

Doing What Is Just!

April 5, 2020—Lesson 6

Background Scripture: Matthew 21 • **Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

Key Verse: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (*Matthew 21:6*)

Faith Block: Jesus is always fair and right!

Lesson Objectives: The children will begin to understand that Jesus is our model for doing right.

Materials Needed: *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, rug, a song about following Jesus, line-art coloring pictures related to today's lesson, glue, scissors, crayons and/or coloring pencils, blocks, books, other toddler toys for each class session, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children's Resource Kit [lesson 6 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, find and learn a song that highlights following and obeying Jesus—either one that includes action movements or one to which you can add movements.

Welcome: Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity: Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer.

Have the children sit down at the classroom table or let them sit on an area rug on the floor.

Say: The disciples followed Jesus.

Lead the children in singing several rounds of a song about following Jesus. Incorporate movements. Then prepare the class for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Hold up the lesson 6 Picture Lesson Card for all the children to see.

Say: The disciples obeyed Jesus because He is fair and right. Then read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Doing What Is Just!

Jesus and His disciples were almost to Jerusalem. Jesus told two disciples to get a donkey and its baby for Him. The disciples did what Jesus said. Then Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. When He did this, the people placed palm leaves and clothes on the ground.

Later, Jesus went into the Temple. People were buying and selling things there. Jesus was not happy about this. He

knocked over their tables. The Temple was supposed to be a house of prayer.

Jesus also healed sick people. The children praised God for Jesus! The leaders were not happy about any of it. But Jesus did what was right.

C STACKS OF FUN

Mind Your Manners: **Say:** Jesus wants us to be kind and fair to others.

Have the children stand. Read each example below. If the act is kind and right, have the children jump once. If the act is unkind, have the children sit. Examples: (1) getting in front of another in line (*sit*); (2) asking politely for a crayon (*jump*); (3) saying “please” and “thank you” (*jump*); (4) coughing or sneezing without covering your nose and mouth (*sit*); (*You may add actions of your own.*)

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, pages 35–36, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, girls and boys! Jesus is the promised Messiah. In today's story, what animal did Jesus ride on as He entered Jerusalem? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, Jesus rode a donkey. Did the disciples follow Jesus' instructions? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Now, let's thank God for helping us do what is right. Repeat after me: “Thank You, God (*pause*), for helping us do what is right.” Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children. Have them repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

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Key Verse: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (*Matthew 21:6*)

Faith Block: I will praise Jesus!

Lesson Objective: The children will hear about the things that happened around the time of Palm Sunday.

Materials Needed: *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, markers, other art supplies, old shirts and t-shirts for the “Palm Sunday” game, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 6 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, secure old shirts and t-shirts to be used for the opening activity.

Welcome: Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Thank the parents for bringing their children to class and tell the children how glad you are to see them.

Opening Worship and Activity: After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Briefly tell the children that today they will hear about the way in which people in Bible times praised Jesus.

Present the old shirts and t-shirts. Let the children take turns making a path using the shirts. Allow them to walk on the shirt “path”—marching/walking and clapping while saying, “Hosanna!” They may engage in this activity until it is time to start the lesson.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Say: Let’s listen carefully to this story to find out how the people praised Jesus in Bible times around Palm Sunday.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Doing What Is Just!

Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey that He had told two disciples to bring to Him. People were excited when they saw Jesus coming! They shouted “Hosanna!”

and spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road in front of Jesus.

Later, Jesus went into the Temple. People were buying and selling things there. He made them leave. He shouted, “This is a house of prayer. It is not a hideout for thieves!”

Jesus also healed sick people. The children praised God for Jesus! The leaders were not happy about any of it. But Jesus did what was right.

Bible Story Application: Refer to the lesson 6 Bible Story Application (*page 66*) and teach the children the sing-along “What Jesus Did.”

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 6 (*page 48*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

C STACKS OF FUN

“Hosanna!”: Have the children complete the activity. They should color the palm leaf. As they work, discuss how the people used leaves like this to greet Jesus. Refer to the lesson where it mentions that the people used their cloaks as well as the palm leaves. When they finish the activity, lead the children to shout “Hosanna!” as a class.

Jesus Drives Wrongdoers Out of the Temple: Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “I will praise Jesus!” Then close the class session with prayer.

Doing What Is Just!

April 5, 2020—Lesson 6

Background Scripture: Matthew 21 • **Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

Key Verse: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (*Matthew 21:6*)

Faith Block: I will do what is right and fair!

Lesson Objective: The children will model Jesus' actions by treating others fairly.

Materials Needed: *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), happy-face stickers, pencils, crayons or markers, coloring pencils, scissors, green construction paper, glue sticks, 23x28-inch poster board, masking or transparent tape (to post attendance chart), reward stickers, puzzles or coloring pages, a praise and worship music CD, a CD player, a broom, a shawl, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children's Resource Kit [lesson 6 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer's hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children's view.

✂ Prior to class, prepare palm-leaf shapes on green construction paper for each child in your class; cut out the leaf shapes; also, at the top of a 23x28-inch poster board, write "WE DO WHAT IS JUST." Secure two volunteers to assist you with presenting today's Bible story.

Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities until you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children's offerings. Thank the children for bringing their offerings.

Say: Raise your hand if you remember what it means to be just to others. (*Pause for action. Select one or two of the children who think they can explain what it means to be just and to do so.*) Good job! To be "just" means to be fair and right with others. Today is Palm Sunday. (*Hand each child a palm leaf.*) Draw a picture on the palm leaf of yourself showing justice and fairness to someone.

Allow time for the children to complete the drawing activity. Then invite each child (who desires to do so) to present his or her picture explaining his or her just action.

After they present, invite them to glue their palm leaf to the poster board you prepared earlier. Tape the poster to the classroom wall and give each child a reward sticker.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story

Say: In today's Bible story, Jesus and His disciples are entering Jerusalem to go to the Temple. Let's act out today's Bible story. I have two assistants who will play the part of Jesus and the chief priests. I need you all to play the part of the crowd and the children. I will tell you when to jump up and say, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Use the broom as the donkey, the shawl, a small chair or table, and palm leaves to dramatize the Bible story. Direct the children to walk before Jesus (as He rides into Jerusalem), laying their palm leaves on the floor and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"; they are to shout "Hosanna to the Son of David" in the Temple scene as well (as indicated in the Bible narrative).

Doing What Is Just!

Jesus: Disciples, go to the village and bring me a donkey and her colt.

Narrator: The disciples obeyed. They placed their cloaks (coats) on the animals. And a large crowd spread their cloaks and tree branches on the road. Jesus rode on the donkey to the Temple. There, He saw money changers cheating people.

Jesus: It is written, "My house will be called a house of prayer, not a den of robbers."

Children: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Chief Priests: Do you hear the children?

Jesus: Yes. From the lips of children and infants You, God, accept praise.

Ask: How did Jesus do what is just in today's Bible story? *(He chased out of the Temple money changers who were cheating the worshippers.)*

Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 6 Bible Story Application (page 66) and teach the children the sing-along "What Jesus Did."

☺Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

(Pax enters, waving a palm leaf.)

Pax: Hello, everyone!

Teacher (and Children): Hello, Pax.

Pax: I love Palm Sunday. It's a time to remember that Jesus came to save us! Jesus always does what is right and fair for others. Jesus wants us to do the same thing. I know a boy who likes to bully little boys and girls. He pushes and teases them. Sometimes they cry. My friends and I are trying to help. But we are not sure what to do. Boys and girls, what do you think we should do to make things right for the little boys and girls?

Pause for responses from the children. Affirm any suggestions that demonstrate justice. Clarify and gently correct any inappropriate suggestions.

Pax: Thank you, boys and girls. I will share your suggestions with my friends. You all are right and fair! See you next week.

CSTACKS OF FUN Tracing a Palm Leaf

Say: Let's read the message together: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" *(Pause for the class to recite the message.)* Hosanna means "Lord save us!" Jesus came to make things

right and just for all through the gift of salvation. Trace the palm leaf and color it.

Allow time for the children to complete the activity, assisting as needed. When they are done, allow any students who wish to do so to share their work with the class.

Jesus Drives Wrongdoers Out of the Temple

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say: In the Bible story today, the people and children recognized Jesus as their coming Savior who would bring justice to everyone. Jesus wants us to bring justice and fairness to those we meet. That means standing up for those who are being mistreated. Make sure you continue to show kindness and fairness to others.

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for allowing Jesus to bring justice to the world by dying on the Cross for our sins. Help us to be like Jesus and stand up for those who are being mistreated. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child's name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

Reproducible Bible Story Applications

March 29, 2020

A SING-ALONG

Returning to God

(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")

God sent them a messenger,
Messenger, messenger;
God sent them messenger—
John the Baptist was he.

God sent one that we should seek,
We should seek, we should seek;
God sent one that we should seek—
His name is Jesus Christ!

Jesus will return again,
Return again, return again;
Jesus will return again—
Many will seek Him.

April 5, 2020

A SING-ALONG

What Jesus Did

(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")

Jesus goes to Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!
Told the disciples to find a colt.
Hallelujah!
Jesus entered on the colt.
Hallelujah!
Jesus cleared the Temple.
Hallelujah!
Jesus healed the blind and lame.
Hallelujah!
He got praised for all He did.
Hallelujah!

Lesson 5 : April 12, 2020

A READ-ALOUD POEM

Jesus Is Risen!

Three women went to the tomb
to anoint Jesus' body—
When they arrived, what did they see?
The stone was rolled away, and an angel spoke
to the three;
The angel said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus isn't with me.
"Go tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is risen;
He is not dead'"—
With fear and trembling,
the women left the tomb and fled.

Lesson 7

April 19, 2020

Lesson 8

A SING-ALONG

Esther Spoke Up

(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")

Esther went before the king.
Hallelujah!
"Spare my life and the lives of my people."
Hallelujah!
The king asked, "Who wants to harm you?"
Hallelujah!
They would not let Haman harm them.
Hallelujah!
Because of evil, his life would not be.
Hallelujah!
All were saved—the Jews and the queen.
Hallelujah!

Answers for Extra Activities

PRESCHOOL

Extra Activity 1

Differences in picture #2 to be circled: The hair and beard of the last man on the right of the image is now white; the garment of the third man from the right is now yellow; the sandals of the fourth man from the right are now white; the garment of the man in the foreground with his arms raised is now blue.

Extra Activity 2

Drawings of the events from lesson 6 will vary.

Extra Activity 3

Drawings of the events from lesson 7 will vary.

Extra Activity 4

Drawings of the events from lesson 9 will vary.

Extra Activity 5

Differences in picture #2 to be circled: There are now two pictures hanging between the columns; the cap of the man in the middle of the men with their heads bowed is now pink; the headband of the man on the left with his arms folded is now blue.

Extra Activity 6

Differences in picture #2 to be circled: The sun is now in the sky; there is now a camel on a hill behind the man on the right; the sandals of the second man from the right are now white; there is now a donkey between the first and second men from the right.

Answers for Extra Activities

EARLY ELEMENTARY

Extra Activity 1

Differences in picture #2 to be circled: The big, double doors changed from gold to blue modern-day doors; the first man facing left is now wearing a crown; the beard of the second man facing left is now white; the sandals of the man holding the bag of money are now yellow; there is now a frog between the two men on the right.

Extra Activity 2

Drawings of the events from lesson 7 will vary.

Extra Activity 3

Differences in picture #2 to be circled: There is a bird on top of the building; there is now a red bird in the sky; the garment of the man on the left is now green; the crown on the king's head is now white; Esther's hair is now yellow.

Extra Activity 4

Drawings of the events from lesson 9 will vary.

Extra Activity 5

Tracings and colorings will vary. Lead the children in reading the message in the sign together as a class.

Extra Activity 6

Colorings will vary. Lead the children in reading the message in the sign together as a class.