

THE BIG GOD STORY

TRU Wonder Preschool & Kindergarten

Lesson 3.6: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:12-19

Ponder Point: Jesus is King

Props: Bible, palm branches, story pictures (email gmudra@college-church.org by March 25 for color copies)

I can't wait to learn more about The Big God Story. Before we go any further, let's pray and ask God to help us understand what he wants to teach us today.

Friends, where do we find The Big God Story? Children respond. **That's right, we find it in the Bible. And we know the Bible is true!** Open Bible to Matthew.

We're all going to need palm branches for The Big God Story today. Pass out paper palm branches ask kids not to wave them until given instructions. **As you listen to The Big God Story, you'll get to wave your palm branches every time you hear the word *King!* Then when I do this** (create a signal cuing kids to stop), **you'll stop waving your branches and hold them in your lap. Let's practice ... ready? "Jesus is *King!*"** Children wave branches. Signal stop. **Great job!**

God made a promise long ago, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, that he would send a Savior. What happens when God makes a promise? Encourage responses. **He keeps it. That's right! We know that God always keeps his promises, and we can trust him! Do you remember who the promised Savior is?** Children answer. **That's right ... the promised Savior is Jesus! God made a promise that Jesus would become Savior and *King!*** Encourage children to wave palm branches. Signal stop.

When Jesus was all grown up, he was getting ready to finish all the plans God had for him here on earth. He had been teaching and healing, and now he and his disciples were going into the special city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival, which was a very important celebration that happened once a year. The people of Israel would gather together to feast and to celebrate God's care and protection of his people when they left Egypt long ago.

As Jesus and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem, Jesus did something that some people might have thought was strange. Take out Bible and open to Matthew 21:2–3. **He told two of his disciples, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."**

Let's think about this for a minute ... Jesus told his disciples to go and find a donkey and colt tied up. What's a colt? Invite responses. **A colt is a young donkey. In fact, a colt is not more than four years old. Can you show me four fingers?** Interact with kids counting and holding up four fingers. **Jesus told his disciples to untie the donkey and the colt and bring them to him. And that's exactly what the disciples did!**

The disciples led the donkey and the colt to Jesus. Because they loved Jesus, they laid some of their clothes on the animal's back before Jesus got up on the colt. Do you think this was the way a king (children wave palm branches) **would travel? I picture a king** (children wave palm branches) **riding into town on a shiny chariot with big beautiful horses and armies of soldiers.** Show chariot picture.

As Jesus began riding into town, people recognized him and began to make a parade for him. Show Jesus on a donkey picture. They were praising and cheering because they had heard of all the wonderful things he had done. The people took palm branches from the trees and waved them, shouting, "Hosanna, hosanna!" which means "Save us now!" They wanted Jesus to be their king. Children wave palm branches. They wanted Jesus to save them from the rough people who were ruling over them and their country. The Jewish people wanted Jesus to be their leader and do everything *they* wanted. But Jesus knew the things they really needed. Jesus knew the people needed a Savior—he knows that *we* need a Savior. This was all part of God's plan for his Son—to save us from our sin.

That day when Jesus rode into town, even the children were praising Jesus and following him. You know what? We can praise Jesus too. We can praise him because he is the one true God! We can praise him because he is the promised Savior God said he would send! We can praise him not just today, but every day, because he is God, and he is worthy of our praise. Jesus is *King*! Lead kids in singing Jumping Up and Down as they wave their palm branches.

I WONDER QUESTIONS

I wonder...what would I have shouted to Jesus to praise him as he rode by?

I wonder...why does Jesus want to be my King?

I wonder...how can I worship Jesus as my King?