

# Children Can Worship

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

**Bible Truth:** Children can worship.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

**Bible Verse:** “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise.” (Matthew 21:16b, NIV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: “Who Can Praise the Lord?”

#### Preparation

Write Psalm 150 on the poster board. Leave room around the edges for children to attach their pictures.

#### Presentation

Ask children to draw a picture of themselves on a small piece of paper. Attach each piece of paper to the poster board with Psalm

150 written on it. Say: **Some people think that children are too small to worship the Lord, but that is not true! God wants everyone to worship Him. Psalm 150 in the Bible is a psalm of worship and praise. Let’s read it and praise the Lord together.** Read Psalm 150 with the children. **In today’s lesson, you will learn how certain children praised Jesus and how that made Him very happy.**

#### Materials

small piece of paper for each child  
markers or crayons  
poster board

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Matthew 21:16b

#### Preparation

Write Matthew 21:16b on a piece of poster board.

#### Explanation

Read Matthew 21:16b with the students. Say: **In today’s Bible**

**story, you will hear about a time when Jesus quoted this Bible verse to a group of people who wanted children to be quiet and not worship God. This made Jesus sad. He wants children to worship Him!**

#### Materials

poster board  
markers

**What usually comes out of our mouths?** Allow children to answer. **Right, words come out of our mouths. What does this Bible verse say God is calling to come out of your mouth?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, He wants words of praise to come out of your mouth!**

### **Memorization Activity**

Say: **Let's try to call forth some praise from your lips! I will say the phrase, "From the lips of children and infants." You will respond with the phrase, "You, Lord, have called forth your praise."** Practice saying the verse in this way until the children have learned their part. Then, switch phrases until they can say the entire verse.

## **INSTRUCT**

### **Bible Story: "Children Praising Jesus," Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16**

#### **Preparation**

Read and study Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16.

Prepare small pieces of paper for today's lesson. Write one of the following words on each paper: donkey, disciple, people, children.

Provide children with pieces of cloth they can throw on the floor, and branches to wave around.

**Materials**  
small pieces of paper  
pencil, pen, or marker  
pieces of cloth  
tree branches  
Bible

#### **Presentation**

Divide the children into four teams. Give each team a prepared piece of paper. Instruct them to listen to the way the person or animal praises the Lord. Also ask the children to find a group of people that refused to praise the Lord. Allow children to act out their parts as you tell the story.

Say: **Everybody in Jerusalem was excited. Many people came to Jerusalem for a great feast. They heard about a man named Jesus who healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind and even resurrected a man who had been dead. They wanted to see Jesus.**

**While Jesus and His disciples were walking towards Jerusalem, he told two of them, "Go to the village ahead of you. There you will find a donkey nobody has ever used. Bring it to me. If anyone asks why you are taking the donkey, say that the Lord needs it."**

**The disciples found the donkey just as Jesus had said. They put their coats on its back. Jesus rode through the streets in Jerusalem. He was riding the donkey. When He approached the city, the crowd of people laid their coats on the streets so Jesus would walk on them. Other people waved palm branches. They all sang praises, "Blessed be the King, Glory to God!"**

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went to the temple. They brought Him many blind, crippled and sick people, and He healed them all. When the children saw the wonderful things Jesus was doing, they gathered around Him. Then they began to say in a loud voice, "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

The religious leaders were listening. The praises of the children were making them mad. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Jesus.

"Yes," Jesus said. "They are obeying the Word of God. Don't you remember that Scripture says, 'Even children worship me.'?"

Questions:

Ask each child to share his/her response to the following question:

How did this person or animal worship and praise the Lord?

Donkey (He willingly carried Jesus on his back. Worshiped with his actions.)

Disciples (They followed Jesus' instructions cheerfully. Worshiped with actions.)

People in the streets (They shouted praises to Jesus. Worshiped with their words.)

Children (They said praises to Jesus in the temple. Worshiped with their words.)

Also discuss the following:

What group of people was not willing to worship the Lord?

Why were the religious leaders not willing to worship the Lord?

What made the children worship the Lord?

Has Jesus done wonderful things for you? Will you respond to Him with worship?

## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Creative Scripture, "If I Had Been There"

#### Preparation

Prepare a sheet of paper for each student that says the following, "If I had been there in the Temple that day, I would say..."

**Materials**  
paper  
markers or crayons

#### Presentation

Speak to the children about worshipping God through words of praise, honor, and gratitude. Allow the children to elaborate on words they would have said to Jesus at the temple on that day. Then, give each child a prepared paper. Ask them to write praise words for Jesus. Teachers can assist younger children with this activity by writing the words that each child says.

## MINISTRY TIME

### Preparation

None

### Presentation

Form a circle and ask each child to read what they wrote on their paper during the application activity. At the end of each child's turn, have all of the children say, "Children can worship Jesus!" At the end of the lesson, pray a closing prayer asking God to help the children remember to always give Him praise.

**Materials**  
papers from the  
application activity