 Luke 19:28-40; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16

04/05/2020

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 19:28-40; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16
- In This Passage: Jesus and his disciples head toward Jerusalem. Two disciples get there first and borrow a donkey colt for Jesus to ride. He rides triumphantly down the road as the crowds spread palm branches and robes on the road in his path. They call out praises, declaring that Jesus is the King.
- Bible Point: *Jesus is the King.*
- Summary Verse: "For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords" (1 Timothy 6:15).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is the King.* Although your kids might not live in a country ruled by a king, they've probably seen enough movies and read enough books to understand how powerful and special a king is. They may also see celebrities who are treated like royalty. Use this lesson to help kids see that Jesus deserves that kind of honor, too.
- Think About: How is Jesus like what you'd expect a king to be like? How is he different?

### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to develop a heart of worship for King Jesus.

### Quick Tip

- Create a climate of encouragement, positivity, and praise in your classroom. Set a guideline that no negative or hurtful talk is allowed.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids have a parade for a king and sing praises to Jesus.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or dress-up crown (1 for every 10 children)
- green, brown, and purple crepe paper
- string
- tape
- river rocks (1 per child)
- permanent markers

#### Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids cheer for King Jesus.

#### Supplies

- green, brown, and purple streamers\*



### TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

#### Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

#### Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids see a special “scepter” do something amazing.

#### Supplies

- 2 white plastic disposable plates
- 5 cotton swabs
- clear liquid dish soap
- cup of water
- pepper
- paper towels
- large bowl

#### Easy Prep

- Dip 1 of the cotton swabs in the dish soap so one end is well-coated. (Don’t let the other cotton swabs touch the cotton swab with the soap.) Place all 5 cotton swabs on a plastic plate, but make sure to keep track of which one has soap on it.



### DEEPER BIBLE

Kids adorn a “king” and grapple with why Jesus isn’t like other kings.

#### Supplies

- Bibles

- red crepe paper
- yellow crepe paper
- purple crepe paper
- green crepe paper
- chairs



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game to crown a king.

### Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or a dress-up crown
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout to for kids to wear during the game.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game and imagine what it would be like to be king or queen.

### Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or dress-up crown (1 for every 10 children)\*
- upbeat music
- music player

### Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout to for kids to wear during the game.



## CRAFT

Kids make a donkey craft.

### Supplies

- paper bowls (1 per child)
- 3-ounce paper cups (1 per child)
- craft sticks (1 per child)
- “Donkey” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Jesus and Donkey” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))
- gray or brown markers or washable paint
- paintbrushes (optional)
- black, gray, or brown yarn
- crayons
- tape
- Glue Dots
- safety scissors

### Easy Prep

- Cut a small slit the width of the craft stick just below the lip of each cup. Then turn over the bowls and cut the same size slit near the curve at the bottom of the bowls.
- Cut several 3-inch lengths of yarn for each child.
- Cut the Jesus figure from the “Jesus and Donkey” handout.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids high-five three of their friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids whisper the “Happy Birthday” song.

Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn about a time a crowd of people cheered for Jesus and had a parade for him. They treated him like a king because Jesus is the King.**

### Share

Tell about a parade *you’ve* been to or seen on TV or in a movie.

In small groups, have kids tell about a parade *they’ve* been to or seen on TV or in movie.

After small groups have discussed, have them share with the whole group what they talked about.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **No one deserves a parade more than Jesus because Jesus is the King! Let’s see what the Bible says about that. One way God talks to us is through the Bible—his special book. God is here right now, ready to talk to you!**

Pray and praise Jesus because he is the King.



## Supplies

- Bible
- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or dress-up crown (1 for every 10 children)
- green, brown, and purple crepe paper
- string
- tape
- river rocks (1 per child)
- permanent markers

## Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout.

## Pass the Crown

Have the children sit in groups of 10. Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus is the King. Let's think about what kings are like.**

As you ask the following questions, have children pass around a crown in each group, and let them share their thoughts when they're holding the crown.

Ask: • **What kinds of things do you think kings wear?** Help children think of ideas, if needed. For example, kings wear purple or red clothes, they wear big robes, and they wear crowns and jewels.

• **What do you think a king's house is like?** Help children think of ideas, if needed. For example, kings live in castles, their houses are very big and beautiful, and they have people who do their cooking and cleaning for them.

• **What things would a good king do?** Help children think of ideas, if needed. For example, kings lead, make rules that help people, and make sure people's needs are taken care of.

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus isn't like other kings. He's our King, and he's a really good King. He's actually King of the whole world! We'll hear what some people did for him when he went to their town. They did some special things for Jesus to show that he's the King.**

Put the crown on your head, and then share one thing you might want people to do for you if you were a king.

Ask: • **If you were a king, what would you want people to do for you?** Have each child put the crown on his or her head while sharing. (If you're uncomfortable having kids share hats, then just have them hold the crown in their hands.)

## Act It Out

Say: **Let's hear now what people did for Jesus, the King.** Show the Bible. **The Bible tells us what happened: Jesus was walking with his friends.** Have the children pat their legs to make a walking sound. **They were going to a city called Jerusalem, which was a special place for God's people. Jesus told two of his friends to run ahead of the rest of the group and look for a donkey. He said, “Untie the donkey and bring it back to me.” He told his friends to tell anyone who asked that the donkey was for Jesus. So the two friends did what Jesus said.**

I have to admit, it seems a little strange that Jesus would tell his friends to just go take someone else's donkey. That might be like if a friend told you to go take someone's car and tell the person, “The Lord needs it!”

Ask: • **What do you think about Jesus' request of his friends?**

Say: **Jesus' friends did what he said. When they found the donkey, they untied it. But the donkey belonged to someone else. That person saw Jesus' friends and asked, “Why are you untying my donkey?” Jesus' friends told the person, “It's for Jesus!” Then they took it back to Jesus.** Have the children get in pairs, and have one child in each pair pretend to be a donkey by crawling on all fours. The other child will lead his or her donkey around the room. If time allows, let kids switch roles.

Say: **Jesus' friends put some of their clothes on the donkey's back to make a soft place for Jesus to ride. Then Jesus rode the donkey into the city called Jerusalem. Remember, the people did some special things for Jesus to show that Jesus is the King. They had a parade for Jesus!**

### **Have a Parade**

Say: **Let's have a parade right now. The Bible says that the crowds of people put their clothes and big leafy branches on the road to make a nice path for Jesus to walk on. Let's make a path for Jesus.** Have kids tear pieces of green, brown, and purple crepe paper and spread them on the floor to make a path all the way across the room.

Say: **Now we have a nice path for Jesus. The Bible says the people crowded around Jesus, too. Let's line up on the sides of the path.** Lead the children to line up along the sides of the path they made.

Say: **People cheered for Jesus! They said, "Hosanna!" That was a way to cheer for someone really special. And they waved the big leafy branches. It was like a parade where Jesus was the star because Jesus is the King!** Give each child a piece of green crepe paper about 5 inches long, and let the children wave the streamers around. Lead them in alternating shouting "Jesus is the King!" and "Hosanna!" as they wave their streamers. Let each child take a turn pretending to be the donkey that carried Jesus to Jerusalem. The "donkey" will crawl down the path while the other children wave their streamers and shout "Jesus is the King!" and "Hosanna!"

Say: **There were a few people who didn't think Jesus should be called the King. Earlier, we talked about things kings wear, where kings live, and what kings do. Jesus is the King of the whole world, but Jesus didn't live in a fancy house. And he didn't wear fancy clothes. He looked just like everyone else. That's why some people couldn't tell that Jesus is the King. But Jesus let them know that he is the King of the world. And when people learned that he really is the King of all, they couldn't help but cheer for him.**

### **Cheer Praises to Jesus**

Say: **Let's do a cheer now to let everyone know that Jesus is the King.** With children still standing along the sides of the path, lead them in cheering and doing the motions to this cheer.

**Hosanna, Jesus!** *(wave green streamers)*

**King Jesus!** *(point up)*

**We know this one thing!** *(show one finger)*

**You are the great King!** *(put hands on hips and nod)*

**Hosanna, Jesus!** *(wave green streamers)*

**King Jesus!** *(point up)*

**You are the best!** *(push hands up toward ceiling)*

**Better than the rest!** *(put hands on hips and nod)*

Repeat the cheer several times so the children can learn it.

Say: **Jesus is such an amazing King! Let's tell others about King Jesus this week so they can be friends with him, too.**



Cheer for the King

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**Supplies**

- green, brown, and purple streamers\*

**Cheer for Jesus the King**

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus is the King. He's the King of all people and the King of all times! Let's cheer for Jesus, our great King!** Give each child a streamer, and then lead kids in reviewing this cheer:

**Hosanna, Jesus!** (*wave green streamers*)

**King Jesus!** (*point up*)

**We know this one thing!** (*show one finger*)

**You are the great King!** (*put hands on hips and nod*)

**Hosanna, Jesus!** (*wave green streamers*)

**King Jesus!** (*point up*)

**You are the best!** (*push hands up toward ceiling*)

**Better than the rest!** (*put hands on hips and nod*)

**Pray**

Say: **Jesus really is the best King! He gives us everything we need. Let's thank Jesus for some of the things he's given us.** Invite kids to take turns shouting thanks and praise to King Jesus for giving them the following things:

- food
- parents or other adults who care for them
- clothes
- a place to live
- church
- friends

Allow any children to add ideas if they want.

Say: **We can cheer for King Jesus this week. That way, our friends can know about our great King Jesus!** Thank all the children for coming to church, and ask them to come back in the future.



## TAKE-HOME

### Dig In @ Home

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[0 min]

#### Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

#### Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.





### Supplies

- 2 white plastic disposable plates
- 5 cotton swabs
- clear liquid dish soap
- cup of water
- pepper
- paper towels
- large bowl

### Easy Prep

- Dip 1 of the cotton swabs in the dish soap so one end is well-coated. (Don't let the other cotton swabs touch the cotton swab with the soap.) Place all 5 cotton swabs on a plastic plate, but make sure to keep track of which one has soap on it.

### Watch Pepper React to Soap

Gather children around you at a table.

Say: **Today we heard how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as their king. Let's think more about what that means as we do something fun.**

Pour the cup of water onto the empty plate. Sprinkle a large amount of pepper onto the surface of the water. (Keep paper towels close by for spills.)

Say: **When I say that Jesus is the King, that means Jesus is really powerful. I have an idea. Let's see if we have anyone powerful here today. I'll test several of you to see who has power to get this pepper to move without touching it with your hands.**

Show the cotton swabs on the plate, and hold up a dry one. Say: **Often a king has a special stick to hold. It's called a *scepter*. A king holds a scepter to show he's in charge and he has the power to tell people what to do. Jesus doesn't need a scepter—he doesn't need anything to make him powerful. But we're not powerful like Jesus is, so we'll need to use these tiny scepters to move the pepper.**

Choose one child to go first. Give that child a plain cotton swab off the plate. Have the child gently touch the surface of the water with the cotton swab, without stirring the water. Encourage the rest of the group to notice that nothing happens. Then have three other children also do the same thing with the plain cotton swabs, each time noticing no major changes.

Say: **I don't see anyone yet who has the power to control the pepper. I guess we should try one last time.** Choose one more child to dip the soap-covered cotton swab into the water. Kids will notice that the pepper quickly moves away from where the cotton swab touches the water.

Say: **Wow, our friend [name of child] had power with that scepter.**

Pour the pepper-filled water off the plate into a bowl to dispose of later.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you think when the special scepter made the pepper move?**

Say: **Only one scepter could move the pepper. It was the only powerful one. Like that, Jesus is the only real powerful King. He's not like other kings, so he doesn't need anything to help him be powerful. Jesus is the King of the whole world, and he's the most powerful person ever. He's powerful enough to give you everything you need. And he's powerful enough to take care of you always.**



## Supplies

- Bibles
- red crepe paper
- yellow crepe paper
- purple crepe paper
- green crepe paper
- chairs

## Welcome a King

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is the King. Let's imagine what a royal parade for a king would look like today.**

Choose one child to represent the king.

Ask kids to think about how the king would be dressed. Have kids use crepe paper to "dress" the king. As kids add the following adornments, the king can announce his royal opinion about how they're doing.

Ask kids to think about a king's royal carriage. Have them put two chairs together, facing each other, and use crepe paper to decorate them like a carriage.

Tell kids that sometimes we roll out a red carpet for important people. Have kids use red crepe paper to make a red carpet for the king.

Have kids use crepe paper to make flags or banners to use as the king passes by on the red carpet.

Read Matthew 21:1-11 aloud slowly. As you read, have kids take away crepe paper to show what *wasn't* present. For example, they can dismantle the carriage when Jesus' disciples get the donkey. When all the crepe paper is cleaned up, they can throw down small pieces of green crepe paper to represent the palm leaves for Jesus.

Ask: • **How does Jesus' parade compare with the royal parade we threw?**

Say: **The people treated Jesus like a king, but *he* didn't really act like one. While people praised him, he came in a pretty humble way—on a baby donkey, probably in regular clothes. Why is that? If Jesus is the King, why isn't he more like kings today? Let's dig in to that.**

## Dig Deeper

Say: **To start, let's look at a prophecy about Jesus' parade. A prophecy is a message from God about what will happen in the future. Prophets who lived long before Jesus was born had some things to say about today's Bible story.**

Read Matthew 21:4-5 and Zechariah 9:9.

Ask: • **How does our Bible story show what Zechariah said would happen?**

Say: **There were also some kings back in the Old Testament—the first part of the Bible. Let's see how they were treated.**

Read 2 Kings 9:13. Then read Matthew 21:8.

Ask: • **How was Jesus treated like an Old Testament king?**

Say: **Even though Jesus wasn't treated like we might treat a king or celebrity today, back then it was normal for people to praise kings with palm leaves and cloaks.**

**But there's something else about Jesus being a king that's very different from today's kings.**

Read 1 Timothy 6:15.

Ask: • **How is this different from a king on earth?**

Say: **The people who gave Jesus a parade probably thought Jesus was going to be a good king on earth. The kings that were ruling weren't very fair to God's people. The people wanted a new king, and they thought Jesus was it! They thought he would be more like our crepe-paper king. In fact, there was another time people wanted to force Jesus to be their king. Let's check it out.**

Read John 6:15.

Say: **Jesus wasn't that kind of king. In fact, here's what happened less than a week after today's Bible story: Jesus died. That's because Jesus is the King of all kings. He's the king *forever*, not just for**

**a little bit on earth. Every king on earth has died or will die, and then they're not king anymore. But Jesus is the forever king in heaven! He died—but came back to life three days later!**

Ask: • **Why is Jesus' forever kingdom better than being a king on earth?**

Say: **As you listen to these verses, think about what they say about who Jesus was on earth and who he is in heaven.**

Read Philippians 2:6-11.

Ask: • **What do these verses show about who Jesus was on earth? about who he is in heaven?**

Say: **Jesus is the King, but he didn't come to earth to be a human king. He came to show us God's great love and to take the punishment for our sins so we can be part of his kingdom forever! Jesus is the King of heaven and earth! One day, everyone will bow before King Jesus!**



## Crown the King

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### Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or a dress-up crown
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout to for kids to wear during the game.

### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today’s lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Recommended for 6 or more kids.

### Move Around the Circle

Have children stand in a circle.

Say: **Today we heard how the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by throwing their clothes on the ground in front of him and shouting “Hosanna, King Jesus!” Let’s imagine what that must have been like as we play a game.**

Explain to kids that when the music starts, you’ll call out a fun action and kids will begin moving around the circle in that way (see the list below). As they do that, you’ll hold a crown over the children’s heads. When the music stops, the child “under” the crown will be crowned king. (Think of this as a little like the game London Bridge, except instead of walking under people’s arms, kids walk under the crown.) You’ll then place the crown on the child’s head. Then encourage the crowned child to lead the rest of the group in saying “Hosanna, King Jesus!” After kids say this, let the crowned child pick the next way children will move around the circle. Then remove the crown, start the music again, and let the last crowned child choose how the kids will move around the circle in a new way. Here are some examples of ways kids can move around the circle:

- hop
- march
- skip
- jump
- wiggle

If you prefer, instead of playing music, sing a song as a group while kids move around the circle. When the song or the verse comes to an end, place the crown on the child who ends up under the crown. For example, you can use this song to the tune of “London Bridge”:

**Jesus is the King of all,  
King of all, King of all.  
Jesus is the King of all!  
Shout Hosanna!**

Play until every child has a chance to be crowned king.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **How did you feel being crowned in our game?**

- **Jesus is the King over all people. What do you think makes him so special?**

Say: **Jesus is special in so many ways. He’s the best King we could ever have. He loves and cares for us, and he’s always with us. I’m so thankful that Jesus is the King.**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### King or Queen for the Day

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#### Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#)) or dress-up crown (1 for every 10 children)\*
- upbeat music
- music player

#### Easy Prep

- Before kids arrive, make the crown on the “Crown” handout to for kids to wear during the game.

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today’s lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

#### Play a Version of Hot Potato

Gather kids in a circle. Show kids the crown.

Say: **We’ve all heard stories or seen movies about kings and queens. Today we’re going to imagine what it might be like for one of us to be a king or queen for the day. If I were king or queen for the day, I would:**

- **Eat ice cream for every meal.**
- **Give everyone a pony to ride.**
- **Turn my house into a huge playground.**

Say: **Let’s play a game of Hot Potato with the crown as we think more about being queen or king for a day.**

Give one child the crown. Explain to kids that you’ll start and stop the music while they pass the crown around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the crown will place the crown on his or her head (or hold it high in the air). Then that child will share which of the things listed above they would do if they were king or queen for the day. Remind kids of the choices in the list. After the child shares, start the music again and have kids continue to play. Start and stop the music until every child has had a chance to share what he or she would do as king or queen.

#### Talk About It

Say: **In our game, you picked from some choices I gave you. But really, if you’re king, you get to choose whatever you want.** Share a couple of examples that aren’t on the list that you might want to do if you were king or queen for the day.

Ask: • **If you could choose anything, what would you want to do if you were king or queen for a day?**

Say: **Jesus really is King. He’s King of the world, so he can choose to do whatever he wants every single day. Jesus is a good King, so he always makes the best choices! As King, Jesus chooses to love us and care for us every day. I’m so thankful Jesus is the King! Knowing that Jesus is such a good King, we can choose to please him!**



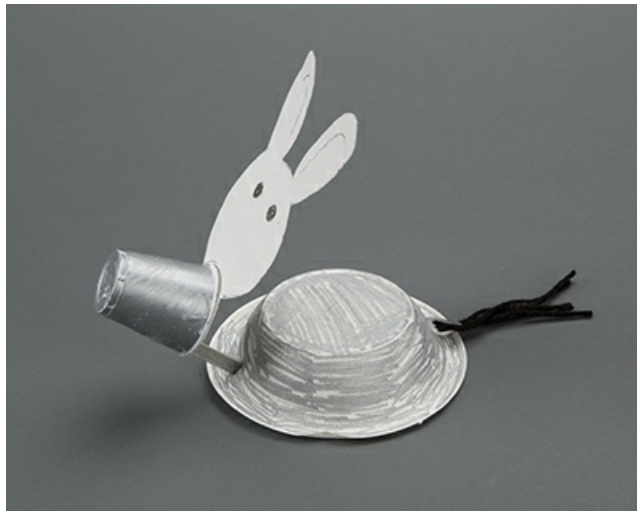
## Supplies

- paper bowls (1 per child)
- 3-ounce paper cups (1 per child)
- craft sticks (1 per child)
- “Donkey” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Jesus and Donkey” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))
- gray or brown markers or washable paint
- paintbrushes (optional)
- black, gray, or brown yarn
- crayons
- tape
- Glue Dots
- safety scissors

## Easy Prep

- Cut a small slit the width of the craft stick just below the lip of each cup. Then turn over the bowls and cut the same size slit near the curve at the bottom of the bowls.
- Cut several 3-inch lengths of yarn for each child.
- Cut the Jesus figure from the “Jesus and Donkey” handout.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.





**Tip**

- If using washable paint, plan to do this craft in two parts during your Sunday school lesson. Have kids paint their bowls, cups, and craft sticks at the beginning of your time together, allow them to dry, and then return to the craft at the end of your time to finish putting it together.

**Make Donkeys**

Say: **When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he rode on a donkey instead of a fancy horse. People lined the streets praising Jesus because Jesus is the King! Let's make a donkey craft to remember our Bible story.** Show kids the sample craft.

Give each child a bowl, cup, and craft stick. Have kids paint or color the craft stick and the outside of the bowl and cup brown or gray. Then give kids the "Donkey" handout and have them cut it out and color it with crayons.

Once kids have finished coloring all the elements of their donkeys, help them put their crafts together. Help kids slide the craft stick through the slits in the bowl and cup and tape the craft stick to the inside of each to hold it in place (the craft stick will be the donkey's neck). Then help kids tape the circle on the donkey's face to the opening of the cup (the cup will become the donkey's nose). Finally, let kids tape or glue several pieces of yarn to the other side of the bowl as the donkey's tail.

When kids have finished making their crafts, let kids take turns putting the Jesus figure on the back of their donkeys. They can push the donkeys across a table and shout, "Hosanna to the King!"