

# Ride On, Ride On. - Paw-prints

LJ17

**Bible Verses:** Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19.

**This session covers Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As well as learning the story, the children will be encouraged to think about what it really means to welcome Jesus.**

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## Leader's notes

Jerusalem was buzzing: there were rumours... Rumours of the long awaited Messiah on his way – now. He was going to be a king who would ride into the city in triumph and crush the Roman oppressors under his feet. All of Israel would be vindicated and the Romans would leave with their tails between their legs.

Would he come with an army? Would the Jews as one rise up to join him in this long awaited redemption of their nation? All of Jerusalem held it's breath at the coming of the King...

But no one expected this! A king on a donkey? That was the symbol of peace – not the war everyone was expecting. A king surrounded by a motley crew of nobody special? This couldn't be right... surely?

The Jewish people knew the scriptures well and they thought they knew what they were looking for in the coming Messiah. Jesus just didn't seem to tick any of their boxes. The common people seemed excited at first – rolling out the red carpet and putting on a huge show, but the religious leaders remained unconvinced.

And, by the end of the week, the crowds who had celebrated in the streets, crying out their hosannas to the King now bayed for his blood in the murderous shout, 'Crucify!'

All that is still to come, though. In this session, we look at the rapturous welcome of the crowds as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. We see the beginnings of conspiracy in the words and actions of the religious leaders but, at this point, they are mostly going unheard in the midst of the biggest party Jerusalem had seen in a long time.

May you and your group really welcome Jesus as you explore this episode of His life.

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## Growing Words

Warming Up

10 mins

 Game

All the children sit round in a circle. The first child in the circle has to say a word beginning with A, the second a word beginning with B, the third a word beginning with C and so on. If a child can't think of a word the next person goes back to A and it starts again. (You may like to say that a child who can't think of a word is out, but it is fine if you prefer everyone to stay in this game.)

To make the game harder you could specify the number of letters there should be in the word, so during the first round words have to be 3 letters long – And, Bee, Cat, Dog, Egg, Fog and so on.

In the next round words have to be 4 letters, then 5.

If you are playing with an older group you could start with words of 6 or 7 letters!

**The Point:** Just for fun

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### ***Equipment***

None.

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## **Travel On**

Warming Up

15 mins

Activity

Gather the children round the lining paper and ask them to cut out pictures of people travelling in some way from the newspapers, magazines and catalogues. Make a collage of all the different ways of travelling they can find.

At the end, make a point of looking to see if there's anyone travelling by donkey.

**The Point:** Just for fun and link to the story to come.

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### ***Equipment***

Newspapers, magazines, catalogues, lining paper, scissors, glue sticks.

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## **A Donkey For a King**

Teaching Time

20 mins

 Discussion

Ask the children to imagine that a king is coming to town. You are going to draw all the things that the king will need – everyone can take a turn at drawing things that they suggest.

What might the king wear?

How will he travel? (Aeroplane, helicopter, limo?)

Who might come with him? (Think about security personnel)

Where will he stay?

What will the crowds do when he arrives?

Who else will be interested in his arrival? (Think about journalists, photographers, etc.)

You should have built up quite a detailed picture by the end. Say that Jesus was a king and in today's story He arrives in an important city – Jerusalem.

Read the story, 'A Donkey for the King' beginning on page 422 of The Lion First Bible. Stop after page 423.

Take a second big sheet of paper and draw a new scene with Jesus as the king – again everyone can have a go at drawing. Ask the same questions as above but draw the answers that you heard in the story.

Put the two pictures side by side and ask the children to spot the differences.

Now finish reading the story. At the end, ask the children if they think things are going to turn out well for Jesus. Is this anyway to treat a king? Tell the children that you'll look at the next part of the story in weeks to come.

**The Point:** To tell the story and contrast it with what we might see today.

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## **Equipment**

The Lion First Bible (Lion), flip chart paper and marker pens (lots of colours).

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*Any other version of the story could be used instead!*

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## **Palm Branches**

Take Away

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

**This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:**



This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

Before the session, cut the crepe paper into A4 sized sheets. Allow 3 or 4 of these for each child. If you like, you could use several different shades of green.

Ask the children to take 3 or 4 sheets of the crepe paper (in different shades if you have them) and place them in a pile. Now, starting with a short edge, they should roll them up into a tube. Use a small piece of tape to secure the tube.

Now show them how to wind the brown electrical tape round and round the tube from one end until about halfway up. Cut the tape off at the appropriate point.

Take a pair of scissors and make several slits in the green part of the tube, starting from the top and cutting down the length to where the tape starts. If you make 4 or 5 slits, the crepe paper will dangle down in strips like a palm tree.

You might like to use your palm branches in one of the response activities.

**The Point:** To give a take home reminder of the story.

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## ***Equipment***

Green crepe paper, brown electrical (insulating) tape, scissors.

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## **Shout!**

Response

5 mins

 Memory Verse

***“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” John 12:13***

Say the verse through a few times together then line the children up in one line. When you point at them, they have to shout out the next word of the verse as loudly as they can. Each time the verse finishes, everyone should clap and cheer as loudly as possible – like the crowds on Palm Sunday.

After a few times through, take the big written version away so that they are doing it from memory.

**The Point:** To learn scripture.

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## ***Equipment***

Memory verse written out large on a big piece of paper.

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