



LESSON 41

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

MATTHEW 21:1-11; MARK
11:1-11; LUKE 19:28-40;
JOHN 12:12-19

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds lay their cloaks down on the ground and spread palm branches for Him to ride over, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" We learned that Jesus came to be our Savior, but He didn't come to be a warrior who would take over the throne like people thought.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Share some stories of parades you've watched in person or on TV? How could Jesus' entry into Jerusalem have been similar?
- How was Jesus different from what the people expected Him to be?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be our Savior?
- Why does Easter bring such joy for people who trust Jesus as their Savior?

TOGETHER HOME

There are dozens of fictional children's books about parades. Check one out from your public library or your child's school library. Enjoy reading it together. Then work together as a family to write your own story about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Include details about the crowd, things you might see, and what it sounded like. Have your kids illustrate your story.

Or, if you'd rather, look online or in some books at pictures of palm trees like the ones in Jerusalem. Do you have trees like that where you live? If not, imagine together what people would have laid on the ground if Jesus had been riding through your community.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Say the verse together and talk about what it means so your family members will understand how much God loves us.

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Lesson 41, Take-home



LESSON 42

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: A LONG NIGHT

MATTHEW 26:36-68;
LUKE 22:7-27

THE STORY HOME

Today we learned about the Last Supper, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Judas betraying Jesus. We also heard about how Jesus was arrested and Peter denying he even knew Jesus... all events of one very long, intense, and terrible night. Jesus' Last Supper reminds us that He came to suffer and die for our sins. He came as a servant, humbly serving His friends. We are grateful that Jesus was obedient to God's plan.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Jesus ate with his disciples often. What made the Last Supper different or special?
- What would Jewish people like Jesus and his disciples have eaten at this Passover meal?
- Why did Judas betray Jesus? Was it really worth it in the end? Are there ways that we betray Jesus?
- Why did Jesus have to go through all of this terrible stuff?

TOGETHER HOME

A typical Passover Feast would have included the elements listed below. Prepare and taste some or all of the foods that Jesus and His disciples would have eaten during the Last Supper. Talk about what each food symbolizes. Read a version of the Israelite's escape from Egypt from a children's Bible or from Exodus chapters 7-12. The exodus from Egypt and Passover meal instructions are found in Exodus 12:31-51.

- **Matzoh:** Three unleavened **matzohs** (unleavened bread) are placed within the folds of a napkin as a reminder of the haste with which the Israelites fled Egypt, leaving no time for dough to rise.
- **Maror:** bitter herbs, usually horseradish or romaine lettuce, used to symbolize the bitterness of slavery.
- **Charoses:** a mixture of apples, nuts, and cinnamon as a reminder of the mortar used by the Jews in the construction of buildings as slaves
- **Beitzah:** a roasted egg, as a symbol of life and the perpetuation of existence.
- **Karpas:** a vegetable, preferably parsley or celery, representing hope and redemption; served with a bowl of salted water to represent the tears shed.
- **Zeroah:** traditionally a piece of roasted lamb shankbone, symbolizing the sacrificial offering

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Say the verse together and talk about what it means so your family members will understand how much God loves us.

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LESSON 43

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS JOHN 19—20

THE STORY HOME

Today's Epic story is the greatest of them all! We learned about the death and resurrection of Jesus. After Pilate had Jesus beaten, the Jewish leaders insisted that He should be crucified. Pilate handed Jesus over and they nailed Him to a cross. After many hours, Jesus said, "It is finished" and died. Followers of Jesus carefully wrapped His body and laid it in a tomb. The next day was the Sabbath, so Mary Magdalene waited until the third day to visit Jesus' tomb. When she got there, she found that Jesus wasn't there. She ran to tell the others. Then, Jesus appeared to her. She didn't recognize Him at first, but once she did, she believed. Jesus also appeared to His other followers. In the most Epic story of all time Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today!

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Why did the crowd want Jesus dead?
- How do you think Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John felt when they saw the empty tomb? Why?
- What does Jesus' resurrection from the dead mean for us?
- How does Jesus' resurrection affect the way we live today?

TOGETHER HOME

Look up the recipe for Easter Story Cookies, also called Resurrection Cookies, using an Internet search engine. Collect the ingredients and prepare other items. On Saturday evening, let your family work together to prepare and mix the ingredients for the cookies. Read the suggested scriptures and discuss each item as you work. The instructions call for leaving the cookies in the oven overnight. On Sunday morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Ask the kids to notice the cracked surface. Have them bite into the cookie. The cookies will be hollow. Remind everyone that on the first Easter morning, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty just like their cookies are empty!

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Practice this verse during your devotions, while you are driving the kids to school or sports, and any other time you are together.

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LESSON 44

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: JESUS' APPEARANCES AND ASCENSION

LUKE 24:36-53;
MARK 16;
ACTS 1

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, Jesus appeared to His disciples. When they didn't believe it was really Him, He showed them the scars in His hands and His side. The time came for Jesus to go back to Heaven. He instructed His followers to stay in the city until God sent the Holy Spirit to be with them. Then, He blessed them and ascended into Heaven.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What would it have been like to see Jesus after you thought He was dead? What would have made it hard to believe?
- How did Jesus show His disciples that it was Him when He appeared to them?
- Why do you think Jesus didn't continue to stay on earth?
- What does it mean for us to know that Jesus is in heaven today?

TOGETHER HOME

Talk about what it would have been like to watch Jesus ascend into heaven as He was blessing the disciples. Get a helium-filled balloon and let it go up into the sky. Watch the balloon float and soar higher and higher. Then, talk about the visual image that it creates. Jesus didn't die when He went to heaven. He's still alive today, sitting at the right hand of God the Father.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). This is the last week for this verse. Make sure everyone in the family has memorized the verse. Have a celebration when everyone can say it.

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LESSON 45

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1-41

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about Pentecost, which is the coming of the Holy Spirit. Just like Jesus had told them, Jesus' followers had been waiting together in Jerusalem for God to send the Holy Spirit. First, the house was filled with the sound of wind. Then, it looked like tongues of fire were resting on each one of them. They started speaking in all different languages. There were people from all over the world in Jerusalem that day. They began to gather outside the house. Every person could understand the good news of Jesus in his or her own language! Peter got up and preached and about 3,000 people accepted Jesus as their Savior that day. It was the beginning of the Church. We too have the power of the Holy Spirit with us, helping us to live for God and tell others about Jesus.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What unusual events took place at Pentecost?
- Do you know more than one language? Have you heard someone speaking another language? What is it like to hear different languages being spoken?
- Why did God send the Holy Spirit?
- How can we rely on God's Spirit to be with us?

TOGETHER HOME

Learn a few words in a language you don't already know. Practice them together. Use a book from the library, online resources such as learnalanguage.com, or download an app for your smart phone to help you get started learning words in a different language.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Print the verse on index cards for each family member who can read. Encourage them to read the verse every day and start trying to memorize it. Let your youngest family members learn the underlined portion of the verse.

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LESSON 46

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: STONING OF STEPHEN

ACTS 6:8—7:2,
7:51—8:4

THE STORY HOME

Today's Epic story was about Stephen, a man who was chosen by the disciples to help care for widows and the distribution of food to those in need. Stephen was known as a man full of God's grace and power. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he was able to speak with wisdom and do many miracles. However, members of the synagogue accused Stephen of doing wrong and they had Stephen stoned to death. Even as they were stoning him, Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and prayed that God would not hold this sin against them. A man named Saul approved of Stephen's death and set out to put an end to the Church.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Is there anyone that you know that is filled with God's grace and power like Stephen was? What is that person like?
- What gave Stephen the ability to do and say the things that he did and said? Is that available for people like you and me?
- What would it be like to pray that God would forgive people who were hurting you or even killing you?
- This story has some foreshadowing in it. We're going to learn more about Saul very soon. Who is he? What do you already know about him?

TOGETHER HOME

Make a list of things the Holy Spirit can give each person in your family the power to do. Include things you're already doing, as well as things God is calling you to do (such as offer forgiveness or kindness). Post the list on the refrigerator or a place that you'll see it often. Pray together that the Holy Spirit will give you the courage and wisdom you need to do those things.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Have young family members learn the underlined portion of the verse. Talk about what it means to receive the Holy Spirit and how the lives of the early believers changed when they received the Holy Spirit.

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LESSON 47

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

ACTS 8:26-40

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about Philip, a disciple. The Holy Spirit told Philip to travel from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed. On the way, he met a man from Ethiopia. The man was reading scripture from the prophet Isaiah that told about Jesus, but he didn't understand what he was reading because he'd never heard of Jesus before. Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus. The man believed in Jesus, was saved, and had Philip baptize him that very day!

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Do you think the Ethiopian man would have been saved that day if Philip had refused to listen to the Holy Spirit and go to Gaza?
- Have you ever felt like God wanted you to do something? What was it? Did you do it?
- Does God use people today like He used Philip? Could God use you to tell others about Jesus?
- Have you ever told anyone about Jesus? What was that like? What happened?

TOGETHER HOME

Choose some stories about Jesus to read from your Bible. Then, take turns telling the stories in your own words. Then, as a family, pray that God will help you listen and obey when He wants you to tell someone about Jesus. Is there someone you know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus? Pray that you'll know when and how to do that.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Have young family members learn the underlined portion of the verse. Discuss how to witness to others as you work on learning the verse.

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Lesson 47, Take-home



LESSON 48

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: SAUL'S CONVERSION

ACTS 9:1-30

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about Saul, a man who spent all of his energy trying to put a stop to the church. One day, Jesus spoke to Saul while he was traveling on the road to Damascus. In that moment Saul was blinded and he didn't eat or drink anything for three days. Then, the Lord told Ananias to go to the house where Saul was staying and tell him all about Jesus. Ananias was afraid because Saul had been killing Christians, but he went anyway. When Ananias prayed for Saul, Saul was able to see again. Saul completely changed. Instead of persecuting Christians, he became one of the greatest missionaries who ever lived, telling others all about Jesus.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- How do you think Saul felt when he learned that Jesus was real and he'd been persecuting Him?
- What do you think it was like for Ananias to go pray for Saul? Has God ever asked you to do anything tough or scary?
- What huge changes did Saul make? Are there changes that God wants you to make in your life?
- What is a missionary?

TOGETHER HOME

Learn more about missionaries today. Visit nmi.nazarene.org. There, you'll find ways to pray and get involved in missions, but first check out the missionary profiles in the right column. By clicking on the Missionary Profiles link, you can see pictures and read about Nazarene missionaries all over the world.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This is the last week for this verse. Have all family members learned the verse?

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