

For the teacher: Please read through the following before the lesson

Lesson title: The triumphal entry

Reference: Luke 19:28-40

Point: Jesus is the promised king, but not all people praise him as they should

Welcome the children and chat with them about their week. Ask about the previous lesson and memory verse. Catch up with them for about 3-5 minutes.

Ice breaker:

Lesson

Introduction

Below is a suggestion of how the lesson could be introduced... open with the following story/ discussion...

Have you ever been in a situation where people get the same information but come to a different conclusion about it, or interpret it differently? What was it? *(Share an example of such a situation in case the children don't understand.)*

Or

hold up a picture of something that could easily be interpreted in more than one way by the people looking at it. Ask the children what it is. You should be able to get more than one answer, then tell them the right answer.

Link to the lesson as follows...

In today's bible lesson, different people had access to the same information/knowledge but came to different conclusions or understood it differently. Their conclusions or understanding affected the way they responded to the knowledge/ information they had. Let's find out more about what was going on...

Read: Luke 19:28-40

This story can be divided into three parts:

- Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem – Luke 19:28-34
- Prophecy fulfilled and the appropriate response to King Jesus- Luke 19:35-38
- The wrong response of the religious leaders – Luke 19:39-40

For older children; *If you have enough time, have the children read the passage. Otherwise, you could have them read key parts of the passage.*

After reading, re tell the story, taking note of what happened and what the verses tell us about who Jesus is.

For younger children: *Tell the children where the reading is coming from. Make sure you have a Bible with you, and open it so that the children know that the story is from the Bible. Tell the story instead of reading it directly from the Bible, paying attention to what happened and what the verses tell us about who Jesus is.*

The passage/story

Go through the passage/story as follows.....

While Jesus was on earth, he taught people about the kingdom of God, preached, healed people and performed miracles to point people to the kingdom of God. In addition to teaching, Jesus had an important task he had come to do on earth. What we are reading today marks the beginning of his last week on earth.

Jesus had just finished teaching about the parable of the ten talents, when he made his way to Jerusalem. On the way, he sent two of his disciples to fetch him a colt (the young of a donkey). He knew exactly where the colt would be and what the owner would say; so he gave his disciples instructions about it.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks (coats) on it and put Jesus on it. As Jesus went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When Jesus came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: They said,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Understanding the lesson (Meaning and Application)

Explain the following...

When Jesus was entering Jerusalem, he gave his disciples instructions about a colt. He knew exactly where it was and what the owners would ask.

When the colt was brought, Jesus' disciples praised him as king. They knew that God had promised to send his special king to Jerusalem on a colt

(Zechariah 9:9). They also knew from the miracles Jesus was performing and the things he was saying that he really was the king. When they saw Jesus on the colt, they knew he was the one they had been waiting for and they started praising him.

The crowd treated Jesus like a king by throwing their cloaks on the ground in front of him, but the Pharisees did not think Jesus was the king. They thought he was only a teacher. They did not praise him and did not want the crowd to praise him either.

Even though the crowd and the Pharisees had access to the same information about Jesus (Old Testament prophecies and what Jesus said and did among them), they came to very different conclusions about him. Who they believed Jesus to be affected the way they responded to him and how they expected others to respond to him.

What do you believe about Jesus? How do you respond to him?

We believe that Jesus is really God's special king and that is why we praise him. But not everyone believes this, and so not everyone praises Jesus the way they should.

Think: *Do you believe that Jesus is God's promised king? Why do you believe it? Why don't some people believe it?*

Discussion questions:

1. Who did the crowd think Jesus was? (the king – Luke 19:38)
2. What did the crowd do? (Threw cloaks in his path, rejoiced, praised God – Luke 19:36-37)
3. Who disagreed with the crowd? (The Pharisees – Luke 19:39)
4. How can we praise Jesus in our daily lives?
5. What can we do about people who do not praise Jesus as they should?

Response/ prayer time

Tell the children to think about one thing that they can praise Jesus for. Let them go ahead and talk to him about it.

For younger children: *You could say a prayer to that effect and have them repeat after you.*

Memory verse: Luke 24:7

The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.

Reflection for teachers as you prepare

- What is it about Jesus that convinces you that he is worthy of praise?
- Presented with the same evidence, why do some people not believe that Jesus is the king?
- Praise Jesus for who he is and pray for those who do not yet see the truth about him.