

Gospel Light



Preschool

Sunday School Curriculum



Brooklyn experiences the joy of knowing that Jesus is alive in Lesson 2.

Teacher Guide • Pre-K/Kindergarten • Spring A

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Distribute copies of *Preschool Music #1* CD to students.

For additional teaching resources and to see a sample preschool lesson in action, visit www.gospellightpreschool.com/experience.

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Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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People Praise Jesus

Spring • Lesson 1

Who?

Jesus, Jesus' friends, crowd

What?

People praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Luke 19:28-38)

When & Where?

At the beginning of Jesus' last week on Earth, in Jerusalem

Why?

To help children join with their church family in showing love and praise to Jesus



Teacher Challenge

Read Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16; Luke 19:28-38.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Look around at the beauty of the world God created. Look at the people around you, created in His image and for His pleasure. What an amazing, intelligent creator we have! And to think, He Himself entered our world as a human to save us from being separated from Him for all eternity. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people called out in praise, full of hope of salvation from government oppression. But God's plans were to save them from much more than that!

Goals for each child

- 1 Act out ways people praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem
- 2 Sing a song to praise Jesus
- 3 Express praise and love to Jesus in prayer

- What do you need for God to do in your life?
- In what ways do you express your praise to Jesus?

The work Jesus did then is still effective today. He is alive and always interceding for you with the Father. Praise Jesus for who He is. Pray a psalm of praise from the Bible (Psalm 145, for example) as a reminder of just how great our creator is.

Bible Verse

"Sing praises to the Lord."

Psalm 9:11

Prepare

Spring • Lesson 1

1 Play to Learn 20 to 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities



Art Center

Decorate paper plates with streamers to use in praising Jesus

Materials: Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, measuring stick, crepe-paper streamers, paper plates, scissors, tape



Game Center

Play Follow the Leader and talk about the ways people praised Jesus

Materials: Bible



Blocks Center

Make a xylophone and use it to praise Jesus

Materials: Bible, long wooden blocks, two towels, wooden spoons



Music Center

Use puppets to sing as a way to praise Jesus

Materials: Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, puppets

2 Listen to Learn 10 to 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse



Come Together

Materials: Everyday Life Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*



Prayer

Materials: None



Bible Verse

Materials: Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*



Song

Materials: *Preschool Music #1* CD and player



Puppet Time

Materials: Daffodil puppet, *Preschool Music #1* CD, CD player, CD case



Bible Story

Materials: Bible, Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*, tree branch, flannel board

3 Talk to Learn 15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows



TalkTime Activity Page

Materials: Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers



Bible Story Game

Materials: Small blanket



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time

2

Check off one
or more options for
each step of the lesson

Art Center

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, measuring stick, crepe-paper streamers, scissors, paper plates, tape.

Prepare

Cut crepe-paper streamers into 2-foot (.6-m) lengths, making at least five for each child.

Do

Give each child a paper plate. Child tapes crepe-paper streamers around edge of plate. Children wave decorated plates as you play “Sing Praises” (track 16 on CD).



Kindergarten Challenge

Instead of using paper plates, children tape green streamers to cardboard tubes to make palm branches.

Game Center

Collect

Bible.

Do

Play Follow the Leader with children. Lead children in walking around the room or up and down the hall as they wave pretend palm branches, shout “Hosanna” and march in a parade.

Teaching Tip

While children are walking, sing the words of the Bible verse to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”



Talk About

- **In our Bible story today, Jesus came to Jerusalem. The people there cut branches from trees and put the branches and their coats on the road. They wanted to show how important Jesus was and to praise Him.**
- **Hold your open Bible. The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” When we praise Jesus, we can sing and talk about how much we love Him.**
- **I love Jesus and I’m glad He loves me. I’m glad that we can praise and thank Jesus for His love. Pray briefly, Thank You, Jesus, for loving us. We love You. Amen.**

Kindergarten Challenge

Invite volunteers to take turns leading children to do other actions as they walk around the room.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, long wooden blocks, two towels, wooden spoons.

Do

Place two rolled-up towels on floor about 1 foot (.3 m) apart. Help children place wooden blocks on towels. Children take turns tapping on blocks with wooden spoons as if they are playing a xylophone. Encourage children to rearrange blocks as desired to change the tones they hear.

Teaching Tip

Blocks must be off the floor and not touching other items to vibrate freely. Remind children not to hold the blocks as they tap them.



Kindergarten Challenge

Provide a variety of recyclable materials for children to use as drums, shakers and other percussion instruments.

Music Center

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music* #1 CD and player, puppets.

Do

Children use puppets to sing along with song “Jesus Is Alive!” (track 8 on CD) and “Sing Praises” (track 16 on CD).

Teaching Tip

Provide a box or table for children to stand behind and use as a puppet stage. Encourage children to take turns using the puppets and sitting in the “audience” to watch the puppets.



Talk About

- We can sing and make music to praise Jesus. When we praise Jesus, we sing or tell how great He is and how much we love Him.
- Point to Psalm 9:11 in your open Bible. **The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” When we praise Jesus, we can thank Him. What is some-thing we can thank Jesus for? I’m glad Jesus loves me.**
- Which instrument do you like playing best? **What are some other instruments people use to praise Jesus?** (Piano. Guitar. Trumpet.)

Kindergarten Challenge

Print “Jesus Is Alive” and “Sing Praises” on large index cards. Help children choose and display cards to show which song their puppets are singing.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible; Everyday Life Poster 1, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*; *Preschool Music #1* CD and player; Daffodil puppet; CD case; tree branch; flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. Show Everyday Life Poster 1.

How many children do you see in this picture? Volunteer tells. Continue activity, asking children to count other items in the poster (toys, rhythm instruments, palm branches, etc.). Then invite children to tell what they think the people in the poster might be singing or saying. **These children look like they might be singing a happy song. Today we're talking about singing songs to praise and thank Jesus.**



Kindergarten Challenge

Instead of counting items in poster, children tell objects that begin with different letters of the alphabet.

Prayer

When we thank God for things, we are praising Him. Invite children to name items for which they are thankful. **Dear Jesus, we are glad to praise and thank You for Your love. We love You. We thank You for** (name items mentioned). **Amen.**

Bible Verse

Show Bible Verse Poster 1. Open Bible to Psalm 9:11. **The Bible says, "Sing praises to the Lord." "Lord" is another name for Jesus. I'm glad that Jesus loves you and me and helps us in so many ways. I want to praise Him for His love.** Lead children to say verse, using sign language for the words "praises" and "Lord." Repeat verse several times.



Kindergarten Challenge

Invite children to say verse and do sign language individually.

Song

This song tells us a great reason why we can be happy. Play "Jesus Is Alive!" (track 8 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you.

Puppet Time

Use Daffodil puppet, *Preschool Music #1* CD, CD player and CD case to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Show tree branch and Figures 1-4 as you tell the Bible story on the next page.

Listen to Learn

People Praise Jesus

Matthew 21:1-11,15-16; Luke 19:28-38

Spring • Lesson 1

Introduction

Show tree branch and let volunteers take turns touching it. **Listen to find out what some people did with tree branches.** (Hold Bible open to Matthew 21 as you tell the story.)

Friends Find a Donkey

It was a special time of year. Many people were walking to the Temple in the big city of Jerusalem. Jesus and His friends were going, too. On the way, Jesus said to two of His friends, “Go to the next town. You will find a donkey there. Untie it and bring it to Me. If any-one asks where you are taking the donkey, tell them I need it. They will let you have the donkey.”

Jesus’ friends went and untied the donkey. They led it to Jesus. Jesus’ friends spread a coat over the donkey’s back for Jesus to sit on. He sat down on the donkey. Off went the donkey—clip-clop clip-clop. Jesus’ friends walked along beside Him.



People Welcome Jesus

The road was full of people walking to Jerusalem! There were boys and girls, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Some of them watched as Jesus went by. Others walked along beside Him.

As people heard the news that Jesus was coming, more people came! So many

people wanted to see Jesus that it was almost like a parade! Children sang happy songs as they skipped along the road. Some people spread their coats on the road to show how important they

thought Jesus was. Other people cut branches from palm trees and laid the branches on the road. The road looked like a colorful carpet! People welcomed Jesus as a king.

Some people ran on ahead. They told others, “Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!” And even more people came. They laughed and sang. “Hosanna! Hosanna!” they shouted. “God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!” (“Hosanna” is a special word the people said to welcome Jesus.)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Soon the people inside the city heard the singing and shouting. They ran out to see Jesus, too. “Jesus is coming! JESUS is coming!” they shouted. People sang and waved branches in the air as Jesus rode the donkey through the big gate to the city. He rode up the hill to the Temple, where He got off the donkey and walked up the steps of the Temple. And there He heard the happy sound of children singing! *They were singing, “Hosanna! Hosanna!”*

It was a wonderful day in the big city of Jerusalem! People everywhere were praising Jesus. They sang and shouted! And Jesus was especially glad to hear the children praise Him!

Conclusion

The people in Jerusalem were glad to praise Jesus! We can praise Jesus, too. We can tell Him we love Him, and we can sing songs to thank Him for His love. The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” (Optional: Review story by using pages 409-414 in *God’s Story for Me Bible storybook*.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Use blocks to make a road through the middle of your Bible storytelling area. As you tell the story, guide children to move toy people and animals on the road to show story action.

TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Talk About

- The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” When we praise Jesus, we thank Him for the ways He helps us. We tell Him that we love Him.
- Point to the people along the road. **What are these people doing? Who are they waiting to see?**
- **When the people saw Jesus, what did they do to welcome Him?** (Put palm branches and coats on the road. Sang and shouted “Hosanna!”)
- **Who can you tell about Jesus? I’m glad to tell and sing about Jesus.**
- Pray, **We praise and thank You, Jesus, for Your love. Amen.**

Family FunTime Page Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Bible Story Game

Collect

Small blanket.

Do

Today in our Bible story, the people were glad to praise Jesus. Let’s play a game to remind us of the way Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Divide group:

half to be donkeys and half to be friends of Jesus. Each team lines up across the room from each other. Give blanket to first child in Friends team. Donkeys get down on their knees. At your signal, child with blanket walks across the room, places blanket on back of first child in Donkey team and leads him or her across the

room to Friends team. Repeat until all children have had a turn, switching roles if time permits.



Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to “Jesus Is Alive!” (track 8), “Come On In!” (track 1) and/or “Wave Good-Bye” (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1* CD.

Puppet Script

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Sing It!

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet.
Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Daffodil: *(Holds a CD case in her bill and then drops it to speak.)* Hi, Teacher!

Leader: Hello, Daffodil! Tell me, why were you carrying that music CD?

Daffodil: Cuz it has my special favorite songs on it, and I love to sing them!

Leader: *I didn't know that!*

Daffodil: *(Nods head.)* Oh, yes! I love to sing. I sing when I'm swimming, I sing when I'm ready to take a nap in the soft grass—I love to sing!

Leader: Do you sing when you're underwater?

Daffodil: *(Laughs.)* Yes! It sounds funny!

Leader: What are your favorite songs about?

Daffodil: Well, right now I like to sing songs about the springtime—about the new baby ducks and the tadpoles in the pond and the blossoms in the woods!

Leader: That reminds me of a time in the Bible when people sang a special song to Jesus. They sang a special song to show they welcomed Jesus!

Daffodil: Really? Can I hear your song to welcome Jesus?

Leader: *(Speaks to children.)* What do you think, kids? Can we sing a song to tell Jesus we are glad for Him and that we love Him?

Daffodil: *Please! I want to hear it!*

Leader: Okay, kids. Let's sing! *(Asks a helper to play "Sing Praises" [track 16 on CD]. All sing while DAFFODIL turns from side to side, listening carefully.)*

Daffodil: *(To children, when song is finished.)* You are good singers. And that is a good song!

Leader: Well, Daffodil, the Bible says that it's good to sing praises to the Lord.

Daffodil: I liked it! Especially the "la-la-la-la" part! *(Begins to sing "la-la-la-la" as on recording.)*

Leader: *(Interrupts.)* Oh, Daffodil! You can sing well, too!

Daffodil: You know, Teacher, I really like to sing! It shows how glad I am!

Leader: *We have another way to show we're glad for Jesus, too.*

Daffodil: *You mean there's MORE ways to show you're glad?*

Leader: Yes! We can TELL Him. We can pray to tell Jesus how we feel and to say we love Him. *(Prays a short prayer.)*

Daffodil: Oh, that's a VERY good way to show you're glad!



Play, Listen and Talk Together

What to Expect and Do

Young children do not think like adults do. In fact, preschool children's intuitive thinking differs from the more logical thought of school-age children.

This difference, not only in thinking, but in all areas of development, has profound implications for the way we teach young children. Their minds and bodies are still developing. Because they can walk and talk and do many things on their own, we may be tempted to think they are capable of more than is reasonable to expect, in both their thinking and in their behavior.

Young children learn by doing, not sitting. Play is their work. Have two or more Play activities ready and let children choose which activities to participate in. Use the Talk About conversation ideas in every lesson to link the Bible truths to the child's activity. When we connect Bible truths to things children are involved in doing, the words take on meaning and become connected with the actions. As you teach and interact with children, follow Jesus' example. When Jesus was around little children, He loved them; He didn't lecture them. Actions speak more than words ever could. Play with the children. Listen to them. Talk with them. You are the living example of God's love to each little child!



Guiding a Child Toward Jesus

When we have presented Jesus by both our actions and our words, a foundation is laid for a child to receive Christ as Savior. Every lesson may create an opportunity to talk with a young child who wants to know more about Jesus.

- The young child is easily attracted to Jesus. Jesus is a warm, sympathetic person who obviously likes children, and children readily like Him. These early perceptions prepare the foundation for the child to receive Christ as Savior and to desire to follow His example in godly living. While some children at this age level (especially from Christian homes) may indeed pray to become a member of God's family, accepting Jesus as their Savior, expect wide variation in children's readiness for this important step. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work within His own timetable.
- Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively alone than in a group. Ask questions that will help you determine what the child understands. Open-ended what-do-you-think questions give you a chance to hear what's really going on in the child's mind and heart.
- Talk simply. Phrases such as "born again" or "Jesus in my heart" are symbolic and far beyond a young child's understanding. Focus on how God makes people a part of His family: **God loves us, but we have done wrong things (sinned). God says sin must be punished. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. We can tell God that we have done wrong and tell Him we are sorry for our sin. We can ask Jesus to be our Savior. Then we become a part of God's family.**

God's Story *for Me*

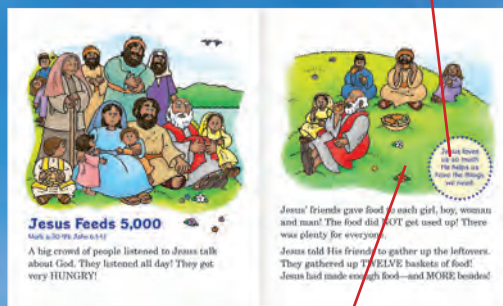


Every child needs a Bible!

A Bible that tells the essential stories of our faith in a simple, engaging way that kids will understand.

That's why we created *God's Story for Me*: the all-new children's Bible storybook that will help your little ones fall in love with the Bible! *God's Story for Me* is packed with 104 all-time favorite Bible stories. Each story has discussion starters to help you guide your children to a better understanding of God's Word. And as an interactive treat, children can personalize their Bible experience with the fun stickers found inside!

parent-child connection circle



colorful, engaging illustrations

interactive sticker pages



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104 Favorite Bible Stories for Children

God's Story *for Me*



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