



# The King of Glory Comes

**Goal:** To hear the story of Jesus' welcome into Jerusalem and his death.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In Luke 19:28-40; 23:32-47

Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly on Palm Sunday. The crowds who met him believed he would be a powerful king, driving out the nation's enemies and bringing peace. They hailed him with ancient words: "Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens" (19:38, CEB).

In just a few days, Jesus was crucified on a cross. Some mocked him: "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself" (23:37, CEB). But the King of Glory reigned from the cross.

Instead of bringing powerful vengeance on his enemies, Jesus forgave them. In his agony he cried: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing" (23:34, CEB). This was gracious forgiveness.

This is where the King's true glory was shown. In his sacrifice of himself, Jesus offered forgiveness and reconciliation, even to those who were killing him. Here was pure grace. It is love without limits. Jesus reconciles us. The real glory of God is shown in the sacrifice of Jesus offering all of us sinners a way for forgiveness and new life. This grace creates our deep gratitude. Jesus forgives us and can make our lives fresh and new.

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

We offer God's grace when we say thanks, when we welcome others, and when we forgive. These three themes are at the heart of the biblical text and Reformed theology. These are themes and practices of faith that children will wrestle with all their lives.

This is not an easy story! The children have been learning about the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus. They may have questions about the turn of events. Encourage their questions and acknowledge that it is hard for many to understand what went so wrong for Jesus. There are many emotions in the movement of this story from joy and celebration of the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem to the confusion, sadness, and pain of his trial and crucifixion. Be attentive to the children you are leading, the questions they ask, and how they relate to this entire story.

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

In a short time, children learn about Jesus' royal entry into Jerusalem and his death on a cross. At each stage of their development, children will bring their questions and their connections with this story.

Though the story for today seems like the end, we know it begins again. Jesus' love was so strong that he was able to forgive those who put him to death. You can help children remember that even when something feels like the end, God's love is there, reminding them they are never alone. The story does not end with death, but with new life!

*Holy God, be present in my preparation so I might welcome  
your children in the spirit of gratitude. Amen.*



## Supplies

### Music & Melodies

[bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies](http://bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies)

### Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i-iv, 6, 18, 21

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

internet-connected  
device

blanket or mats

tablecloth

snack (optional)

## Guided Play

choice 1: plastic or wood blocks, human and animal figures

choice 2: **Grace Notes (GN) 1**

choice 3: white envelopes

## Exploring

choice 2: canned flaky biscuit dough, raisins, cinnamon, vanilla frosting, ziplock bag

choice 3: gift-wrapped box (with removable lid), copies of **GN 2**, gift envelopes from “Guided Play” choice 3

choice 4: copies of **GN 3**

## GATHERING IN GOD’S GRACE

### Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Post **SCM i-ii**, “Your Visual Schedule.” Cut out and glue the arrow marker onto a clothespin. Use the schedule to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii-iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

“Exploring God’s Grace” choice 2 and choice 3 require more prep.

### Welcoming and Guided Play



Greet children as they arrive and say, “Hosanna!” Tell the children that people shouted the word *hosanna* when they saw Jesus.

Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers who you do not know personally. Explain to the parents/caregivers that their children will hear a story about Jesus entering Jerusalem and then his death later in the week. Assure them that the story of Jesus’ death is handled with care, but that it is important that children know that Jesus died so that we can celebrate his resurrection on Easter morning.

Introduce children to your helper or helpers. Invite children to look at the guided play activities and pick one to start:

- 1. Building a city**—Encourage the children to build the city of Jerusalem. Using plastic or wood blocks, the children can put together houses and other buildings to represent Jerusalem. Human and animals figures may also be added. The children may pretend to have a parade for Jesus as he arrives in the city.
- 2. Coloring a Picture**—Provide copies of **GN 1** and crayons. Help the children read the words. Invite them to color the picture and take it home.
- 3. Decorating a Gift Envelope**—Explain to the children that later they will be putting something special in the envelopes. Invite them to decorate the envelopes with drawings and designs. You may want the children to decorate more than one gift envelope if you have a plan for giving extras to family or friends. Save the envelopes for “Exploring God’s Grace” choice 3.

**T** *If transition times have been difficult, consider introducing an object such as a baby Jesus doll or a stuffed lamb. Show the children where the object will be next and allow them to follow. Assure them that the object will follow them throughout the session and that they will see it when they return again.*



## Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, singing “Sanna, Sannanina”—**SCM 21**. Share with them that these are words in Swahili, a language spoken in Africa, that also mean “Hosanna.” Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

### We Went to Jerusalem



Stand in a circle with the children. Choose one child to go first. That child walks around the outside of the circle and says, “I went to Jerusalem and saw my friend (*Name*).” The child then taps the person named, and the two trade places. The first child is in the circle again, and the second child walks around, saying, “I went to Jerusalem and saw my friend (*Name*).”

Help the children remember who has and has not been chosen, and encourage them to give everyone a turn.

At the end of the game, say, “We all went to Jerusalem, and we saw our friend Jesus.” Invite the children to say the sentence with you several times.

### Hosanna



Sing to the tune of “Ring around the Rosie.”

Jesus comes into the town, (*walk forward, raise arms*)

riding on a donkey. (*hold imaginary reins and bounce*)

Hosanna, hosanna! (*spin around in circles*)

We all sing praise! (*hold up hands and wave them in the air*)

Start by singing the song slowly. As you repeat the song, encourage the children to sing faster and faster.

Tell the children that the story they will hear is about Jesus. It starts very happy and ends very sad, yet it is not the end of the story!

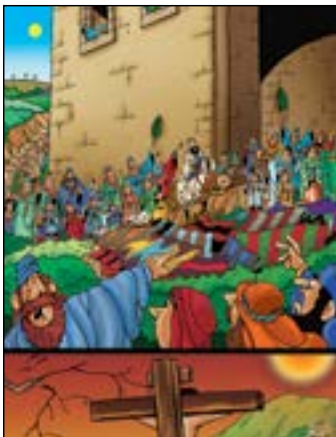
### Hearing the Story

Open the Bible to Luke 19 so that the children know that the story comes from the Bible.

Show the children the illustration for Palm Sunday on **SCM 6**. Ask them to tell you about this picture. Then point to the next picture with the cross. Ask: What story do you think the cross tells? This will give you an idea of what they already know about the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection.

Read **SCM 6**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Today’s story can be found in *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com).





Children who are five may have more questions about the crucifixion than younger children do. They know Jesus as a loving, good man and cannot imagine why anyone would want to kill him.

Option: You might also want to sing “Sanna, Sannanina”—**SCM 21**—as part of the parade.

Explain gently that after the parade welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem, some of the leaders in Jerusalem were angry with Jesus because of what he was teaching about God’s ways. They wanted to have him killed. Jesus died on a cross and was buried in a cave with a large stone rolled in front of it. Tell them how his disciples were sad and afraid when Jesus died. Tell them that the story continues next session with a big and happy surprise.

## EXPLORING GOD’S GRACE

### 1. Make a Parade



Tell the children that they will be going on a parade. Establish some limits for where you will go and what you will do (stay inside the church building or on the church grounds, walk in an orderly fashion, and so forth). Let the children suggest some of the specific areas where they would like to parade, all within the limits you have established.

Walk in a double line, shouting, “Praise God! Jesus is here!” Dance together in joyful celebration. The parade may follow a somewhat circular route so that you end up back at your meeting place. Alternatively, you may plan to stop in the church kitchen for the next activity.



### 2. Make Hot Cross Buns



Invite the children to make hot cross buns, topped with a symbol of the cross, to remember Jesus’ death on the cross. Make hot cross buns with the children using the directions below.

1. Preheat the oven according to the biscuit package directions.
2. Help the children wash their hands.
3. Open the biscuit tube and hand each child a biscuit.
4. Invite the children to peel apart a few layers and insert a few raisins and sprinkle with just a little cinnamon. Repeat a second time with more layers.
5. Bake according to directions and allow the biscuits to cool.
6. Put about two tablespoons of vanilla frosting in a ziplock sandwich bag.
7. Snip off a small corner of the bag and show the children how to make a cross out of frosting on top of each cinnamon roll.

Share the snack or serve it during “Loving and Serving God.”



### 3. Grace Letter



*Put each child's name on a letter cut from copies of GN 2. If there are visitors, put their names on a letter as they arrive. Put the letters in the gift box.*

Explain to the children that even when people were being mean to Jesus by putting him on a cross, he loved them so much that he asked God to forgive them. Jesus knew that God loves everyone, even people who are mean.

Pull a letter out of the gift box. Read the letter and tell the children that there is a letter for each of them. Comment on how wonderful it is that God will always love us no matter what—when we're nice and when we're mean.

Give the children their letters and invite them to decorate them. Help them fold the letters and put them in the gift envelopes made in "Guided Play" choice 3. Write their names on the envelopes. Explain that the letter helps them know something amazing and wonderful about God. Point out how wonderful God's love and forgiveness are.

Encourage them to take their letters home and ask someone to read the letter to them often. If you have extras, get the children's ideas about whom to give them to. Write the persons' names on the letters and on the extra envelopes.

### 4. Color Page



Hand out copies of GN 3 and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture. Engage the children in conversation as they color using the following wondering questions.

- ▼ I wonder, "What did Jesus think about all of the people?"
- ▼ I wonder, "What is the man in the front thinking?"
- ▼ I wonder, "What will happen next?"

**C** *For some children, listening and speaking may take longer. Allow time for these children to feel truly a part of the session. Be patient and encourage other children to do the same.*

Use "wonder" questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wonder questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.



## LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Have each child put away one toy or object. Invite the children to sit around a table or on the floor.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me”—**SCM 18**—together while you serve the snack. Ask the children to think about Jesus this week. Suggest that it is all right to be happy and sad, but know that Jesus’ death is not the end of the story. Encourage them to come next week for God’s big and happy surprise.

Say a litany and ask the children to respond with the words “Thank you, God”:

Thank you, God, for Jesus.

**Thank you, God.**

Thank you, God, for helping us know God’s ways.

**Thank you, God.**

Thank you, God, for calling us to love you.

**Thank you, God.**

Help us to share your love with others.

**Thank you, God.**

Amen.

As the children leave, bless them: “(Name), show your love for Jesus and for others every day. The grace of God is with you.”



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads), where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

D

Donkey

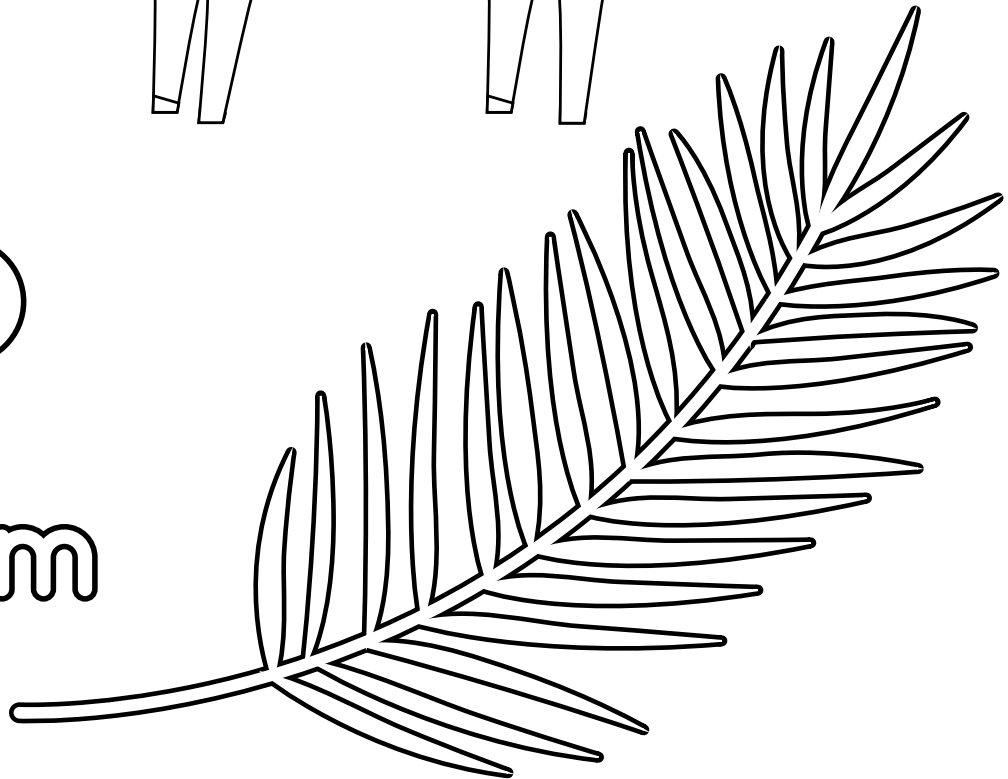


J

Jesus

P

Palm









Dear \_\_\_\_\_

You are God's child.

All of God's children receive the gift of grace.

That means that God will love you no matter what.

Sometimes God may not like what you do.

But God has promised to always love you, always forgive you, and always help you to do better.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

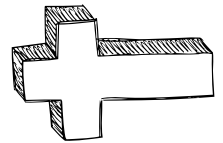
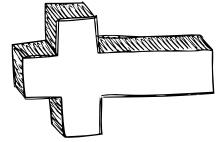
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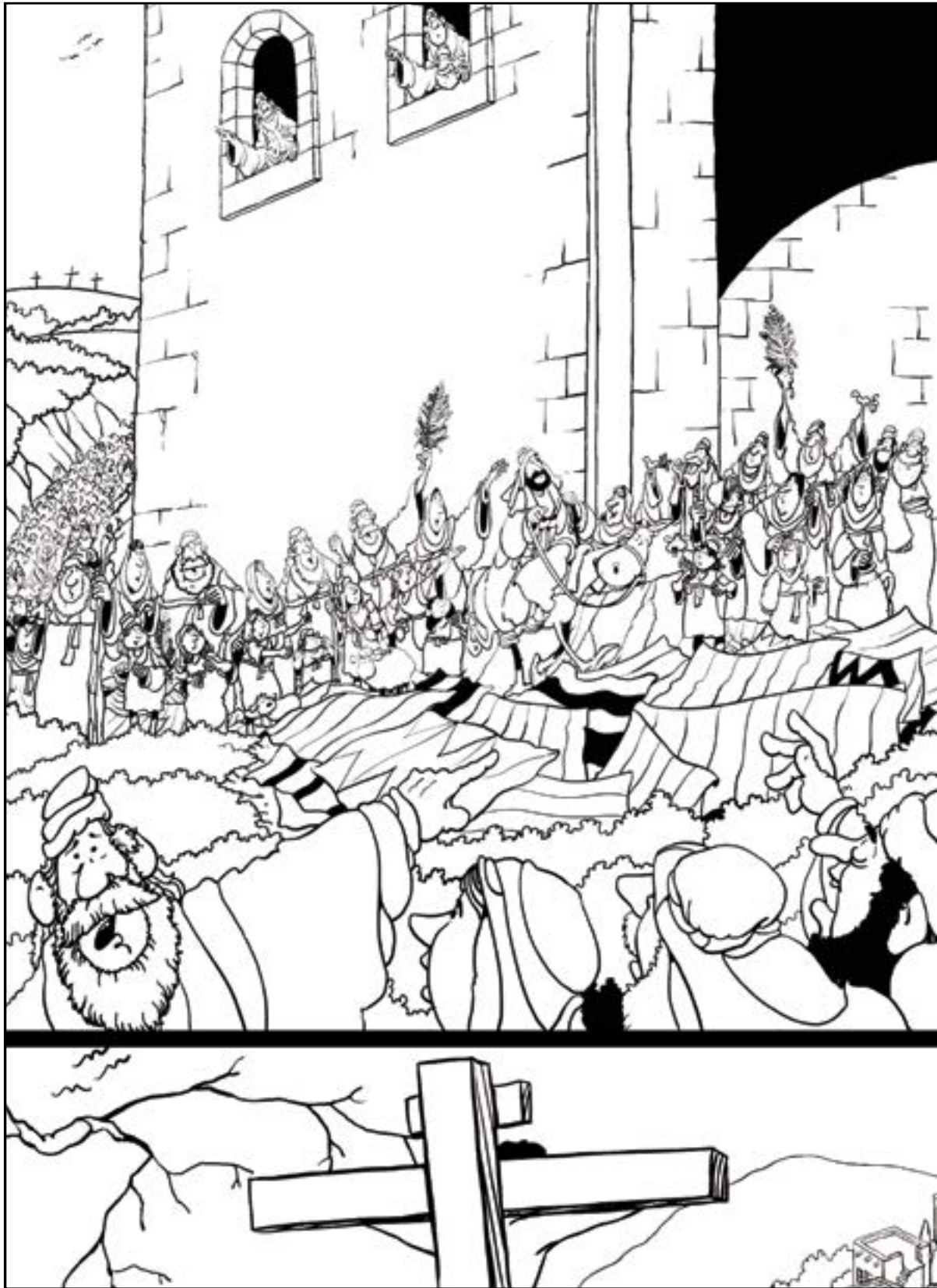
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# Title



**Jesus enters Jerusalem.  
Jesus dies on a cross.**

