

# THE WONDER OF EASTER

## Lesson 1: The Return of the King

READ LUKE 19:30, 35-40



### Big Idea:

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem as God's king coming home, but some people were angry because they thought Jesus was just an ordinary man.



### Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who see Jesus as God's king who must be praised.



## Preparation



## Where are we going?

The scene Luke paints for us features two extremes.

As Jesus arrived riding on a donkey, the crowds pressed in – shouting, dancing and singing. Since the last time Jesus was in Jerusalem, things had changed. People knew who he was and they couldn't contain their happiness. It was as if he had returned to Jerusalem to be crowned as king. And they were privileged to be witnessing his final victory when he would take his throne. After centuries of waiting, the king had finally returned to rule.

But at the edge, stood a small group of sour-faced men. Arms folded and struggling to make themselves heard over the carnival. They weren't singing or dancing. Their faces were twisted with jealousy, hatred and bitterness. They thought Jesus was an evil liar who was offending God by pretending to be his promised king.

Jesus affirmed that the crowds had it right. He is the king who comes in the name of God. But his coronation would not be as they expected.



## Win my heart first

The crowds expressed their joyful delight that God's promised king had arrived while the Pharisees looked on in anger. This passage shows us the two extreme reactions of the crowd. But imagine the contrast of

feelings Jesus must have had. He knew that going to Jerusalem meant he would be put to death (Luke 18:31-32). He didn't let that stop him. And so as we read this passage we can have a greater appreciation



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for our king. He is the one who set aside earthly glory so that we can share in his eternal glory. And that is why King Jesus must be praised. And what a joy that we get to praise him!

Old Testament Link: Jesus' decision to ride into the city on a young donkey was to keep the promise that God made in Zechariah 9:9-10 about his promised king. The crowds would have known this promise so when Jesus rode on a donkey it was to tell them that he was their humble, gentle king who God had promised.

**v37** Jesus had spent years doing miracles, teaching like no one else ever had and caring deeply for people, so as he arrived the crowds were certain that he really was God's king. His coming is worth shouting about and praising God for.

**v38** The crowd shout out the words of Psalm 138:26 which was a song to celebrate God's people arriving in Jerusalem, God's holy city. They were so sure that Jesus was God's promised king, that they wanted to sing the ancient promises to him.

**v39-40** The Pharisees, the Jewish religious elite, could not have been angrier. This was offensive! Their blood was boiling. And they were right. If Jesus wasn't the Messiah, then this was blasphemy. This would be Jesus encouraging an evil lie. Jesus' answer is brilliant. Even if he did silence the crowd, no one could stop the stones singing praise to him. Every object in the universe wants to praise the Lord; Jesus Christ.



## Question to ponder

*For your heart, before you prepare the lesson.*

What do you know about Jesus that makes you shout and dance and sing? Feel that celebration and happiness!



### Take 10 minutes to focus!

What praises do you want the children to be saying about Jesus? How will you help them to know those truths about him?



## Lesson Overview



Get  
Going



Teaching  
Time



Brain  
Break



Heart &  
Hands



### Get Going

Focus the children's attention on the theme of the session using a game or activity. Light, not manic, so that the children can be calm afterwards, with their minds ready.



### Teaching Time

Tell the Bible story in an engaging way. Place emphasis to point clearly to the **Big Idea**. If you have used the **Bible Story Idea** already, you may not need to cover the whole story again. If not, you can adapt it to use here with your group or tell the story in another way, perhaps using the suggestion below. However you tell the story, conclude with a simple explanation of the **Big Idea**.



### Brain Break

A chance to rest the children's minds before, **Heart and Hands**. Get children moving. Finish by linking the activity to the **Big Idea** so that this time serves the Bible story.



### Heart & Hands

#### Small group discussion:

The vital chance for the children to reflect on the story, so that its truths impact their hearts. They do the talking, not the leader. All the children need to be given the opportunity to respond. Ask each question to multiple children.



# Explorers

## 3–5s



### Get Going

Choose what works best for you.  
*Option 1 works well if you can make a noise without disturbing other groups.*

*Option 2 works well if you don't have a lot of space to move around in.*

- My King (How Cool is That! – Johnny Burns)

➡ **Link:** Jesus is God's promised king and he is amazing. That is why we praise him!

### Option 1

Sing a song of praise with the children. Make up some actions for the little ones to copy. If the song is quite fast and wordy then focus on one main sentence the children can say and do actions to. Let them have fun dancing to the rest of it. Talk about the truths in the song that tell us how amazing Jesus is.

#### Song suggestions:

- Long Live the King (Get Ready – Dr Rocktrin and the Groovemeisters, Emu Music)
- Super Saviour (Super Saviour – Colin Buchanan)
- Who's the King of the Jungle (10, 9, 8...God is Great – Colin Buchanan)

### Option 2

Who would you like to meet and why?

If the children could meet their favourite character, who would it be and why? Show pictures of book/TV/movie characters to give ideas. Ask for suggestions of their favourites. Why do they like them? Do they have special powers or are they kind/funny/adventurous? Talk about why they think these characters are so great and how exciting it would be to meet them. What would you say to them?

➡ **Link:** Jesus is God's promised king. In today's story, people shouted out about Jesus because they were so excited to see him.



### Take 10 minutes to focus!

What praises do you want the children to be saying about Jesus? How will you help them to know those truths about him?



### Teaching Time

Can you find something to be the donkey that a child would ride on? You could use a scooter, a chair on wheels or a large plastic box that slides along the floor or a leader on all fours. Have the children get some jumpers or coats to lay

on the floor in front of Jesus?

Have a child pretend to be Jesus on the donkey. All the other children can practise singing, dancing and shouting praise to Jesus. Give them words to shout, "Jesus is God's king!" and, "Thank God

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for our king.” They can use different ways to show how excited they are; dancing, shouting, singing their favourite worship song.

Then they can practise being the angry Pharisees. Can they make an angry face? Tell them to shout at Jesus, “Tell them to stop singing!” and “He’s not the king!”

Have the child act out Jesus’ response “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” The rest of the children can pretend to be shouting stones – the children will enjoy how silly it is for stones to be shouting.

Once you have gone through the story, make sure you tell the children a

point or two about what this story teaches us about Jesus. Keep in mind the **Big Idea** and the questions you thought through in **Take 10 minutes to focus**. Try to keep this short and simple. A way to help the children remember the main teaching point is to teach it to them as a memory sentence. Come up with a short sentence that sums up the main teaching point and get the children to repeat it back to you a few times.

#### Try something different:

Play the children a sketch about speaking stones from the Faith in Kids podcast. This can be found in Faith in KIDS #1 The Return of the King (14 January 2019). Play from 11:16 (finishes at 14:26).



## Brain Break

### Play Time

Give each child a chance to pretend to be Jesus riding in on a donkey like you did in Teaching Time. As each child has their turn, the other children cheer and shout.

Can they remember what they shouted to Jesus? Can they remember how they felt? Can they dance as they shout? You could play a worship song for them to sing.



## Heart & Hands

### Craft Time

**Decorate a Singing Stone.** The children can paint, decorate or draw on a small stone as if it’s singing praise to Jesus. Ask them what it would be shouting out to Jesus. What would they like to shout out to Jesus? This is your opportunity to make things personal. Use this craft time to reinforce the **Big Idea** of the lesson to get them ready for **Think Time**.

### Think Time

Use the illustrations to help the

children remember the story. Help them to see the different responses of people to Jesus when he arrived in Jerusalem.

**1 Big Question:** Why did the crowds shout praise at Jesus? *Because he is God’s amazing king!*

**A follow up question:** What would you like to shout to Jesus?

### Pray

Dear Father, thank you for our amazing king, Jesus. Amen.