

# JERUSALEM



For hundreds of years, the Jewish people had been waiting for a savior who would be a powerful king. But when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he did not ride in on a king's chariot. Instead, he came in on a humble donkey!

The **palm branches** people waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem were a sign of victory. The people of Jerusalem placed the branches on the road and treated Jesus as if he had already won!

## Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, some people were excited to worship him. Others did not know who he was. The people were expecting a messiah who would ride in on a great steed or in a chariot and radically overthrow the government. Instead, Jesus rode into the city on a humble donkey's back.

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of Jerusalem!

- > **Matthew 21:12-17** What happens when Jesus gets really, really angry at the temple in Jerusalem?
- > **Matthew 27:22** Why does the crowd turn on Jesus?
- > **Luke 13:34-35** Why did Jesus lament over Jerusalem?

## Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > What would you think if your principal rode a tricycle to school?
- > Can you think of a time when you were expecting one thing and got something very different?
- > What do we use as symbols of victory today?

## What are preteens thinking?

Preteens identify with being misunderstood. Jesus was supposed to be one thing, and people were disappointed in who he truly was. Jesus spent the last week of his life being ostracized, ridiculed, questioned, and misunderstood even though there was nothing wrong with him.

## Try this!

The people of Jerusalem were excited to welcome Jesus to their city. Are any visitors coming to your house this week? How can you welcome them to your home?

## Prayer

God, sometimes your action in the world looks different than we would expect. Give us eyes to see you and hearts to follow you. Amen.