

THE KING IS COMING ON A COLT!

by David Horst and Carol Duerksen

KEY VERSE:

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

FAITH STORY:

Luke 19:30-38

FAITH FOCUS:

Jesus is proceeding to Jerusalem in this, the final week before his death.

Jesus asks two of his disciples to go untie a colt in the city. The disciples find a colt and while they are untying it they are asked, "Why are you untying this colt?" The disciples reply, "It is for the Lord." The people in the city rejoice when they see Jesus and set their cloaks for the colt to tread upon. People shout praises to Jesus. The Pharisees ask Jesus to tell the people to stop, but Jesus replies that if they don't praise him, then the rocks will.

SESSION GOAL:

To help students understand what kind of king Jesus is: a humble servant who knows he is the Messiah.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this session, the students will:

- Compare Jesus as a leader with other great leaders
- Consider the qualities of Jesus as a leader that they admire
- Be invited to evaluate their relationship with Jesus as leader of their lives

MATERIALS NEEDED AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Bibles for each students
- 2 Chalkboard or dry erase board
- 3 A picture of a donkey
- 4 A picture of a Ferrari car
- 5 Red construction paper and markers
- 6 Scissors

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS: (5–7 minutes)

Invite students to think of a great national leader. What made that person a great leader? What did that leader accomplish?

CONNECT: (5–7 minutes)

Discuss: *What are the similarities and differences between the leaders you named and Jesus? Make a list on the chalkboard or dry erase board.*

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: (10–15 minutes)

Invite students to turn to Luke 19: 28-40 and read it together.

Discuss: *How would a great leader enter a city today? How do you think Jesus would arrive in a city today?*

Ask students to turn to Mathew 3: 13-15 and read it together. **Say:** *In this passage of scripture we see that John baptizes Jesus, even though he feels he isn't worthy. What do you think this means? What is the significance of this story of Jesus' baptism, along with what you read about his entry into Jerusalem?*

After students share their thoughts, say:

There are two things that can be pointed out here. One is that Jesus humbled himself, became a servant and allowed John to baptize him. Jesus is the Messiah, yet he allowed an imperfect human with sin in his life to baptize him. This shows us what kind of leader Jesus was—a humble servant who knew that he was the Messiah.

The second point is that John had his own ministry going—he was preparing the way for Jesus. He put his own ego aside in order to point others to Jesus. Are we willing to do that? Are we willing to say that "It's not about me, it's about Jesus"?

APPLY: (10–15 minutes)

Pass around the pictures of the donkey and the Ferrari. When all students have seen the pictures, ask them to say if they would rather follow a leader who rides on a donkey or in a Ferrari. Don't add any explanation—just ask students to choose. When each student has stated their preference, discuss their answers.

- Why did they choose what they did?
- What is appealing about a leader on a donkey? In a Ferrari? What does it say about the person?
- Does riding a donkey automatically mean one kind of person, and riding in a Ferrari automatically mean another kind of person? What does it mean about the person?
- Could a humble servant leader ride in a Ferrari? Could a proud arrogant king ride a donkey?

Say: *Jesus knew who he was, and what his mission was on earth. He was the Messiah—a fact so powerful that, as he says in our passage, if the people didn't declare it, the rocks would shout it out. The important fact in this story isn't so much what Jesus rode into Jerusalem but that he knew who he was. The people thought they knew—they thought he was an earthly king. But Jesus came to bring the Kingdom of God to the earth, not to be an earthly ruler. He came to rule in people's hearts and minds.*

Ask students to cut out a large heart from the red construction paper so each student has one. Hand out pens and ask students to contemplate the following question and write their response on the heart: IF you were going to follow Jesus as the king of your life, what is it about him that would be appealing? Why would you follow him as a leader? What do you know about him that you like?

Invite class members to share their responses, but give them the opportunity to pass if they don't wish to share.

RESPOND: (10 minutes)

Say: *You're holding in your hand a heart that says what's appealing to you about Jesus. I'd like for you to take some time alone to think about that and where you stand in your life with Jesus. Are you following him? Do you want to? Is he the leader of your life? Are you quiet about who he is and allowing the stones to cry out instead? Find a space alone—either outside or in the church building—to spend a few minutes alone and then we'll come back together.*

Teacher tip: *You'll need to find a way to bring the group back together—a certain amount of time if they have watches, ring a bell, walk around and tell them, etc.*

Close with a prayer when the class comes back together, asking God to be with the students in their choices and decisions about following him as the leader of their lives.

INSIGHTS FROM SCRIPTURE:

This is the beginning of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Jesus was well known and many people coming to Jerusalem for the Passover feast thought that he was an earthly king who would restore peace to the world and rule the world. The kings in the time of Jesus were extremely wealthy and they had much power and authority. A king would have entered the city in royal manner in a chariot, not on the common mode of transportation, a donkey.

When the people proclaimed that Jesus was a king, the Pharisees wanted them to shut up. There were several reasons for this: first, they considered it blasphemous because they didn't believe that Jesus was the king coming in the name of the Lord. Secondly, they were fearful because they thought that all of this celebration might cause a revolt and the Roman army would come down upon them. Jesus replied that if people don't praise and celebrate him, then the rocks will cry out. Jesus was establishing God's eternal Kingdom, and that was and is the greatest celebration!