WEEK 13: JESUS IS …. THE KING OF KINGS

AIM: To show the children that Jesus is the King above all kings and his kingship is marked by love and humility.

OPENING IDEA: KING IN THE MIDDLE
Play this game the same way you would play Red Rover. Put a crown on the head of the one in the centre. He/she is the king or queen. Set boundaries and on the word ‘go’, the group run from one end to the other. If the king in the middle touches anyone, they become his subjects and must help him catch others as they run through. Continue until all the group has been caught. Then choose another king or queen and start again.

MEMORY VERSE: REVELATION 17:14
Jesus is … Lord of lords and King of kings’.

Write the verse on crown shapes or make crowns that the children can wear.

STORY: JESUS THE KING (Matthew 21:1-11, 15,16)
Ask the children the following questions to lead into today’s story.
1. Where do kings and queens usually live? (In a castle or palace)
2. Are they normally rich or poor? (Rich)
3. How do we know they are rich? (Fabulous gowns and robes, huge castles, magnificent mansions, priceless jewels, untold wealth & riches)
4. How does the royal family travel? (In special luxurious planes, ships, limousines)
5. Our memory verse tells us that Jesus is the King of kings—what do you think that means? (He is the best King who has or will ever live).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Many years ago, every country had a king or queen. They were not voted into their position, but inherited it through birth. Their job was very important because they ruled the country and the people. Whatever decisions they made, the people had to obey, whether they were good or bad, it didn’t matter. The king or queen made the laws and also carried the responsibility for the country and its people.

Jesus is also a King and the Bible tells us that He is the best of Kings. Discuss with the children the ways in which Jesus is different from earthly kings, eg:

1. He was born in an animal stable
2. He was very poor.
3. He did not wear fine, expensive clothes.
4. He did not wear a gold jewel-encrusted crown.
5. He did not live in a palace, etc.
MAIN POINTS:
1. Approaching Jerusalem, Jesus sent some of his friends ahead to find a donkey.
2. He told them that they were to take the donkey that was tied up and if anyone asked them why, they were to quote from the Old Testament in Zechariah 9:9 (show the children where this book and verse is found and read it).
3. They brought the donkey to Jesus and laid their coats on its back.
4. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey and the crowds lined the streets to welcome him.
5. The people had heard about all the wonderful healings and miracles Jesus had done and treated him like a king.
6. They threw their cloaks down on the ground for the donkey to walk on (just like putting down a red carpet for someone important).
7. They cut down branches from the trees and waved them, just like flags.
8. They shouted blessings upon Jesus.
9. When Jesus arrived at the temple, the children cried out ‘Hosanna!’ which is a shout of praise, meaning ‘Save us now!’
10. Even though Jesus was the King and worthy to be worshipped and obeyed, He did not make people obey Him. Jesus came into Jerusalem in humility on a gentle donkey, a symbol of peace. He did not charge in on a mighty war horse surrounded by a powerful army of fighting soldiers, because He wanted everyone to know that He was different from every other king. He was not interested in money or possessions, He wanted to serve others, to heal the sick, to tell them about God’s kingdom and to make others happy.
11. One day in the future, everyone who has ever lived will bow before Jesus Christ and worship Him as King whose kingdom rule is over all of heaven and earth, the entire universe.

ACTIVITY: On the attached worksheet, draw a picture of the crowd waving palm branches, welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.

SONGS: He is the King of Kings
King of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds welcomed Him as a King. They had heard of the wonderful miracles and had performed. They shouted 'Hosanna, hosanna!' (meaning 'Save us, now!') Jesus was the King above all kings, whose kingdom was not of this world, but a kingdom.

Even though Jesus was the King and worthy to be worshipped and offered, He did not rule over people forcing them to obey Him. He came in humility and love as a Servant King. Only a few days later, the same crowds shouted 'Crucify him, crucify him!' They wanted a king riding on a mighty war horse who would make them great in the eyes of their enemies, not someone riding a mere donkey (a symbol of peace).

Jesus was crucified as a criminal yet He had never sinned. He died and was buried, but He rose again. He is the Living King and His kingdom is everlasting. He is coming again soon for those who follow Him.

(Matthew 21:1-11,15,16)
Jesus, the King
Jesus is the King of Kings

(Revelation 17:14)
MAKE A CROWN POSTER

- Have each child cut out one crown shape each.
- Decorate with glitter, sequins, etc.
- Fold tabs A and B and glue into position on A4 page 5.
- Colour and decorate the page.
- Punch holes in top of A4 page, thread ribbon through holes. Hang your poster on wall, meditate on God’s Word day and night (Joshua 1:8)
To discover today’s memory verse, take every letter below and write the letter that comes BEFORE it in the alphabet on the line underneath. For example, with the first word, the letter before K is J the letter before F is E, the letter before T is S, etc. Use the alphabet chart below to help you.

“KFTVT  JT  UIF

“J  __ __ __ __  __  __  __  __  __  __

MPSE  PG  MPSET

__  __  __  __  __  __  __  __

UIF  BOE

__  __  __  __  __

LJOH  PG  LJOHT.”

__  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __

SFWFMBUJPOT  17:14