

Jesus the King

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;
 Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

Walk slowly to the sacred story shelf and pick up the tray with the Jesus the King materials. Carry it carefully with both hands to the circle and place it beside you. Sit quietly while you feel the story forming in you. Then roll out the purple underlay as you say:

This is the season of Lent . . . the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Easter . . . the time we are all on the way to Jerusalem. But who will show us the way? Jesus shows us the way.

Roll out the beige road, smooth it, and place Jerusalem on its square at the end to your left as you say:

Once every year the people of God go up to Jerusalem, to celebrate the feast of the Passover, to remember how God led them through the water to freedom.

This year as Jesus traveled to Jerusalem . . .

Present Jesus on the donkey and move him along the road.

. . . people hoped he would be their king. When they heard Jesus was near Jerusalem, they ran to him and shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" They put their cloaks and palm branches on the road to prepare a way for Jesus and shouted:

Place a "purple cloak" on the road, using a motion like spreading a tablecloth, and say:

"Hosanna in the highest!"

Place palms on the cloak and say:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Continue doing this in rhythm. The road will be made through the gate of Jerusalem and will be built with four "purple cloaks" spread out on "Hosanna in the highest!" The palms will be placed on "Blessed is he" (These words are part of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving)

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Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

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Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

You can prepare the way for Jesus the King. When it is your turn you may come and choose a cloak and palms to put on the road too.

The children may choose a "cloak" from a variety of colors and textures. They say spontaneously, "Hosanna," etc.] After they have built the road, place your own "cloak" and palms. Then move Jesus over them and through the gate to Jerusalem, while all say:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Responding to God's Word: Wondering Together

I wonder how Jesus felt when the crowd wanted him to be their king? . . .

I wonder who the people were who shouted, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord?" . . .

I wonder why Jesus the King rode on a donkey instead of a horse? . . .

I wonder what kind of king Jesus would be? . . .

I wonder what it would be like to live in Jesus' kingdom? . . .

Return to the weekly worship center order and continue. The scripture reading is John 12:12-13.

MATERIALS

1. Tray with materials for Lent
2. *Wooden figure of Jesus on a donkey
3. Four purple "cloaks," 5 by 8 inches, to spread on the road
4. One "cloak" for each child and yourself, made from different kinds and colors of cloth, each 3 by 4 inches
5. Silk palm leaves, enough for each child and yourself to have two