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Jesus' Big Entrance

Key References: Matthew 21:1-11; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 63, pp. 569-579; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 33-38; Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 14, 11










power**text**

"Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna in the highest!'" (Matthew 21:9).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

LEARN Begin learning the power text.

power**point**

We share Jesus with others as we praise Him.

Try to picture Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem.

Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" Shouts of joy filled the air as people covered the ground with garments and waved palm branches to welcome Jesus. Everyone was pondering whether this was the King who was going to deliver them from the Roman domination.

Jesus and His disciples had made the long journey to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Pausing for a rest outside the city of Bethphage, He turned to two of His disciples and said, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me" (Matthew 21:2).

Happy to do what Jesus asked, the disciples brought the donkeys, and placed their outer coats on the colt. It was Jewish custom for kings to ride on donkeys, as it was a symbol of honor. They, along with the assembling crowd, remembered the words of the prophet Zechariah: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey'" (verse 5).

As Jesus climbed on the donkey, a shout of triumph reached quickly through the crowd. The people were excited and joined the procession to Jerusalem. People who had never seen Jesus wondered about all the commotion and asked, "Who is this?"

Those in the crowd responded, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee" (Matthew 21:10, 11).

The priests back in Jerusalem said to each other in dismay, "Look, the whole world has gone after Him!" (John 12:19). Afraid that the crowd would declare Jesus king, a few of them came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." Jesus simply responded, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:39, 40).

As the crowd came to Jerusalem, Jesus paused. The setting sun made the Temple look spectacular, almost as if it were glowing. It was a beautiful sight—the golden pillars, the white marble walls, the

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Sunday

READ Read Matthew 21:1-6 and this week's story, "Jesus' Big Entrance."

DRAW Draw and decorate a tree branch and place it in your room, where it will remind you of how the people welcomed Jesus at His big entrance in Jerusalem.

REVIEW Review the power text, Matthew 21:9.

PRAY Ask God to teach you how to best share with others the good news about Jesus.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 21:7-11.

LEARN What does "hosanna" mean?

LIST How did the owner of the donkey contribute to Jesus' entrance in Jerusalem? List things you can share with others to help them experience God's love to them.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to make you willing to share His love.

Tuesday

READ Read Zechariah 9:9.

FIND When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, it was a fulfillment of prophecy. In a Bible concordance, find other Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

THINK How was the people's response to "Who is this?" (Matthew 21:10, 11) similar or different from Peter's response to Jesus' question "Who Am I?" (Matthew 16:16).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the prophecies about Jesus' coming.

delicate workmanship catching the rays of sun, shining with the glory of heaven.

While the people were taking in the scene, Jesus began to weep. Not tears of joy, or even from an appreciation of beauty. He wept because, in all of her splendor, Jerusalem—His beloved city—would reject the opportunity of salvation. "If you had known, even you," He lamented, "especially in this your day, the things that make your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation" (Luke 19:42-44).

The crowd, confused, looked at Jesus. They did not understand why their King was in agony during such a time of rejoicing. They did not see what Jesus saw. They, along with the disciples, thought that Jesus was coming to establish an earthly kingdom. However, Jesus saw what they could not see. His kingdom was a kingdom of all believers—the church. Rather than a physical structure, it far surpassed any physical boundaries. It is built up of those who believe in Jesus and live in harmony with His teachings. They are from among "all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9).

Later the disciples would remember that day and realize what Jesus was trying to tell them all along. Even the procession to Jerusalem was true to the simplicity and humility that characterized the earthly life of Jesus.

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Instead of outward show and ceremony, the people gave Him the gift of genuine, happy worship. Instead of costly gifts, they gave Him their outer garments and the branches of olive trees as a carpet. Instead of waving the flags of royalty, the people waved palm branches (the national symbol of victory). They greeted Him with loud, happy shouts of "Hosanna!" Many of the people whom Jesus had healed and blessed, the blind, dumb, crippled, widows, orphans, lepers, and even Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, were in the crowd.

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Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 8.

DRAW Draw a map/picture of Jesus' triumphal entry.

THINK The people laid down their coats before Jesus. What things are you willing to make available for God to use as you reach out to others for Him?

SING Sing your favorite song of praise.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God and ask Him to help you share His joy with others.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 19:37-40.

THINK Why were the people so eager to welcome Jesus as their king? Why are you waiting for Jesus to return? Do you love Jesus unconditionally, or are you expecting some kind of reward from Him?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for His awesome love.

Friday

READ With your family, read Revelation 14:7.

THINK What reason does this verse give for worshipping God?

WRITE On a banner or poster, write a praise (such as Hosanna!) of your very own that you can keep in your room as a reminder of God's goodness to you.

DISCUSS Together, share ways you can encourage others to unite in praising God with joy.

REPEAT Say the power text from memory.

PRAY Thank God for the blessing we receive when we praise Him together for His goodness.

This was the kingdom Jesus wanted to establish. He welcomed those who were oppressed, outcast, and broken, and offered them rest for their souls (see Matthew 11:28, 29).

This is the church: a community of believers who delight to follow the

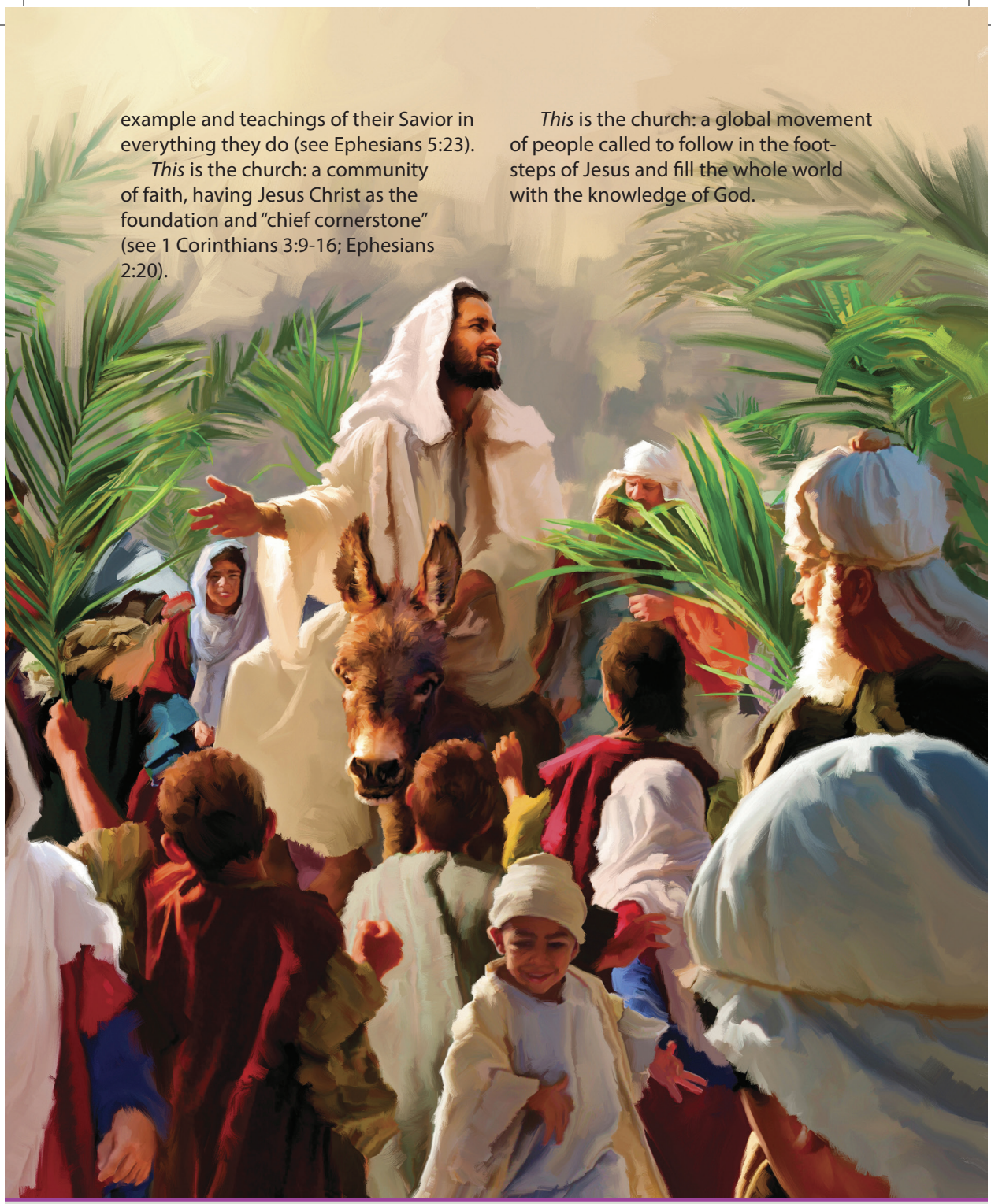


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example and teachings of their Savior in everything they do (see Ephesians 5:23).

This is the church: a community of faith, having Jesus Christ as the foundation and "chief cornerstone" (see 1 Corinthians 3:9-16; Ephesians 2:20).

This is the church: a global movement of people called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and fill the whole world with the knowledge of God.



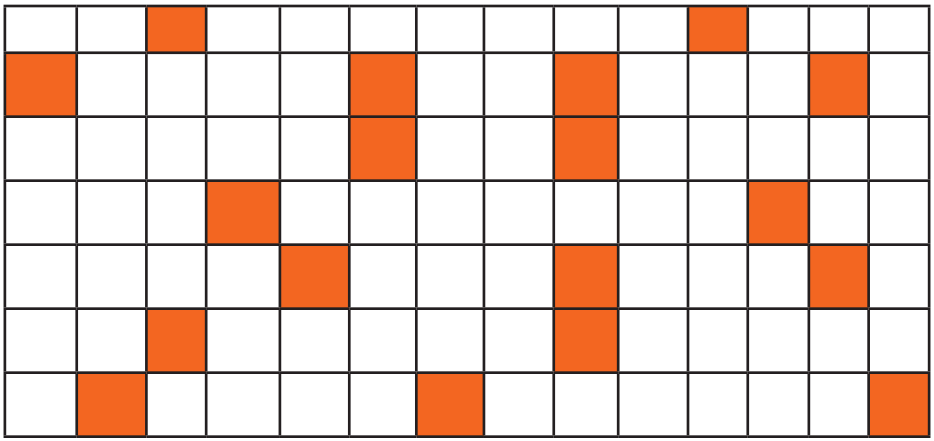
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PUZZLE
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LORD TRIUMPHANT!

Instructions: Rearrange the seven double columns of letters into a 7 by 14 rectangle of letters. A dark square indicates the end of a word. When you have placed all the double columns in their correct places, you will be able to read the Bible verse across the diagram from left to right, top to bottom.

	w	i	p	O	h	s	h	h	e	o	r		t
o	r		t		L	i	n		b	d		h	e
u	t		h	e	a	o	f	i	n	y		o	l
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