



The King of Glory Comes

(based on Luke 19:28–40; 23:32–47)

Jesus and his friends were going to the great city of Jerusalem to celebrate a special holiday. When they were almost there, Jesus sent his friends into a nearby village to get a donkey for him to ride. When they returned, the disciples spread their coats over the donkey's back and Jesus got on it.

Soon Jesus was riding through the gate of the city. When the people saw Jesus coming on the donkey they began to line up on either side of the street. They shouted loudly:

“Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of God.”

Some people took off their coats and spread them on the road to show Jesus their love and respect. All the while, everyone was shouting:

“Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of God.”

Some religious leaders in the crowd were upset. They were afraid that there would be trouble with the Roman soldiers because the people were calling Jesus king.

“Teacher, make your followers stop shouting those things,” they scolded.

But Jesus replied, “If I told the people to be quiet, the stones of the city would cry out instead.”

Then Jesus turned and continued on his way. The disciples followed Jesus into the city. They were so happy and excited.

“Everyone will see that Jesus is our king,” they said to each other. “Now Jesus can take charge.”

The disciples did not understand what was going to happen. In just a few days, Jesus was arrested and sent to die on a cross. Soldiers took Jesus out of the city to a place called “Skull Hill.” There they nailed him to a cross between two criminals and waited for him to die. People came to make fun of Jesus.

“If you really are the king of Jews, why don't you save yourself?” they jeered.

Even so, Jesus prayed to God. “Please forgive them, Father, for they don't realize what they are doing.”

It was a terrible day for everyone who loved Jesus. They watched him die and it seemed as if the whole world had gone dark.

This wasn't the end of the story. It was just the beginning. Something wonderful was about to happen.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Some parts of the story are happy and some parts are sad. Reread the story, inviting your children to use their faces and bodies to reflect the emotions in the story.
- Watch a YouTube video of the song “Hosanna” from the contemporary performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*: “Hosanna’: John Legend & Norm Lewis - Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert” (goo.gl/b43izB). Gather scarves or ribbons and join in dancing with the song.



Responding to God's Grace

- Hosanna* is a shout or cry of praise. Use “hosanna” as the praise word of the week, shouting it whenever you experience joy, thanksgiving, gratitude, or love. Say it twice when you show someone else joy, thanksgiving, or love. Count how many times “hosanna” is said this week.
- Jesus said that the stones would shout praise if the people were silent. Make shouting stones for your home or yard. Find a smooth stone for each person in your family. Decorate the stones with markers or paints. When the stones are finished and dry, place the stones as a reminder to praise God for sending Jesus.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- In celebration and gratitude for Jesus’ life and death, sing a song of praise: “Jesus in the Morning.” Find the tune online.

Jesus, Jesus,
Jesus in the morning,
Jesus in the noontime.
Jesus, Jesus,
Jesus when the sun goes down.

Praise him, praise him,
praise him in the morning,
praise him in the noontime.
Praise him, praise him,
praise him when the sun goes down.

Additional stanzas: “Thank him . . .” or “Love him . . .”

- Pray this prayer this week.

Hosanna, God, for sending Jesus.
Hosanna, Jesus, for loving us.
Hosanna, Spirit, for new life. Hosanna.

Note: goo.gl web addresses are case sensitive.