

God's Unfolding Story

Bible Story:
The People Honored Jesus
(Matt. 21:1-11, 14-16)

Bible Phrase: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matt. 21:9).

Bible Truth:
Jesus loves me.
God wants me to honor Jesus.

-  1. God created everything.
-  2. People disobeyed God.
-  3. God chose a special people.
-  4. God sent Jesus to help us.
-  5. Jesus began the Church.
-  6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

Suggested Schedule:

- Arrival**
- Centers – 25 minutes
 - Clean-up Time – 5 minutes
 - Bible Story Time – 15 minutes
 - Craft Time – 10 minutes
 - Snack Time – 10 minutes
 - Game Time/Dismissal



Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

Please read our passage from Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16. These verses describe the beginning of the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. One can only speculate what was going through the mind of Christ as He prepared to make this historical entrance into the City of David, Jerusalem. His heart surely was broken over His rejection by His own people, as well as the religious leaders. Regardless, His intent was firm, driven by His passion, love for mankind and obedience to the Father. On this day, He rode into Jerusalem to fulfill prophecies from Isaiah and Zachariah. On this day He proclaimed Himself King, not of an earthly kingdom but spiritual.

Jesus and His disciples were on their way from Jericho to Jerusalem and had stopped in the town of Bethphage. This point, located on the slope of the Mount of Olives, is just outside the city of Jerusalem. Jesus instructed His disciples to go into the village and get a donkey and her colt. Possibly Jesus or someone else had prearranged this plan.

Traditionally, kings would enter the city on a white horse to signify conquest and victory. However, Jesus chose a donkey colt signifying that His Messiahship was spiritual, not political. Coats were placed on the two donkeys' backs, and Jesus rode the colt. As Jesus rode into the city, the crowds responded as if He were a King. They laid their coats and palm branches on the path, all signs showing their honor and gratitude.

As Jesus traveled through the city, children and adults shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" This was a shout of praise along with the messianic title and one of the few verses that recognize Jesus' glory here on this earth. Sadly, in a short span of time many of these same voices turned against Him.

When we meditate on this passage, we must consider our own

voices of praise. Do we praise the King of kings when our prayers seem to be answered and all is well only to question, doubt and turn our backs when life goes awry? Do we praise Him with our words while our hearts and actions say other wise? Perhaps at times we find ourselves doing just as the crowds in Jerusalem that day.

On this Palm Sunday, determine to worship Christ the King authentically. Regardless of your circumstances, connect your joy to His precious Presence. Honor the One who gave His life for you.

Lesson Plan

Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

Center Time



Block Center

Play with Blocks

Supplies:

- Wooden blocks
- Plastic farm animals

What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

Link to the Bible Story: As children build, listen for opportunities to share the Bible Phrase or tell a part of the Bible story.

Home Living Center

Play with Friends

Supplies:

- Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit and small table and chairs; plastic dishes, plastic food items; child pots and pans; and doll items such as a doll bed, doll bag, blanket, clothes, bottles and diapers.

What to Do: Straighten and organize the Home Living Center each week. Make sure doll clothes and blankets are clean.

Link to the Bible Story: Listen for opportunities while engaging in conversation with preschoolers to interject the Bible Phrase, Bible Story or Bible Truth.

Bible Learning Center

Complete a Picture

Supplies:

- Copies of Activity Page, "The People Honored Jesus" (Reproducible)
- Washable markers or crayons

What to Do: Ask children to use a crayon or marker to connect the dotted lines to finish the picture.

Link to the Bible Story: Express to preschoolers that in our Bible story today people honored Jesus as He rode in the streets on a donkey by spreading palm leaves and their coats on the street.

Art Center

Tissue Paper Collage

Supplies:

- White construction paper
- Green tissue paper
- Glue

What to Do: Print the Bible phrase at the bottom of each paper. Cut tissue paper into small squares. Invite preschoolers to make a collage with the tissue paper squares.

Link to the Bible Story: Comment that in today's Bible story, Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey and the people spread their coats and palm leaves on the ground. Emphasize that this was a way to show honor to Jesus.

Puzzle Center

Work Puzzles

Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do: Encourage children to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Give guidance rather than doing the puzzle for the child.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible Phrase or briefly tell the Bible story.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.

Bible Story Time

Supplies:

- Bible
- Teaching Picture, "The People Honored Jesus" (Reproducible)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/cardstock)

Introduction

- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Point to each symbol and tell God's Unfolding Story. (Refer to page 1.) Encourage children to say the story with you.
- Comment to boys and girls today's story is from the segment **God sent Jesus to help us.** (Point to that symbol on the cube.)
- Talk to boys and girls about the meaning of the word *honor*. Comment that to honor someone means to give him or her respect, express your thankfulness or do something special for the person.

- Express to preschoolers that our Bible story today is about a time when people honored Jesus. Ask boys and girls to listen for ways the people honored Jesus.

Bible Story

Zacchaeus Met Jesus

(Luke 19:1-10)

One day Jesus and His helpers were on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus stopped and asked some of His helpers to go into the next village and find a mommy donkey and her baby and bring them to Me.

The helpers went to the next village and found the donkeys just as Jesus asked. They brought the donkeys to Jesus. The helpers laid their coats on the donkeys for Jesus to sit.

As Jesus and His helpers traveled along the road to Jerusalem, a very large crowd of people began to follow. There were moms, dads, boys, girls, grandmothers and grandfathers all along the street. They were so excited to see Jesus. Jesus had healed people who were sick; He had made blind people see; and He had fed lots of hungry people. The people wanted Jesus to know He was special.

So, as they walked with Jesus, they spread their coats on the road. Many people cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The people began to shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Explain this is another

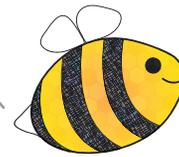
name for Jesus.)

When Jesus reached the city of Jerusalem, the whole town was excited. As He rode to the temple, there were children shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Jesus knew the children's words made God happy. It was a happy day for Jesus.

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture and ask the following: "What did Jesus ride on when He rode down the street in Jerusalem? How did the people show Jesus that He was special?"
2. Point to the Bible Phrase at the bottom of the teaching picture. Say the phrase together. Reinforce to preschoolers that Jesus came to this earth to help us and to learn more about God.
3. Close Bible Story Time by inviting children to join you in prayer. Pray thanking God for Jesus and to help us honor Jesus by how we live.
4. Direct children to Craft Time.



Craft Time

Make a Paper Sack Puppet

Supplies:

- Copies of "Donkey" (Reproducible)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Paper sacks, glue

What to Do: Before the activity, cut "Donkey" faces. Invite preschoolers to color their donkeys. Children can glue their donkey heads to the flap of the paper sack.

Link to Bible Story: As children work, remind them of how Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. Ask questions about the story to review. Talk about ways we can honor Jesus such as: praise and worship, prayer, obeying what Jesus says to do.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time/Dismissal

Learn a Song

Supplies:

- Optional: Palm leaves cut from green construction paper.

What to Do: Ask children to stand in a circle.

Teach this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Remind boys and girls of the Bible Phrase the children shouted to Jesus, "Hosanna Son of David." (Matt. 21:9). Express that we honor Jesus when we worship and praise Him.

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of your church.

Jesus came to Jerusalem,
Jerusalem, Jerusalem
Jesus came to Jerusalem
riding on a donkey.

Children came and honored Him,
honored Him, honored Him
Children came and honored Him,
Hosanna Son of David.
(Sway palm leaves.)

I can honor Jesus too,
Jesus too, Jesus too
I can honor Jesus too,
Hosanna Son of David.
(Sway palm leaves.)





Resources and Supplies

New Testament Unit 7: Easter
Lesson 4: The People Honored Jesus

Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint, 4 colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room)

- Small beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Baby doll (soft plastic)
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children's Worship CDs

Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads)

- Activity Page, "The People Honored Jesus" (1 copy per child)
- "Donkey" (1 copy per child)
- Teaching Picture, "The People Honored Jesus" (1 copy per class)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock, 1 copy per class)
- Parent Page (1 copy per child)
- Optional: Coloring Page, "The People Honored Jesus"

Additional Art and Bible Learning Materials

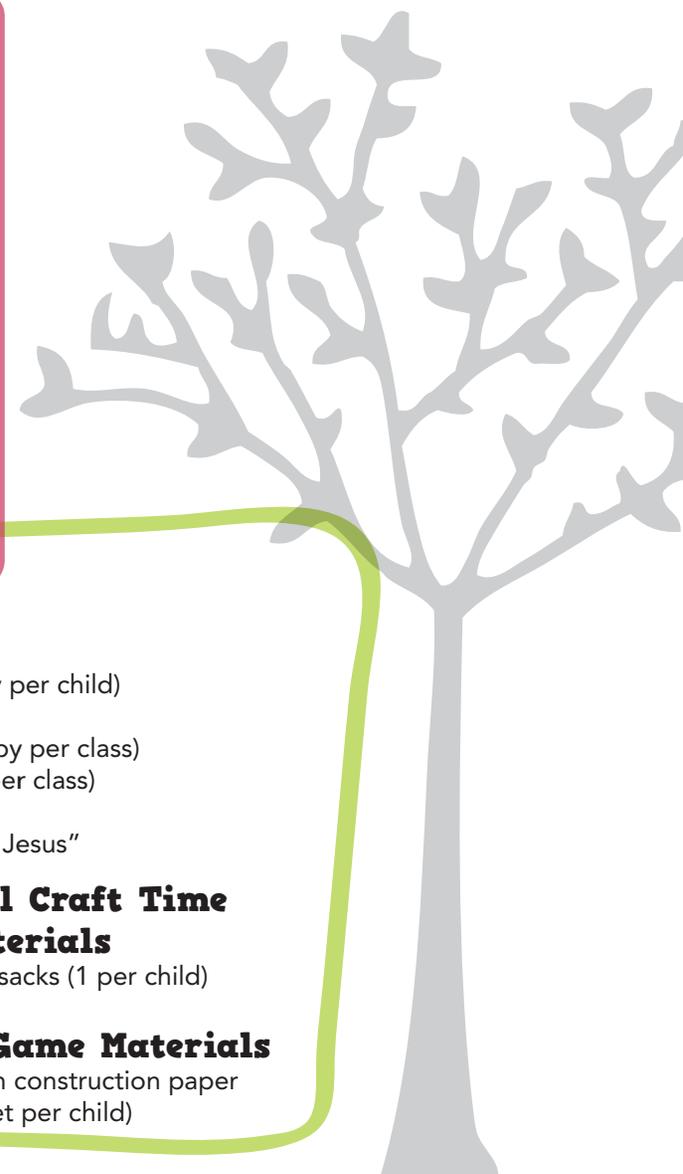
- White construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Fabric scraps

Additional Craft Time Materials

- Brown lunch sacks (1 per child)

Additional Game Materials

- Optional: Green construction paper (1 sheet per child)



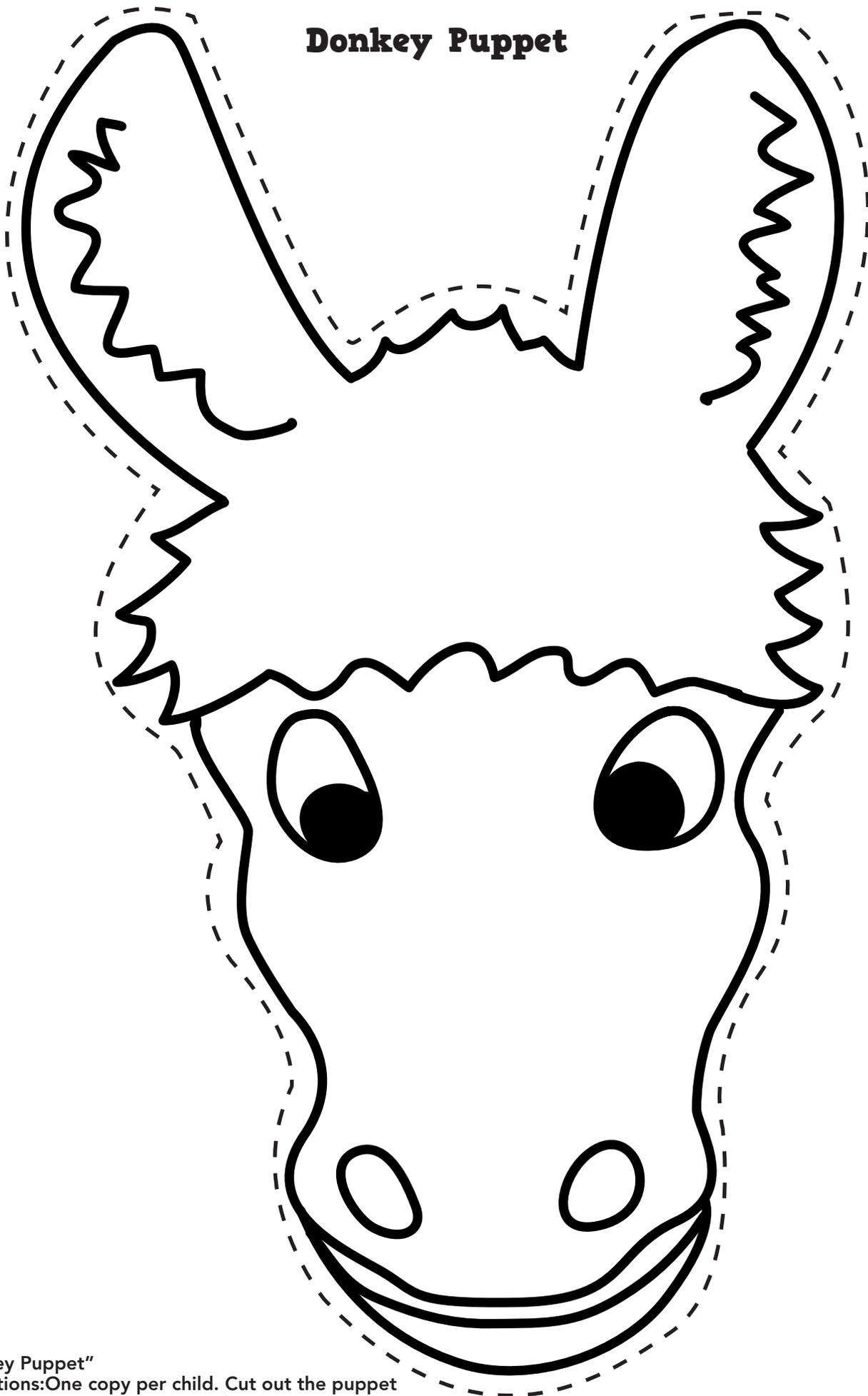
The People Honored Jesus



"The People Honored Jesus"

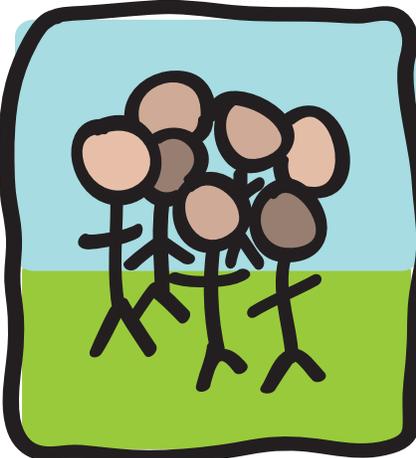
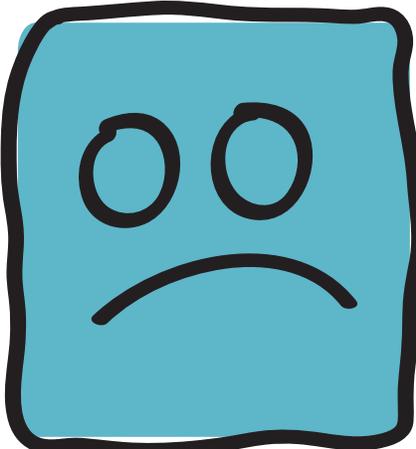
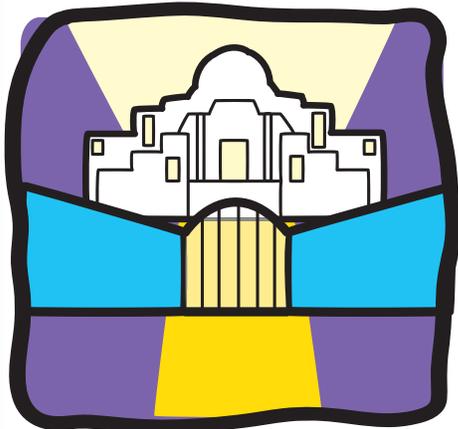
Instructions: One copy per child. Children use a marker or crayon to connect the dotted lines to finish the picture.

Donkey Puppet



"Donkey Puppet"

Instructions: One copy per child. Cut out the puppet face. Children color the puppet face and glue to the flap of a paper bag.



God's Unfolding Story Cube
Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.



“Hosanna to the Son of David!” (Matt. 21:9).

“The People Honored Jesus”
Coloring Sheet