

The Donkey Ride

Lesson Preparation

Bible References: Luke 19 vs. 28-38 (The Triumphal Entry)

Main Teaching Points:

- To explore our worship of Jesus.
- To see how Jesus was a different type of king who came to serve.
- We should try and serve like Jesus did.

Equipment Needed:

- **DVD:** Easter Series. Episode 1: The Donkey Ride
- Facilities to show the DVD
- Cones for the relay or something to mark the parameters of the relay.
- The picture of a king and the picture of a crown cut out.
- The picture of a donkey without a tail and the picture of a tail cut out.
- Blu Tac
- Blindfold(s)
- Cut out the slips of paper showing the events of the Easter story (Session 1: cut out sheet)
- Leaves template (cut into leaves) or green balloons

SAMPLE



Games:

Choose from:

Donkey Races: (10 mins)

Split the children into 4 teams.

You then need to split each team into older children and younger children.

The older children will be donkeys and will run the relay on their all fours with one of the younger children on their back.

With less children you can do the relay with 2 or 3 teams.

Be careful to make sure children do not fall off the "donkeys" or cause any damage to the "donkeys"!

You will need cones or some markers to show where the teams should sit and where they should ride up to.

Easter Story Order Eggs (5 – 10mins)

Cut out the Easter Eggs which show different events in the Easter story.

They are on Session 1 cut out sheet.

Cut out one set per 5 children so you may need to print out more sheets.

Make sure the cut out eggs are in a random order and give the children 2 minutes to put the cards in the order of what happened in the Easter story.

At the end, read out the correct order and the team you judge to have the most answers correct, are the winners.

You could do this activity as a relay if you want.

This is a good activity to keep repeating each week to see if the children are understanding the order of events in the Easter story.

You could give them less time each week to see how quickly they can do this.

Pin the Tail on the Donkey/ Put the crown on the King (10mins)

This is ideal for smaller groups.

Use Session 1 cut out sheet and cut out the picture of a donkey and it's separate tail to be stuck on with blu-tac.

Using the blindfold get 3 or so children to have a go at this and make a note of who sticks the tail nearer.

Then repeat this activity with the picture of a king without a crown and a separate crown. (Also on Session 1 cut out sheet.)

You don't have to do both versions if you don't want- you can just do one!

Worship

You can choose to use one or more of our recommended songs, or use other appropriate songs

Intro Theme

- Ask the children who the most famous person is they have ever met.
- Ask a few of them to say what happened and what did they do?
- Did they get an autograph?
- Did the child shake the celebrities' hand?
- Were they too scared to say hello?

You might want to talk about a time you saw a celebrity- it might be a good idea to bring a picture of the celebrity because the children might not know who the celebrity is!

In today's DVD we will see what happened when Jesus came into Jerusalem. We'll see what people did to show they thought he was really special.

Play The DVD

Relive Easter Episode 1: "The Donkey Ride"

Bible Passage

Explain that in the Bible there isn't a man called Donald who sold donkeys. We have imagined what things might have been like, but we can discover exactly what happened by reading in the Bible.

Read (or get a confident reader(s) to read the story of the Triumphal Entry from the Bible) or you can have the Bible passage printed out for the children to read in groups.

The Triumphal Entry

²⁸After Jesus had said this; he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' "

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **Luke 19:28-38**





Object Talk

See Easter Object Talk 1 on the CD ROM

Memory Verse

Jesus gave up everything
and became a servant
when he became like one of us.
Philippians Chapter 2:Verse 7

Creative Prayer / Response Time

Balloon Prayers

In small groups get one older, sensible child or leader to blow up a green balloon and hold the neck firmly in their hands (they must not tie this neck).

With a pen that will write on balloons, get the groups to write reasons to praise Jesus on the balloon.

After they have done that, give them a few minutes to pray in groups. (Make sure the child holding the balloon is not messing with it or let's it off!)

At the end of the group prayers, explain you will get one leader to pray for everyone and at the end. Get all the children to shout "We praise you Jesus". When that happens, the balloon handlers can release their balloons signifying sending our praise to Jesus.

Alternatively,

Leaves Prayers

On the leaves template provided write reasons to praise Jesus and then after they have had about five minutes to write these down, encourage the children to pray out loud in small groups for a couple of minutes. (You may need to spread some leaders about to help with this)

Or

Sharing Prayers

Print out more pictures of the donkey you used for Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

Get the children to write on one side of the page things they could share with others.

Then get them to think of ways they could share what they have with God.

(You may need to encourage them to think of answers such as using our talents, giving things to help people in need etc)

Craft Activity

See Easter Craft 1 - "Chosen Donkey"

Extra Activity

You could re-enact the story of Palm Sunday using any coats the children may have brought (Take care that the coats do not get dirty during the story!). Have someone reading the Bible passage and get different children to play different parts in the story.

You will also need some big leaves to wave. You could also make fake palm branches by rolling up newspaper into tubes, then tape the bottom and the middle firmly together and then cut slashes in the top and fan these out so they look like palm leaves.

SAMPLE

