

Bible background

Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus welcomed children's praise.

Preparation required

Make one donkey-head glove puppet from your activity sheet before class. Fold in two and tape the side. You will need colouring materials and sellotape during the lesson.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Put your donkey puppet on your hand and let the 'donkey' tell the story of what happened to him that day. Begin with him in his stable and continue with the arrival of Peter and John. Stress what the children did and how pleased they were to see Jesus.
2. Teach the song 'It Is Jesus', so that your class can sing to Jesus as those children did long ago.
3. Tell how some men did not like to hear the children shouting or singing and wanted Jesus to stop them, but he did not stop them. Jesus was glad to hear the children sing to him and he still is.
4. Let the children make their own donkey puppet and take turns telling the story.

Alternative activities

1. Use Plasticine or play figures to make a crowd scene. Cut out some cloak and leaf shapes from paper, or make them from Plasticine, and lay them in the road.
2. Make some donkey hoof sound effects using coconut shells or round plastic containers.
3. Cut some large palm leaf shapes from green paper and let the children practise their cutting skills by snipping around the leaves with safety scissors to make a fringed edge.
4. Paint or make collage donkeys, either individually or as a group.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if Jesus can hear them sing now. Does he like them to sing to him?

Prayer

Ask what the children would have prayed at night if they had been with Jesus that day.

Verse

'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey.' Matthew 21:5.

Song

It is Jesus (Tune: Sing Hosanna)

Musical notation for the song 'It is Jesus' (Tune: Sing Hosanna). The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is accompanied by chords: D, D7, G, D, Em, A7, D, D7, G, D, A7, D, Chorus, D7, G, A7, D, G, D, D7, G, A7, D. The lyrics are: 'It is Jesus who rides on the donkey / It is Jesus, the mighty king. / It is Jesus who rides on the donkey / And for Jesus all the children sing. / Chorus: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna / Sing hosanna to the king of kings / Sing hosanna, sing hosanna / Sing hosanna to the king.'

It is Jesus who rides on the donkey
It is Jesus, the mighty king.
It is Jesus who rides on the donkey
And for Jesus all the children sing.

Chorus: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the king of kings
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the king.

Music and Chorus: Traditional.