

BEHOLD YOUR KING SESSION 1

Unit 1: Jesus' Journey of Love

Unit Worship Truth: Praise God for Jesus' death and resurrection so that we may have eternal life.

Unit Memory Verse: "God raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact" (Acts 2:32).

Session Scripture: Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:28-40

Session Worship Truth: Understand and believe that Jesus is the Messianic King prophesied in the Old Testament.

BIBLE BACKGROUND: GONNA DISCOVER!

It's important for us to read the prophecies that are fulfilled by Jesus' actions. The significance of what he did is verified by the Old Testament prophecies that came before. In Zechariah 9:9, the people of God will RECOGNIZE and REJOICE AT the coming of their King. His attributes were kingly: righteous, as the ideal king should be; gentle (he does not force his subjects); riding on a donkey—a princely mount before the horse came into common use, as well as an animal of peace.

As we read Luke 19, we see the scripture from Zechariah most wonderfully fulfilled. God prepared the way for Jesus in a number of marvelous ways—some at which we can only guess. What was Jesus' prior connection with the owner of the colt? We do not know—but he was willing for Jesus to take his unbroken foal. (Horse handlers will tell you that not just anyone can ride an unbroken colt. Keep in mind, however, that the colt's Creator was riding the colt . . . a special affinity there? Definitely.)

Christ's entry on a donkey was symbolic of his humility and his peaceful intentions. The people's lack of complete understanding does not take away at all from the fact that they RECOGNIZED and REJOICED AT the coming of their King! Those who knew their Scripture would have recognized the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy. Jesus was officially presenting himself to the Jewish nation as its Messiah.

And when the Pharisees griped about the disciples' behavior, Jesus answered them with words that remind us who he was: the Creator of the entire world and universe. "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." The time had come for God's Messiah to be manifested! His arrival was bound to be heralded by his creation.



Remember that small group time during worship is the opportunity to discuss God's truth, and share together in purposeful prayer, sharing requests and praises.



GONNA EXPERIENCE!

Sermon Outline:

Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:28-40

Zechariah 9:9: Zechariah prophesied the triumphal entry into Jerusalem several centuries before it occurred.

Luke 19:28-31: As Jesus approached Jerusalem, he sent two of his disciples to borrow a donkey for his use.

32-34: The disciples did as Jesus said and the events unfolded as Jesus said they would.

35-36: Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem.

37-38: The crowd began to praise God and sing.

39-40: The Pharisees were upset and asked Jesus to get his disciples under control; Jesus responded by telling them that if the people didn't cry out the rocks would.

OBJECT LESSON

Pep Rally for Jesus

Supplies:

- Worship CD
- Poster board
- Markers
- Streamers
- Balloons

Many of your children have probably seen or been to a pep rally. Schools have them to cheer on their team. Local sports teams have pep rallies at the beginning of the season and at playoff time. Pep rallies are times to celebrate. They are times to cheer on your favorite athlete or team.

The parade in today's Bible story was a lot like a pep rally. So, have a pep rally for Jesus. Gather supplies to make posters and banners and signs. Encourage the children to write slogans and lines that proclaim Jesus as king, Messiah, God's Son, Savior, and Lord. Play the worship CD as the children work and encourage them to have fun. Then, finish the time with a parade around the room and a pep rally with singing, cheering, and celebrating Jesus.



CONNOR GONNA EXPLORE!

Waiting is Hard to Do!

Waiting is hard to do. Have you ever had to wait for something important? Christmas? Your birthday? The last day of school? Those things always seem to take forever to get here.

In today's Bible story, we see a nation full of people who are waiting—and had been waiting—for the coming of the Messiah. Do you know who the Messiah is? The Messiah was the expected king and deliverer of the Jewish people. For many years, the people of Israel had heard that God was going to send a Messiah to deliver them and to be their king. Now, after hundreds of years of living under the rule of other nations, the people of Israel were desperately looking for this Messiah.

We know that Jesus was the Messiah the people had been waiting for. During Jesus' life he fulfilled many prophecies given hundreds of years before. These prophecies told of things Jesus would do and how he would do them. Jesus preached and taught the people about God. He told them about life in God's kingdom. Jesus healed the sick and lame and blind. He did many miracles. All of these things were evidence that Jesus was the Messiah the people had been waiting for.

In today's Scripture we read about a specific prophecy. Several hundred years before Jesus was born a prophet named Zechariah lived in Israel. Zechariah preached to the people and told them about the Messiah who would come one day. Zechariah did not live long enough to see the Messiah he preached about, but he knew that Jesus would come. In one of his sermons Zechariah told about

the Messiah riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. And that is exactly what happened.

As Jesus prepared to enter Jerusalem he told his disciples to get a donkey for him to ride. The disciples brought the donkey to Jesus and he rode it into the city. As he approached Jerusalem, the people lined the streets. They waved palm branches and put their coats on the ground where Jesus rode. They all began to shout praises to God. "Hosanna!" they cried. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" Now, let's stop there for a second. What did the people say in praise to Jesus? (Let the children respond.) Hosanna! Yes, hosanna is it! But wait—does anyone know what hosanna means? (Let the children respond.) Many people would tell you it means loud, loving praise. And it does. Hosanna also, in the Hebrew language, means something like "please save us now." Let's put those two meanings together: "loud, loving praise," and "please save us now."

Sometimes I get used to saying something and forget what it really means. So, I want you to think about those meanings. Why don't we do this: let's have one side of the room shout "PRAISE!" and the other side shout "PLEASE SAVE US!" Let's do that a few times. (Point to one side to shout, then to the other, and again.) Now let's all shout "HOSANNA!" together!

If Jesus were riding into your town, what would you say to express your feelings for him? (Let the children think about this and respond.) Some of you may not know much about Jesus yet. That's okay. We're here to learn.

Now, back to the story. Why were the people praising Jesus? Why were they shouting something that meant

“please save us”? Well, remember, the Jewish people knew God was going to send them a Messiah. The people who knew Jesus knew: the Messiah had finally come. Jesus was their king. Jesus was the one who would deliver them. The day they had waited for so long had finally arrived.

But not everyone was happy. The Pharisees, the religious leaders, thought the people were wrong. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus didn't act the way they thought a Messiah should act. So they tried to get the people to be quiet. They even told Jesus to tell his followers to stop acting so silly.

But Jesus told them, “If the people don't do this the rocks will cry out in praise.” The coming of the Messiah was so important and such a happy time that if people didn't realize it was happening, nature would start speaking up.

We are blessed because we do not have to wait for the Messiah to come. We know that Jesus has come because we read about it in the Bible. And, we know that Jesus is with us today. That means we have a reason to celebrate just like the people who witnessed Jesus riding into the city. Let's shout Hosanna to Jesus, our Messiah!

