

Family Worship Guide – Week 21

MEMORIZE

Matthew 21:9 – And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

READ

Read Matthew 21:1-22.

The arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem was an event that exceeds what we normally consider. The entire city was abuzz with the presence of the King. Consider what it would be like for your entire city to be animated with excitement over the coming of one man. Furthermore, he doesn't arrive the way we would imagine. Jesus is the Messiah, the One they have been waiting for. Yet he comes riding humbly on a donkey. In fact, some people are pretty angry that he has come. Why do you think some people didn't want him to arrive?

Just a week later, the same city that received him with celebration was crying out for him to be killed. What did Jesus represent that the city wanted to get rid of? The events that fill this last week are an incredible turn of events. Consider what eventually happens to Jesus as you continue to read how the people receive him.

How has your family received Jesus? Have you celebrated his coming? Jesus' first coming leads those who follow him to look to his second coming. Though he came on a donkey, the next time he comes he will come from the sky.

But the Bible said that his first coming would be like his second coming in one way: some will celebrate and others will be angry. What is the difference between those who will celebrate his second coming and those who will be angry?

Questions:

What does this passage teach us about God? What does this passage teach us about man?

Are there any commands that we need to obey in this passage? Are there any promises that we can hope in?

What sticks out to you in this passage? What is your favorite part? What is your least favorite part? What part of Jesus' words bring the most joy to you?

Bottom Line: Place your hope in the humble King of all the earth, arriving first on a donkey, yet one day on the clouds.

SING

Jesus came humbly to this world with a mission of gracious redemption. He alone is able to remove our sin and reconcile us to God through his death and resurrection. He alone is sufficient to satisfy the wrath of God. Our family worship song this week is “Jesus Thank You,” written by Pat Sczebel in 2003. As we sing about what Jesus did on the cross, think about the reality of what that means for those who have faith in him. Praise God for sending his Son to bring salvation to sinners! Let the gospel motivate you to live your life for Jesus, the lover of your soul. He is indeed worth your life's devotion.

Visit our website for a link to this song: http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin gather supplies to re-enact the story of Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. Make palm branches from green construction paper and use a broom or mop as a donkey.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-22 and read the story to your preschooler and re-enact the story together.
- Let your child repeat what the crowds were saying, “Hosanna!” Hosanna means “save us.”

- Now discuss the story. What is the crowd doing? Why is the crowd doing this? Yes, they are praising Jesus. They recognized Jesus as King. Jesus is worthy. He is the greatest of all; he is God's son. He is our Savior; he died for our sins. He loves us. Jesus is kind, loving, powerful, faithful and humble. We can put all our hope in him. Jesus always does what He says.
- Discuss ways you can praise Jesus and celebrate his coming. Ex.: by praying, singing, telling others.
- Close with prayer or a song of praise.

Children

- Read Matthew 21:1-22. This passage contains what we traditionally call the "triumphal entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem. We refer to this day as Palm Sunday, which is the Sunday before Easter. What do you know about Palm Sunday? (Jesus rides on a donkey, people say "hosanna", lay coats on donkey and the road, lay down palm branches on the road, the crowds praised him, etc.)
- This is a very important moment in Jesus' ministry because it was actually prophesied in Zech. 9:9. The prophet foretold that the King of the Jews would come to Zion (or Jerusalem), not like most kings with great pomp in beautiful chariots or on strong horses, but humble and on a simple donkey. This is because Jesus is not a typical King who is coming to set up an earthly Kingdom. He is coming to Jerusalem to die.
- What are the people shouting when Jesus enters the city? "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" What does "hosanna" mean? It means "to save". Jesus is the Son of David, the true Messiah, who is coming to save them!
- What is the reaction of the crowds as Jesus enters Jerusalem? Is everyone excited about him? Read vv. 12-17. What did Jesus do at the temple? (He overturned the tables, threw out the people selling animals for sacrifices and the money-changers, made the temple leaders angry.)
- So everyone in Jerusalem is not happy at all about Jesus' visit there. They like things the way they are, and they don't want Jesus to take away their power or wealth. They don't want people to believe that Jesus is the Messiah.
- Jesus and the Bible promise us that Jesus will return again one day. When he does, it will be very different. Jesus will return as the Victorious King (over death, sin, and Satan) and Righteous Judge. When Jesus returns, he will come to judge all men for their deeds (Matthew 25:31-46).
- How have you received the news of Jesus' first coming? Have you celebrated him as the King and realized his authority over your life? How do you feel about Jesus' second coming? Are you excited about his return or fearful that he will find that you are not ready?
- Pray with your family and thank God that he sent Jesus to die for our sins as a humble servant. Rejoice that Jesus will return one day as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to receive all the glory and majesty that are due him.

Students

- Read Matthew 21:1-8. Try to recap or describe this scene.
- Does anyone think it's a bit funny that Jesus was on a donkey? Why does this seem so odd? Discuss.
- Why do you think Jesus' choice of steed was important?
- Read Zechariah 9:9-11.
- Now read Revelation 19:11-13. Compare the two pictures of Jesus. How are they different? What changed?
- The Triumphal Entry was a celebration of the long awaited Messiah. Jesus was the promised Messiah and he was coming to Jerusalem to communicate his Kingship. The people were right to recognize him this way, but their understanding of who he was needed to be revamped.
- What kind of kingdom, king, and Messiah were the people expecting?
- We are called to answer this question as well. What kind of king do you worship? Do you worship a Savior that does what you want him to, when you want him to do it? Does your understanding of Jesus match up with the Bible?
- Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you truly see the Jesus of the Bible. Ask him to open your eyes to the areas where misunderstanding may abound.

