

UNDER THE BIG TOP: INCREDIBLE BIBLE STORIES

"WE KNOW THAT IN EVERYTHING GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE GOD CALLED, BECAUSE THAT WAS HIS PLAN." ROMANS 8:28 (ICB)

AFTER WORSHIP:

BIBLE PRESENTATION:

Live Host:

"Alright Victory Kids — now I need everyone's attention, because this moment is super special!" *(Pauses for effect)* "Here at Victory Kids, we love when friends come to visit... but we REALLY love when they come back again... and again... and again!" *(Smiles big)*

"So today, if this is your third time hanging out with us here at Victory Kids, we've got something AWESOME just for you!" "If that's you — go ahead and raise your hand nice and high so our team can spot you. Come to the stage because we want to celebrate you BIG TIME!" We have something really special that we want to give you..." *(Team members hand out Bibles)* "A brand-new Bible just for YOU! Because we believe God's Word is the best gift ever — it's full of hope, adventure, truth, and it reminds us every day who we are and how much God loves us!"

Can we clap it up and make some noise for our third-time friends getting their Bibles today?!" *(Claps hands, and waits for applause, celebrates big)*. And if you're sitting there thinking, 'Hey, I want a Bible like that!' — no worries! Keep coming, keep learning, and we'll have something for you too!"

CONNECT: CHECK IN / PRE SERVICE GAMES

10 MINS

THIS IS OPTIONAL, IF IT ISN'T NEEDED. PLEASE FEEL FREE NOT TO USE IT!

Pre Service Game Stations: As students are being checked in, use this time to get to know each student. Help them get comfortable in the classroom and find a friend or group to play games with. If you have enough volunteers in the room, get involved with the games. Fun builds trust with kids, so don't be afraid to have fun with them! Make sure everyone helps put away preservice games before large groups start.

GAME STATIONS

20 MINS

Live Host: Let's have our leaders come down to the front to get ready for games!

Are you ready for a game? Shout YES! I can't hear you! Let's get ready to play CLOWN NOSE PASS AROUND! *(Note for Live Host: make sure to give commentary during the game, and encourage the audience to cheer throughout the game).*

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CLOWN NOSE PASS AROUND

- **Supplies:** Clown nose or red foam ball, music
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 10 contestants to join me on stage! I need all the contestants to sit in a circle. This game is similar to hot potato. Instead, there will be a clown nose that will be passed around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the clown nose is out! The last student will receive 2 Bible Bucks!

BIG TOP WORD UNSCRAMBLE

- **Supplies:** Slides with words to be unscrambled. IJELHA – ELIJAH; YBOE – OBEY; ALSHIE -ELISHA; WOEPR – POWER; AMSONS – SAMSON; RHTEGNST - STRENGTH
- **Live Host:** On the count of three, I want you to shout YES for the next game! One...Two...Three... YES!!! Alright, Victory Kids, now it's time for a game we can all play. I will place a word on the screen, and you all have 10 seconds to unscramble the word. Here's a hint: Each word has something to do with lessons from this month and last month.

FLOW: WELCOME, FIRST-TIME VISITORS, WORSHIP & OFFERING

25 MINS

Live Host: We want to welcome our first-time visitors in a big way! If this is your first time visiting with us, we are so excited that you are here!

INTRO: MEMORY VERSE

5 MINS

Live Host: Hey, Victory Kids! Are you ready? This month, we're stepping *Under the Big Top* to explore incredible Bible stories that show us just how powerful our God is! Just like every amazing act in a circus needs strength and skill, these stories remind us that God is the one who gives power, courage, and help to His people. And here's the best part, God isn't just at work in the Bible stories. He's at work in us, too! Our memory verse teaches us that God helps us want to do what is right and gives us the strength to do it.

Now, if you're ready to learn this month's memory verse, shout, "UNDER THE BIG TOP!" ...Cue the memory verse video!

LESSON RECAP VIDEO

1 MIN

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LIVE HOST'S INTRO TO LESSON

5-7 MINS

Live Host (Ringmaster Tone): Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, and Victory Kids of all ages... welcome back **Under the Big Top!**

Over the last two months, we've stepped under the Big Top and learned powerful Bible stories about Elijah, Elisha, and Samson. These stories aren't about showing off. They show us how God gives strength, purpose, and direction.

Under the Big Top, we've seen that God works through His people in every season and never stops working, even when mistakes are made. Today we're stepping into **The Big Top Spotlight: the Greatest Act Enters the World.**

Key Scripture: Today, our key scripture is coming to you from John 12:12-13. The next day a great crowd in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the people who had come to the Passover Feast. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. They shouted, "Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!"

(At this point, you can decide to play the lesson video or act out March week 5 of Ringmaster Rae/Ray Skit)

LESSON VIDEO OR RINGMASTER RAE

2-3 MINS

(Both are found in the media file)

MINISTRY LESSON

10 MINS

Supplies needed: Palm Sunday banner (screen slide), or physical banner, palm leaves

Hook: Display Palm Sunday banner on the screen, or physical banner, pass out palm leaves to the children.

Live Host Hook: Have you ever been to a circus and seen the big parade at the start of the show? When the performers come in, the music is playing, and everyone is cheering? (Wait for responses.) That parade lets you know something exciting is about to happen, right?

Today, we're celebrating Palm Sunday, the special day when Jesus entered Jerusalem as King. When Jesus came in, the people waved palm leaves like banners to welcome Him.

Who do you think they were cheering for? *(Pause — wait for kids to answer "Jesus!")*

The palm leaves were a symbol of victory and celebration, kind of like cheering for the main performer in the center ring. Last week, we learned about Samson The Strongman's Act that our strength comes from God.

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Today, we're learning something new about Jesus as the beginning of the greatest act.

- **King Jesus The Greatest Act**

Imagine you're in a magnificent circus tent, the Big Top soaring above you, filled with excitement and colorful banners. You and your family have waited all year to come to the circus to see this specific performer. You are in your seat waiting... and waiting. The anticipation is building, then suddenly the curtains open, the performer takes the spotlight, and everyone is watching. This is how everyone felt when Jesus came into the world to be our King and Savior. For hundreds of years, God's people had longed for a King who would save them and bring hope to everyone.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, everything changed, just as the prophets had promised. The Bible tells us in Zechariah 9:9, "See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey." Unlike a typical king who might arrive on a grand, powerful horse, Jesus chose to ride a humble donkey. This simple choice showed that Jesus did not come to rule by force or might. Instead, His arrival was all about love, kindness, and peace, a kingdom that stands out with hope and amazes everyone in the audience.

- **Praise Jesus the Greatest Act**

As Jesus approached, their hearts were full of excitement, like the crowd cheering at the circus for the main act. They couldn't contain their happiness and began to celebrate by waving palm branches high, laying their coats on the ground as a sign of honor, and shouting "Hosanna!" This special word meant "save us" and was a way for them to express their hope and trust. The joyful celebration of the people, with their palm branches and excited praises, showed how deeply they longed for hope and salvation.

The Bible verse that describes this joyful moment, known as Palm Sunday, is John 12:12-13. It says, "The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!'"

- **Follow Jesus the Greatest Act**

Live Host: Now it's your turn! Everyone grab your palm leaves and let's cheer just like the crowd did to celebrate Jesus. I am going to say John 12:13 first, then I want you to repeat after me: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!

(Repeat as many times as needed for kids to say the verse clearly and with excitement.)

The people celebrated Jesus, recognizing Him as the Greatest Act that has ever Entered the World of God's Big Top, their Savior and King. They knew He was the one who could bring them hope and deliverance. He came to save the entire world from sin and hard times. Jesus is the one who will guide you through the toughest moments if you open your heart and follow Him.

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Their praise or celebration, just like ours, was an outpouring of love and thankfulness for who Jesus is and what He has done for all of us. But, praising Jesus is much more than waving your hands one day a year, it's a heartfelt celebration that we can carry with us everywhere we go. True praise means living a life that honors Jesus through our words, our actions, and by joining Him in the Big Top of life by following His ways.

MINISTRY MOMENT

10 MINS

Raise your hand and tell me something you learned today. I am giving away Bible bucks!

Today, we learned **The Big Top Spotlight: The Greatest Act Enters the World.**

- **King Jesus the Greatest Act**
- **Praise Jesus the Greatest Act**
- **Follow Jesus the Greatest Act**

Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus is our greatest act! Jesus is King, and His arrival in Jerusalem shows God keeps His promises. We can celebrate Him like the crowd did with palms, and follow Him every day by praising, trusting, and obeying Him.

Call to Action

For your call to action this week:

Come Back Ready

Next week, be ready to share one thing you remembered about God this week, something He did, something He helped with, or something you noticed. And don't forget... Bible Bucks are waiting!

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WRAP-UP & CLOSING PRAYER

5 MINS

(If your campus begins with small groups, please ask review questions before closing prayer. If your campus ends with small group, move directly to closing prayer (these questions will be asked and answered in small group))

1. What did Jesus ride on when He entered Jerusalem? **Donkey**
2. What did the people wave on Palm Sunday? **Palms**
3. What word did the people shout? **Hosanna**
4. What are some ways you can celebrate Jesus every day in your life?

Before we move to small group, let us take a moment to pray

Closing Prayer

(Please feel free to encourage the children to lead)

Dear God, Thank You for coming into our world as our gentle, loving King. Just like the crowd cheered and waved palm branches on Palm Sunday, we celebrate You with joy and excitement! Help us remember Your love every day and show it to our friends and family through our words and actions. Guide our hearts so we can be part of Your amazing plan: sharing hope, kindness, and peace wherever we go. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LESSON

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SMALL GROUP OPTION ONE - (There are TWO options provided for small group the second one is for the campuses that does small group first)

INTRO

Live Host: Good morning, everyone! I hope you enjoyed today's lesson. Can anyone tell me what you learned today? *(wait for students' responses)*

The Big Top Spotlight: The Greatest Act Enters the World

Today, we took time to look back and remember what God has done through the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This story shows us the same truth: Jesus is King, God keeps His promises, and we can honor Him every day. When we remember how Jesus came to save and bring hope, it helps us trust Him more right now.

We can find today's story in **the New Testament, in the book of John.**

Can anyone tell me where to find the New Testament in the Bible? *(Pause for responses.)*

Great! Let's find it together.

Everyone open your Bibles to the **New Testament.**

The first person to get there gets a Bible Buck!

(Briefly show the kids where John 12:12-13 is and explain that this is where the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is written.)

Now that we've found it, here's your challenge for the week:

Let's take a closer look at what this story teaches us and why remembering it matters. Jesus is our King, the crowd celebrated Him, and how we can follow Him every day.

ICEBREAKER

(this icebreaker has two parts: questions from today's lesson and the call to action from last week)

1. What did Jesus ride on when He entered Jerusalem? **Donkey**
2. What did the people wave on Palm Sunday? **Palms**
3. What word did the people shout? **Hosanna**
4. What are some ways you can celebrate Jesus every day in your life?

Great job answering the questions. Does anybody remember what we were supposed to do last week for our call to action? *(Wait for responses)*

Our Call to action for last week:

Quiet Prayer Reset

Samson prayed when he felt weak and stuck. Choose one quiet moment: at home, in the car, or before school to pause and pray silently. You don't have to say anything out loud. Just take a moment to turn your heart back to God.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

Tell students we're starting prayer, remain with eyes closed, and focus attention on God. Ask for any prayer requests they would like to share. If your small group needs a little encouragement, give them categories like **family, school, or friends** to get them thinking about areas they need prayer in. After students share, lead the group in prayer, covering each prayer request, using the name of each student that asks for prayer.

RECAP CALL TO ACTION

5 MINS

Today, we learned about **The Big Top Spotlight: The Greatest Act Enters the World**

For your call to action this week:

Come Back Ready

Next week, be ready to share one thing you remembered about God this week, something He did, something He helped with, or something you noticed. And don't forget... Bible Bucks are waiting!

S.O.A.P

10 MINS

Please use the S.O.A.P sheet.

ACTIVITY: (OPTIONAL)

This activity can be taken from the game station section if needed.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Optional - you can invite a child to pray)

Dear God, Thank You for coming into our world as our gentle, loving King. Just like the crowd cheered and waved palm branches on Palm Sunday, we celebrate You with joy and excitement! Help us remember Your love every day and show it to our friends and family through our words and actions. Guide our hearts so we can be part of Your amazing show sharing hope, kindness, and peace wherever we go. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P is a simple but helpful way to study the Bible and apply it to our own lives.

S.O.A.P stands for, **SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION AND PRAYER** and involves four simple steps.

S: SCRIPTURE

You physically write out the scripture. You'll be amazed what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

O: OBSERVATION

What do you notice about the verses? What do you think the main message is? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words?

A: APPLICATION

Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life. This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P: PRAYER

Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

LET'S S.O.A.P TOGETHER

"The next day a great crowd in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the people who had come to the Passover Feast. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. They shouted, "Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!"

JOHN 12:12-13

Name:	Grade:	Date:
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S.O.A.P

“The next day a great crowd in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the people who had come to the Passover Feast. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. They shouted, “Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!”
John 12:12-13

SCRIPTURE What did you read?

OBSERVATION What is God saying?

What does this look like in my life?

APPLICATION

PRAYER Dear God...

Check out this month's Memory Verse Song!

“We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.^[a] They are the people God called, because that was his plan.”
Romans 8:8 (ICB)

