



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is King

SCRIPTURE: [Mark 11](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Years ago, I traveled to London as part of a mission trip with my youth group. One of the stops we prioritized was Buckingham Palace. It was as regal as you'd expect. I've never seen anything quite like it. We didn't get any glimpses of the royal family, but being that close was a once in a lifetime experience.

Imagine that you have the chance to be in the same room as a royal family member. What do you think you'd see, hear, smell, and experience? Would you have the courage to engage them in conversation? Would you want to touch them or shake their hand?

[Mark 11](#) tells us about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. After all the miracles He performed in His short time on earth, you'd think His triumphal entry would be on a grand scale. Yet very little about this King was what the Jews would have expected. He didn't charge in with a sword to overthrow the Romans. And He didn't enter the city with pomp and circumstance. Instead, He rode in on a colt as the crowd covered the road with branches and coats and shouted, "Hosanna!"

- How does Jesus' entry model humility for you as a leader?
- As a child of God, do you consider yourself royalty?
- What does Jesus' kingship look like in your life?

King Jesus died on the cross so that you and I could be part of His family forever. You're an heir to the throne!

—**Kathie Phillips**

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus was a descendent of King David, and the Jews knew the Messiah would come from David's line. Jesus entered Jerusalem as king. Israel's hopes were in Him to be the fulfillment of God's promise to bring a shoot from the stump of Jesse ([Isaiah 11:1](#)).

WHAT?

The people shouted, "Hosanna," which is a Hebrew exclamation meaning roughly "Save us now!" They spread cloaks and palm branches in front of Him as a sign of royal welcome for a deliverer: not even His animal's hooves would need to touch the dirt.

WHERE?

Jesus was near Jerusalem by the Mount of Olives, which is just east of the city. From this spot, the temple would be visible. The people joyfully welcomed a king to His kingdom, inviting Him to take His throne in the city of David.

WHEN?

Jesus knew that danger was drawing near. Although the common people didn't understand, the kingship of Jesus would be realized through His sacrifice on the cross. Their ultimate rescue would come from Jesus' willingness to give His own life.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised David that his descendant would rule as king forever ([2 Samuel 7:16](#)). God kept this promise by making Jesus King forever and ever, a reign without end ([Daniel 7:14](#)). In Christ's kingdom, the merciful—not the conquerors—are blessed ([Matthew 5:7](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Curiosity Activity: Erupting Praise

SUPPLIES: cup, vinegar (½ cup), baking soda (1 tbsp), tray, picture of a volcano

Before kids arrive, set out a cup with vinegar on a tray. Have baking soda nearby.

Gather kids around the tray you have prepared.

I'm going to tell you a riddle, which is when I give clues and you figure out what I am pretending to be. Let's start: I am in charge of everyone else. I sit on a throne. I wear a crown. Who am I? Allow kids respond.

Good job! A king! A king rules over his kingdom. Did you know that when we follow Jesus, we have a king? Who is our king? Allow kids a chance to answer. **Jesus is our King!**

Today, we're going to talk about a time when people welcomed Jesus with lots of praise. We're going to do an activity where we will create an eruption, which is like an explosion. When you see lots of bubbles erupting from this cup, you can erupt with praise for God! Let's practice. What are some things you could say or do to praise God? Give kids a chance to practice praising God by cheering and clapping.

Leader Tip: If kids aren't sure what an eruption is, you can compare it to when a volcano erupts! Consider bringing in a picture of a volcano to show your group.

After the kids have had a chance to practice praising God, regain their attention. Set the cup with vinegar in the middle of the tray. **Let's count to three.** Count to three with the kids and on the count of three, place a tablespoon of baking soda into the cup with vinegar. This should create a reaction that bubbles over outside the cup. Encourage kids to "erupt with praise" as the cup overflows. If there's a mess, clean it up. If you have enough space and supplies, you can let the kids take turns doing the experiment.

You did a great job praising Jesus, our King!



10:45 Service

Belief

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, our King, we praise You and celebrate You today. We welcome You into our hearts just as the people welcomed You into Jerusalem. Help us listen to what You have to say to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p 246

The Triumphal Entry

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of His mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins.

—from Titus 3:5

Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

What do you need to ask Jesus' forgiveness for?

How does Jesus save us?



Faith

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Craft: Palm Branch

SUPPLIES: paper with an outline of a palm branch (1 sheet per kid), green tissue paper squares, jumbo craft sticks (1 per kid, optional), glue sticks, tape.

Do you remember what the people waved as Jesus was coming into Jerusalem?

Allow kids to respond. **That's right—they waved palm branches! We're going to make our own palm branches!**

Give each child a paper with the outline of a palm branch, a glue stick and several green tissue squares. show them how to glue them to the palm branch. You can attach it to a jumbo sized craft stick with tape or glue to make it easier to wave. When your palm branch is complete, you can wave it just like the people waved palm branches to welcome Jesus as king!



10:45 Service

Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus as our King.

Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to earth as our King. Help us always worship Him as our King. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go out today remembering that Jesus is your King. Worship Him in everything you do and everywhere you go. Never forget God's love for you—the love He displayed by sending Jesus to earth.

Praise Walk

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, toy musical instruments (1 per kid)

Gather kids next to the path that you created earlier with painter's tape. **We're going to pretend to have our own celebration parade for Jesus. First, we'll walk down the path and clap our hands. I'll be the leader, and you can follow me.** Lead kids down the path as they clap their hands.

Now we're going to play instruments while we walk down the path. Hand out a musical instrument to each child. Guide them down the path again and allow them to play their instruments while they walk.

Repeat the activity as time allows. You could have kids march, crawl, or wave palm branches.

You did a great job celebrating Jesus as King! Let's do one more thing to celebrate Jesus as King. When I say, "Go," you can clap and cheer as loud as you can for Jesus. Ready, set, go! Guide kids in clapping and cheering for Jesus.

10:45 Service