

Lesson 33 Jesus Is Our King!

Choose from the options listed below to follow Adventure Trails that lead to Jesus:

Discovery Trails

- TEACHER FEATURE** (5 min.)
What's a Good King?
- BIBLE STORY** (10 min.)
The Best King of All (Elementary)
Jesus Is King! (Preschool)
- NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS** (5 min.)
The Real Kind of King
- BIBLE MEMORY** (5 min.)
Pass the Crown

Worship Trails

- SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS** (10 min.)
- SHARE AND PRAYER** (5 min.)
Praise Crowns

Wildlife Trails

- SNACK SHACK** (5 min.)
Kingly Treats
- CAMPSITE CAPERS** (15 min.)
The King's Rules (Elementary)
Group Musical Chairs (Preschool)
- COZY CAVE CRAFTS** (15 min.)
Jesus Is King Poster (Elementary)
Palm Branches (Preschool)

Happy Trails

- CLOSING ACTIVITIES** (5 min.)
- OVERTIME ACTIVITIES** (as needed)

kingdom (the children) to obey. For example: All kids wearing blue should shine your shoes; the boys should give you all their allowance money; the girls should keep telling you what a wonderful king (or queen) you are; all the elementary-age kids should bring you chocolate; all the preschoolers should clap for you; and so on. Make sure they are rules that the children could do if they wanted to but that they wouldn't really want to. Play this game for a couple of minutes and be sure to continually congratulate yourself on being such a good king (or queen).

I thought I was a wonderful king (or queen), **don't you agree?** Give the kids an opportunity to respond. Some might hesitate to say something that might hurt your feelings, and others may have no idea how a king or queen is supposed to act. Some children, however, will admit that they didn't like your rules. Let the children know that it's okay to say that because you were only pretending. **You seem to think I wasn't a very good king** (or queen). **What do you think are some of the things a good king would do?** (A good king would care about the people, not make ridiculous laws; he would try to make life good for the people, protect them, not take all their money, etc.)

Back when Jesus lived on earth, the leaders who ruled over the people treated the Jewish people very badly. The king was not good. The Jewish people knew that God had promised to send a special kind of king, called the Messiah, who would save them. Most Jewish people thought the Messiah would be a king who would fight for them and get rid of the bad leaders. But as we'll learn in today's Bible story, the people found that Jesus was no ordinary king!

Divide the children into two groups—preschool and elementary—and lead them to their Bible Story areas. (If you choose to keep the groups together, use the Elementary Bible Story to teach the lesson.) Bring all the children back into a large group after the Bible story for the Noah's Park Puppets.

DISCOVERY TRAILS

TEACHER FEATURE

What's a Good King?

Supplies: Toy crown or construction paper crown, any royal-looking jewelry or clothes (fancy vest, silky scarf, etc.)

Pretend to be a king or queen by wearing a crown and appropriate clothes and accessories. Tell the children that you have decided to be their king (or queen). Make up some silly laws for the people in your

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY

The Best King of All (Matthew 21:1-11)

Supplies: Bible

Today's Bible story is told in a rhyme. First show the children where it is found in your Bible—in Matthew 21. Then read the rhyme story slowly and clearly so the kids can catch the rhymes. After reading the story through once, you may want to read it again, this time leaving out the last word in each stanza to see if the kids can supply it.

Jesus and His men came near Jerusalem.

Where He'd show something wonderful to them.

This was a special town known to all the Jews.

Two disciples looked for a donkey to use.

**The donkey would have a special part,
She'd carry a King, not some old, dirty cart.
But who was this King? some people did ask.
It was Jesus, who God had sent for the task.**

Jesus rode tall on the donkey that day.

"Hosanna! Hosanna!" the people did say.

**They praised and they worshiped and called
Him "King."**

**They thought He would save them, which was
no small thing.**

**They took off their coats where they could be
found.**

It was truly an honor to lay them on the ground.

**The children grabbed palm leaves, waved
them, and sang.**

It was to Jesus their loud praises rang.

**They had heard of a king, in the Scriptures of old,
Who would ride through their streets—but
where was His gold?**

Jesus didn't have a kingdom or army of men.

But the people still praised Him again and again.

He wouldn't save their city, but only their hearts.

This had been God's great plan, right from the start.

He came down to earth to show us His love.

And now He's our King up in heaven above.

PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is King! (Matthew 21:1-11)

Supplies: Bible, strips of cloth (optional), leaves or palm fronds (optional)

Our story today is found in the part of the Bible called Matthew. Show the children Matthew 21 in your Bible. Then divide the children into two groups, and have them form two lines, facing each other. Have each line take two giant steps backward and be seated. The area in between the two lines will be the road, and the children are lining it to watch the events of the Bible story. If you are using strips of cloth or leaves/palm fronds, set one behind each child and instruct the children not to touch them yet. Stand at one end of the "road" with two or three Park Patrol helpers.

These friends and I are special helpers of Jesus. One day Jesus led us to the big city of Jerusalem. Before we got there, Jesus told us to go ahead of Him to a certain house. He said we would find a special donkey there. He said we should borrow the donkey and bring it back to Him. Walk down the "road" with the Park Patrol, pretend to untie a donkey, and walk it back to where you were.

Jesus was going to ride the donkey. So we put our coats on it for Jesus to sit on. Then Jesus got on the donkey. Back then, those people were waiting for Someone very special—their King to come riding on a donkey. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that donkey, He was letting everyone know that He was their King. Did the people understand that Jesus was telling them He was King? They sure did! Let the children know to pick up the strips of cloth or leaves. If you are not using these items, tell the children to just act out what you say.

As Jesus rode into town—with us walking behind Him—the people jumped up! Have the

children jump up. **They laid their coats on the ground in front of Him.** Those with strips of cloth may lay them on the "road." **They waved palm branches in the air!** Those with leaves may wave them. **And everyone shouted, "Hosanna!"** Have the children shout, "Hosanna!" several times as you and the "disciples" walk down the rode, pretending to follow Jesus.

When you reach the end of the "road," turn around and shout: **Jesus comes in the name of the Lord!** Have the children echo you. **Jesus was telling all the people that He is the special King sent by God. Praise Jesus!**

What did Jesus do? (*He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.*) **What did it mean?** (*That He was a king.*) **What did the people do?** (*Put their coats on the road, waved branches, shouted praises.*) **What can we do to show that Jesus is our King?** (*Praise Him, honor and obey Him, etc.*)

NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS

The Real Kind of King

Let the Park Patrol helpers get everything ready for the puppet skit, found on page GP-71 of the *Puppet Skits Book*. Have the children stand and pretend they are the people in the Bible story who waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna." Lead the children to the puppet stage and have them sit quietly.

BIBLE MEMORY

Pass the Crown

Supplies: Toy or paper crown, Noah's Park CD and CD player

For the memory verse, you may want to use the verse from the Sunday school lesson or another appropriate verse. Say the verse a few times, and have the children repeat each phrase after you. Make sure the children understand the meaning of the verse.

Have the children stand in a circle. Give one child the crown. Play the unit song. As the music plays, the children pass the crown around the circle. Stop the music at random. Whoever is holding the crown gets to say the verse. If the children are not yet sure of the verse, have the child holding the crown plus the child

on either side of him or her say the verse together. Play for as long as time allows to give more children a chance to say the verse.

It is so wonderful to know that Jesus is our King. He loves us and we love Him. Jesus will never stop being our king. We can count on Jesus to be a King who will always love us and do what is good for us. Let's praise Him now!



SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS

Supplies: Noah's Park CD and CD player

Play the Unit Song, "Be a Friend," found on the Noah's Park CD and in the back of this *Leader's Guide* (page G-270). To help the children learn the words and think about their meaning, you might let the children listen to the song one time through, asking them to raise a hand when they hear certain key words or phrases. Then play it a second time for the children to sing along with. Also sing other familiar songs that help the children praise Jesus.

SHARE AND PRAYER

Praise Crowns

Supplies: Paper, crayons, crown pattern

Jesus is a wonderful King. What does it mean to have Jesus as our King? (He makes good rules for us to follow, He helps us, He deserves our praise, etc.)

What are some reasons we have to praise Jesus? Let the children brainstorm as many reasons as they can think of. (*He gives us people to love us, He gives us good rules, He's stronger than anyone, He loves us, He listens to us and answers our prayers, etc.*)

Give out paper and crayons, and ask the kids to each draw the outline of a crown. If some kids aren't sure how, draw one on the board for them to copy or provide a pattern for them to trace.

We're going to turn these into Praise Crowns—to remind us of reasons to praise Jesus, our

King. On your crown, write reasons that you have to praise Jesus. Allow a few minutes for the children to write. Non-readers may draw pictures instead. Have the Park Patrol circulate to help with spelling or writing as necessary.

When finished, have all the children bring their crowns and form a big circle. **Let's praise and thank Jesus now for being our wonderful King!** Have a time of prayer where children can call out their praises to Jesus. After the prayer, let the children put the Praise Crowns in a designated spot to take home with them. Be sure the children's names are on their crowns.

WILDLIFE TRAILS



At this time have the Park Patrol lead the preschoolers and elementary-age children to their separate activities. Be sure the Park Patrol helpers have their assignments before class so they know how to help and where supplies are found.

SNACK SHACK

Kingly Treats

The Park Patrol may need to wash and wipe dry the tables before setting up the snack. Refer to page GS-71 in the Noah's Park *Snacks and Games Book* for a fun suggestion for today's snack.

CAMPSITE CAPERS

The King's Rules (Elementary) *Group Musical Chairs (Preschool)*

For game time, the elementary-age children will be playing "The King's Rules." Directions are on page GS-71 of the *Snacks and Games Book*. The preschoolers will be playing "Group Musical Chairs." Directions are found on page GS-72 in the Noah's Park *Snacks and Games Book*.

COZY CAVE CRAFTS

Jesus Is King Poster (Elementary) *Palm Branches (Preschool)*

The preschoolers will be making "Palm Branches" and having a parade. Directions are on page GC-72 of the Noah's Park *Craft Book*. The elementary craft is a "Jesus Is King Poster," found on page GC-71 in the *Craft Book*. Their craft may get messy, so have damp paper towels on hand.

HAPPY TRAILS



CLOSING ACTIVITIES

A few minutes before class is over, have the children stop their activities and clean up the room. You could play the unit song while the children work.

Before closing, review the memory verse with the children. Let the kids wear a crown while reciting the memory verse. If you have time left while waiting for parents, let the children reenact the Bible story.

As the children leave, be sure they are taking their Praise Crowns from Prayer and Share time and their crafts.

OVERTIME ACTIVITIES

While waiting for parents to arrive to pick up their children, encourage the children to use your Noah's Park puppets to reenact the puppet skit put on earlier by the Park Patrol. You can have Park Patrol members read the skit aloud while the children make the puppets "talk." Try to let as many children as possible use the puppets.

If you would like to purchase additional puppets or other Noah's Park materials, call 1-800-323-7543 or visit our web site at www.cookministries.com.

