EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS

Poet Prints TEACHING

Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the story of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem from your children's Bible or preferred translation of the Bible. It can be found in Matthew 21:1-11.

If you'd rather watch the story, many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Search "Palm Sunday Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch the video fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Background Information:

Why did Jesus ride a donkey?

Donkeys and mules were often ridden by kings (1 Kings 1:33), and Jesus is the King of kings. There was also a prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 that said that the Messiah would come riding a donkey. Jesus was fulfilling this prophecy when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Why did people lay branches and cloaks on the ground?

Laying branches and cloaks on the road was a common way for people to celebrate a king who had returned from a victory. Palm branches symbolized victory, and waving them was a celebration of honor. Laying branches and cloaks was a way to honor Jesus like a king.

We might honor someone by setting out a red carpet for them. Royalty and celebrities often walk down a red carpet.

What does *Hosanna* mean?

Hosanna is a Hebrew expression that means "save" or "rescue." It expresses praise and also a cry for help.

Why is this story important?

This story marks the beginning of Passion Week (also called Holy Week). This story took place on a Sunday. By the following Sunday, Jesus would be arrested, crucified, and risen from the dead. There's a stark contrast between how he was celebrated on his way into Jerusalem and what would happen a week later.

What is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday is a day that people celebrate and remember the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and people honoring Him. The name comes from the palm branches set down and waved by the crowd.

Step Two: Explore the story.

Share some of the information above with your kids to help them understand the story. Then, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. This can be done individually or in small groups. Don't want to print it out? Try mapping the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

Jesus Rides into Jerusalem: Quickly map out the three main parts of the story.

- Jesus sends two disciples to get a colt for him
- Jesus rides a colt into Jerusalem
- People lay down palm branches and cloaks and shout, "Hosanna!"

When you're done, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

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Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

Step Three: Do the activity and the craft.

Activity: Preparing the Way

In this optional activity, kids will lay branches down to create a path for Jesus. Use whatever branches and/or flowers are available near you. You can also make the path with coats or extra fabric.

Remind your kids that laying branches and cloaks on the road was a way that people in the Bible celebrated a king who had returned from a victory. Palm branches symbolized victory and waving them was a celebration of honor. Laying branches and cloaks was a way to honor Jesus like a king.

When you've completed the craft in the next section, stand the kids next to this path and let them wave their flags while you play worship music.

Craft: Waving in Worship

In the Bible, people waved palm branches as a celebration and laid them down as a sign of respect for royalty. Today, you will create your own item to wave to celebrate Jesus.

Print out a flag template for each student. As a group, brainstorm some ideas of *worship* phrases that you could write on your flag. *For example, Jesus is King, Hosanna; You are my king, You are worthy of worship, Thank you, Jesus, etc.*

If you don't want kids to create their phrases, two versions have been included that already include printed words.

Give kids time to decorate their flags and write their phrases. Try playing worship music as they work.

Then, cut out the flag and attach it to something sturdy like a chopstick, pencil, or stick.

Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Kids will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!

John 12:13b NIV

Big idea suggestion: Jesus is King!

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Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

Name: _____

1

2

3

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem?

QUESTION #2

Why did Jesus choose to ride a colt into the city?

QUESTION #3

What did people do as Jesus entered the city?

QUESTION #4

Why did they wave palm branches and lay down cloaks?

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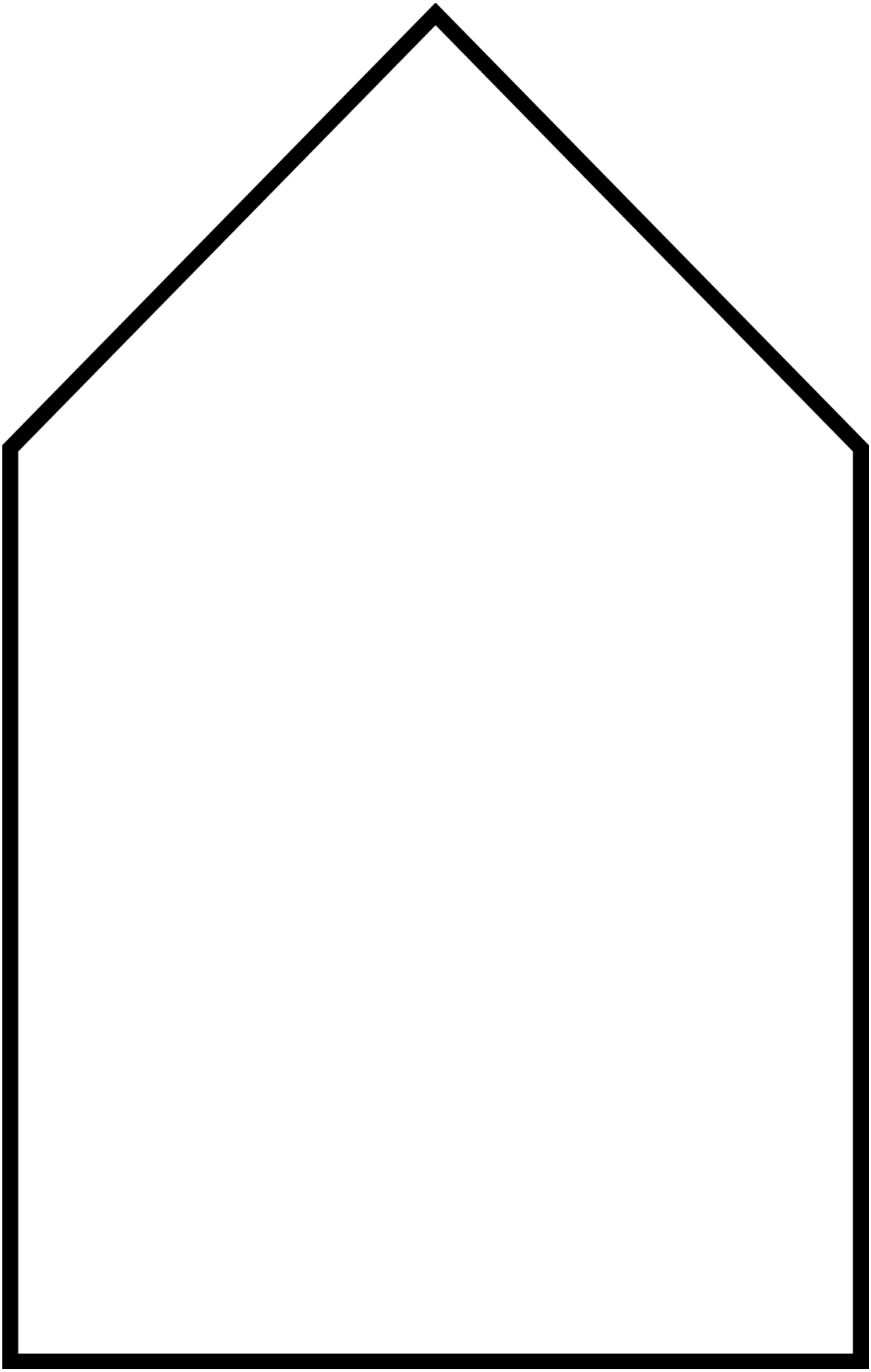
Flag Template, Blank Version



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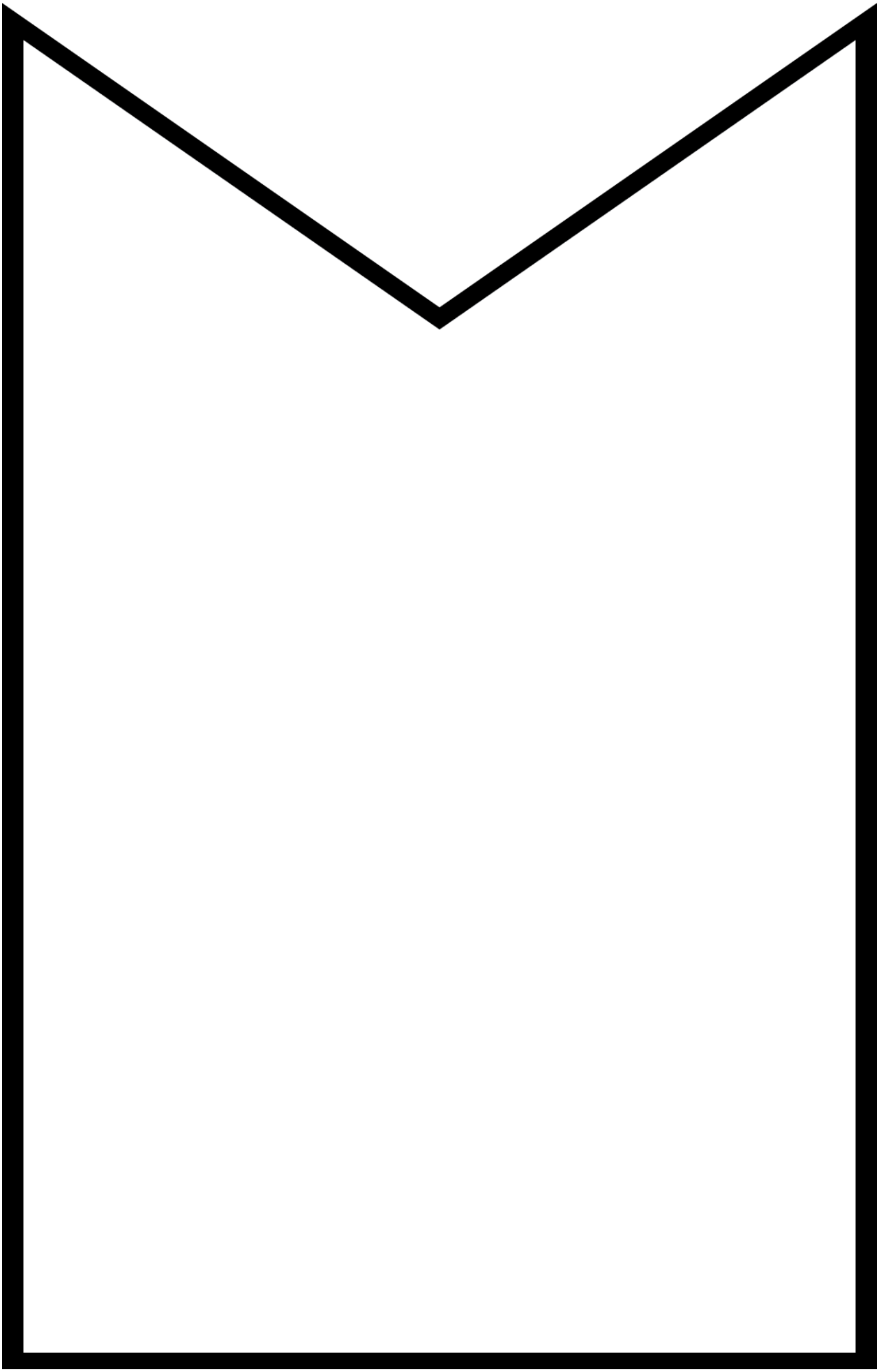

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HOSANNA

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!

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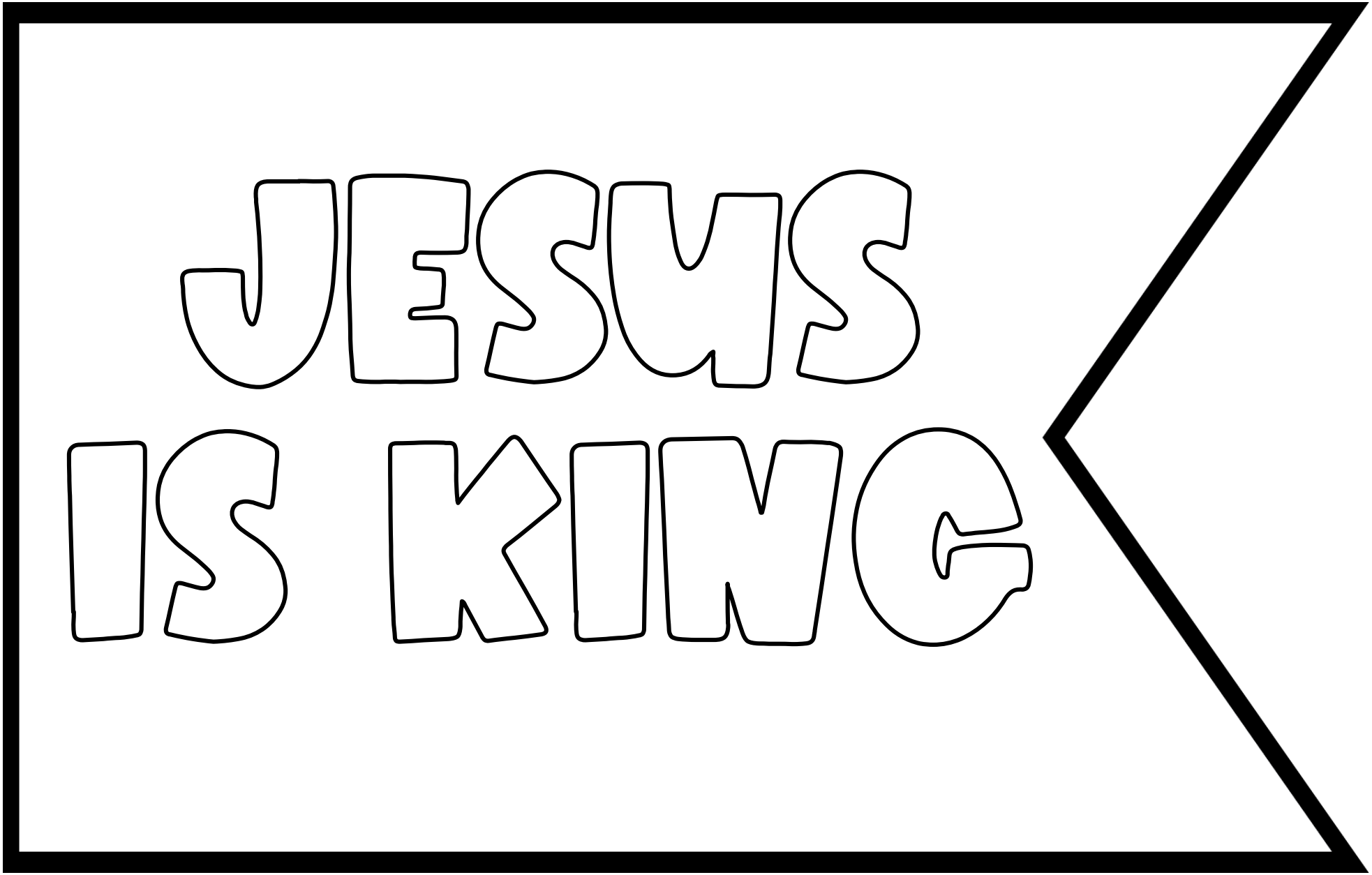

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JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

MEMORIZE THIS:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

HOSANNA

Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

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