for He really was the Messiah, as even nature knows (Isa 55:12). Second, Jesus was prodding the Pharisees to kill Him. Jesus arranged His own death. When Jesus said, “The very stones would cry out,” He recalled Habakkuk’s condemnation of Babylon. Babylon had built their houses from the spoil of people they had brutally conquered, so “the stone [cried] out from the wall” as a witness against them (Hab 2:11).

Likewise, the stones of Jerusalem would cry out against the Jews as a witness that they had unjustly killed their King.



THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus arranged His own death.

Jesus declared judgment as King (19:41–44)

While the crowd celebrated, Jesus wept (Luke 19:41). He had wept before at Lazarus’ tomb (John 11:35), but the word here is much stronger: He heaved with great sobs of sorrow. He knew that the prophecies about the Messiah coming on a donkey hinted at great pain before peace. The peace Zechariah foretold would come by “the blood of my covenant” (Zech 9:11; Luke 22:20; Heb 9:11–27). The wine that Jacob spoke of to represent prosperity (Gen 49:11) would first represent judgment. God would stain His garments red in the winepress of His anger (Isa 63:2–3), for the Jews would reject their day of redemption (63:4, 10).

They would reject Jesus because they did not know what would bring peace (Luke 19:42). Most in the crowd were no different than those who tried to make Jesus king in Galilee (John 6:14). They wanted food and freedom, but they missed the requirement for real peace: soft hearts (Ps 95:7–8), confession of sin (Ps 32:6), repentance (Ezek 18:31–32), seeking the Lord (Isa 55:6), and obedience (Isa 48:18). They did not realize that this was the “time of your **visitation**” (Luke 19:44), that Zechariah’s prophecy was about the LORD Himself appearing (Zech 9:14). Jesus was in the world, but the world did not know Him (John 1:10).

Instead of salvation (Zech 9:16), God’s presence would bring severe judgment. About forty years later, in AD 70, Jesus’ prediction came true (Luke 19:43–44). The Romans built siege walls around Jerusalem, then they broke in and crushed the city and its people (19:44). The siege was horrible, with starvation leading even to cannibalism. And the slaughter that followed was worse. To prevent Jerusalem from rebelling again, the Romans tumbled the temple stones into the valleys surrounding the temple mount, and any walls left standing were finally leveled after one last rebellion sixty-five years later. As Jesus said, when the crowd stopped praising Him, the stones cried out in judgment.

Yet Jesus wept for Jerusalem because His love is faithful. One day Israel will repent and welcome their Messiah (Matt 23:39; Luke 21:24). When they finally find peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1), all Israel will be saved (Rom 11:26). Yet even that salvation will come through heart-wrenching grief, when Israel realizes what they have done to their Messiah (Zech 12:10) and how many millions of their people have perished as a result. Take this warning to heart: do not reject your King who came to save you.

THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus came to His own people, but they did not receive Him (John 1:11).



Lesson Outline

Jesus is God's King.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus is King (19:28–35).
2. Rejoice and worship Jesus as King (19:36–38).
3. Do not reject Jesus as King (19:39–44).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus planned to enter as King (19:28–34).
 - Jesus sent the disciples to get a donkey colt (19:28–31).
 - His disciples did what He said (19:32–34).
2. Jesus entered as King (19:35–38).
 - Jesus rode the donkey over the disciples' robes (19:35–36).
 - The crowd celebrated Him as the promised King (19:37–38).
3. Jesus was rejected as King (19:39–40).
 - The Pharisees wanted Him to stop His disciples (19:39).
 - Jesus refused because He deserved their praise (19:40).
4. Jesus declared judgment as King (19:41–44).
 - Jesus wept because Jerusalem had rejected peace (19:41–42).
 - Jesus declared judgment because they had rejected God (19:43–44).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did Jesus ride on?**
A donkey colt.
- 2. What did Jesus' followers call Him?**
King.
- 3. What did the religious leaders ask Jesus to do?**
They wanted Him to make His followers stop calling Him king.
- 4. What did Jesus do while the crowd rejoiced?**
Jesus wept.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Jesus publically claim to be the promised king?**
He did this so that He would be rejected and killed at just the right time.
- 2. Why was His entrance at just the right time?**
It was the time prophesied by Daniel (Dan 9:26), and it was the day the Passover lambs came into families' homes (Exod 12:3).
- 3. Why did Jesus choose to ride a donkey colt?**
To show that He was the Messiah Zechariah prophesied about (Zech 9:9).
- 4. Why were there so many people to celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem?**
Perhaps over 2 million were in Jerusalem for Passover, and Jesus had recently raised Lazarus from the dead in order to draw attention to Himself for this special time.
- 5. Besides calling Him King, how else did the crowds welcome Jesus as the Messiah?**
They showed honor and submission by laying their robes on the road under Him. They quoted Psalm 118:26 about the Messiah. They said "Hosanna," celebrating salvation. And they brought palm branches, a sign of honor for a victorious king.
- 6. What did Jesus say would happen when the people stopped praising Him?**
The rocks would cry out, judging them for not accepting their King.
- 7. Why did Jesus weep?**
Jesus knew that the Jews, and especially Jerusalem, were about to suffer greatly.
- 8. Why were the Jews going to have pain instead of peace?**
The leaders rejected Him, and even the crowds did not know what would bring peace: soft hearts, confession of sin, repentance, seeking God, and obedience.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

FIND THE RIDE

Before today's lesson, cut a piece of cardstock into the shape of a donkey. Hide it somewhere in the classroom. Divide the class into two teams and have them look for the donkey. The team that finds the donkey first wins. After playing several times, introduce the children to the donkey in today's lesson. Jesus sent two of His disciples into the village of Bethpage where they would find a donkey for Him to ride into Jerusalem.

JUST THE RIGHT TIME

Begin counting down from ten to one, encouraging the children to count down with you. When you get to zero, immediately begin the lesson. Tell the children that Jesus publicly presented Himself as the promised King at just the right time, just in time to be the final Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7).



ILLUSTRATE

WELCOMING THE KING

Act out the things people did to welcome Jesus as king. Divide the kids into six groups to help make each of the six things more distinct and memorable. Group 1 puts robes (or jackets) on the ground. Group 2 waves branches. Group 3 says, "Hosanna!" Group 4 says, "Blessed is the King!" Group 5 says, "Blessed is the One who comes the name of the Lord!" Group 6 says, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Actions found in Luke 19:36, 38; John 12:13).

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

In a parade, we often focus on all the sights, but what about the sounds? Divide the class into different groups, each having their own sound to make: the clip-clop of a donkey, the swoosh of palm branches, the clapping of hands, the shouting of praises, and the murmuring of the Pharisees. As you retell the story, allow each group to participate by making their sound at the appropriate time.



APPLY

PALM BRANCH

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, cardstock, crayons, glue stick, scissors.

Directions: Photocopy the craft page on cardstock. Color every image and cut them. Glue "Hosanna" on the palm branch.

Palm Branch
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

Jesus enters Jerusalem • Luke 19:28–44



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

JOY AND SORROW

Has anyone had a really fun birthday party recently? What was it like? Who came? What did you do? Were people happy? Was there celebration? While everyone else was happy, were you happy or sad? Happy! But something strange happens during the celebration in today's lesson. Huge crowds are celebrating, but Jesus is crying. Let's find out why some people are celebrating and Jesus is so sad.

TIMER SET

Jesus publicly presented Himself as the promised King at just the right time. After confronting the rich young ruler (Matt 19:16–26), healing two blind men (20:29–34), and raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11), Jesus stayed away from the murderous Pharisees and eager crowds (11:53–56). But now He made Himself known in Bethany (12:9), just in time to be the final Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7). Set a kitchen timer for a small amount of time and place it in front of the children. Remain silent until the timer goes off. As soon as the timer goes off, begin your lesson, noting that it was just the right time to begin.



ILLUSTRATE

SYMBOLS OF JOY

Show the class some confetti, rice, and bubbles. Ask them what all three have in common. Tell the class that throwing confetti at a party or throwing rice or blowing bubbles at a wedding are all traditional American symbols of rejoicing. In our lesson today, the people welcome Jesus with Palm branches to show their joy and fervent hope that the Messiah had come.

WHY A DONKEY?

Show the children a picture or video clip of a presidential motorcade without telling them what it is. Ask them who's being transported by this group of vehicles (the president or some other important person). How do they know this? This type of caravan signifies that someone important is along for the ride. That's why Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey—it showed that He was the Messiah prophesied by Zechariah (Zech 9:9). When the people saw Jesus on a donkey, they knew their King was coming to them.



APPLY

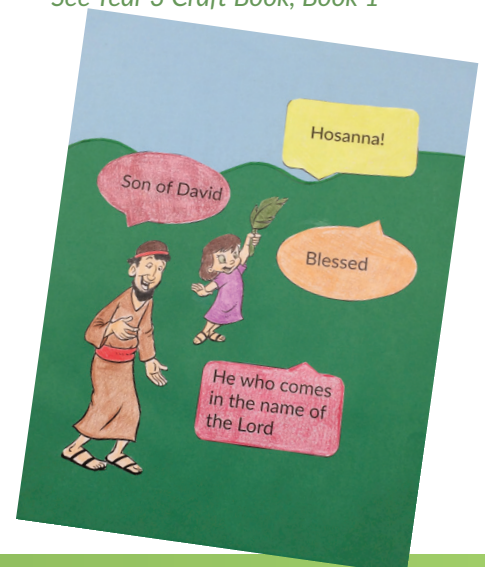
PRAISING CROWD

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheets, green construction paper, light blue copy paper, crayons, glue stick.

Directions: Color the images with crayons. Cut the green construction paper to have the landscape, and gluer it to the light blue copy paper. Glue the images on the paper and put in order what the crowd said.

Praising Crowd
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Has anyone ever been to a victory parade for a sports team that has just won a championship? Fans line the streets, hoping to catch a glimpse of the players and trophy as they ride by on the back of a flatbed truck or bus. As the players pass by, fans cheer, sing, wave, and throw confetti. This is similar to how the people rejoiced at Jesus' arrival in today's lesson: the people received Him as a conqueror, a victor, and their savior.

THE JOY OF VICTORY AND THE AGONY OF DEFEAT

After a competitive championship game, it's common to see the joy of victory and the agony of defeat on display side by side. While the winning team and its fans are celebrating one of the most exciting moments of their lives, the losing team and its fans are suffering through one of the most saddening moments in their lives. Something similar happens in today's lesson: While huge crowds are celebrating, Jesus is weeping. Today's lesson will tell us why.



CHANGE OF PLANS

Have your parents ever planned something special for you, but then you were so disobedient that they canceled their plans? Your parents were excited for you to have a good time, but you did not have the right attitude to enjoy the good things they had planned. That's how it was with the people in Jerusalem: God had plans for peace, but peace only comes to hearts prepared to receive His peace. What kind of heart is that?

THE RETURN OF THE KING

During His triumphal entry, Jesus came humbly. However, when the King returns, He will come in power. Read Revelation 19:11–16, noting the differences in Jesus' triumphal return: (1) comes from heaven (19:11), (2) rides a warhorse (19:11), (3) makes war (19:11), (4) wears many crowns (19:12), (5) wears a robe (19:13), (6) armies of heaven follow (19:14), (7) strikes down the nations (19:15), (8) "King of kings and Lord of lords" written on robe and thigh (19:16).



ACTIONS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Before a week had passed, the crowds were calling for the crucifixion of Christ (Matt 27:15–23). Their voice of praise had turned into a vote for destruction. Their shouts of Hosanna had turned into shouts of hatred. While the masses were eager to be delivered from Rome, they were not willing to be delivered from their sins. When they had to choose, they chose the insurrectionist Barabbas over the lowly Jesus. The people were willing to lend their lips to Jesus but not their lives. How about you? Do you praise Jesus with your lips but deny Him with your actions? If Jesus is your King, then He must be King over every area of your life.