

Workshop Focus: Jesus is our king.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Welcome to cooking! What do you think it's like to live where a king or queen is in charge? Allow kids to respond. **Today we're going to read a story about a king!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to younger kids and Spark Bible out to older kids. Help kids find Palm Sunday on pages 454-459. Encourage kids to follow along as you read. **When I say, "Jesus" you say "He's our king!" When I say, "donkey" you say, "clip-clop." When I say, "palms" you wave your arms.** Read the story.

Direct the older kids to find Luke 19:28-40 on pages 1159-1160 in their Spark Bibles. Encourage the kids to follow along as best they can. Have kids mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin.

Let's talk about the story. Where was Jesus going? (Jerusalem) Point to the picture on page 456 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did Jesus ride on? (a donkey)** Have the older kids read Luke 19:38 on page 1159 of their Spark Bibles. **What did**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

the people call Jesus? (King) What kind of king do you think Jesus is? Allow kids to respond. **The religious leaders and the people thought Jesus wanted to be a king who ruled with power. But Jesus came to be a king of peace and love. Jesus is our King!**

Let's make something to celebrate King Jesus!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

King Jesus Cakes

Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 400° F [204° C]. Separate the cinnamon rolls from the frosting containers. Divide the sugar into three bowls.

Ingredients: *(Makes 8 cakes with frosting.)*

- Cooking spray
- Tubes of refrigerated cinnamon rolls with frosting (2 eight-count tubes)
- Sugar (1 cup [237 ml] divided into thirds)
- Food coloring (red, yellow, green, blue)

Activity Instructions

Jesus came to be a king of peace and love. For many years, between the holidays of Christmas and Easter, people have celebrated Jesus with a special kind of cake called a king cake. The king cake originally represented the visit of the wise men to see Jesus. Later the cake began to represent King Jesus, himself. We're each going to make our own king cake. Remind kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. **Where were Jesus and his disciples going?** *(to Jerusalem)* Give each kid a square of aluminum foil to work on.
2. **What holiday were they going to celebrate?** *(Passover)* Help kids lightly pass over their foil sheets with cooking spray.
3. **What did Jesus send the disciples to get?** *(a donkey)* Give each kid a cinnamon roll. Encourage kids to squish and roll the dough into the shape of a donkey ear.
4. **What did Jesus do when the disciples brought the donkey to him?** *(rode it)* Give kids a second roll of dough to add to their first.
5. **What did it start to look like when Jesus and his disciple traveled down the road to Jerusalem?** *(a parade)* **Roll both pieces of your dough together into one long thin rope, kind of like a parade!** Help kids roll their dough between their hands until it becomes one long rope.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Plates
Napkins
Plastic knives
Aluminum foil
Baking sheets
Bowls
Spoons
Oven
Oven mitts

6. **What were some of the people shouting as Jesus rode by?** (*Hosanna, here comes God's king!*) **Let's make a crown for King Jesus!** Demonstrate how to form a ring with the dough on a piece of foil. Help kids pinch the ends of their dough together firmly.
7. Bake the cakes for 8 minutes. Allow them to cool for 1-2 minutes.
8. Create the colored sugar while the cakes are baking and cooling.
 - a. Show kids the bowls of sugar and the food coloring. **Three colors are traditionally used on King Cakes. Each color has a different meaning.**
 - b. Put a couple drops of red and blue food coloring into a bowl of sugar. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Purple is the color of the church season called Lent. It reminds us of the time Jesus spent going to and dying on the cross.**
 - c. Put a couple drops of green food coloring into the next bowl. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Green is the color of hope for new life with Jesus. What else is green in our story today?** (*palms*)
 - d. Put a few drops of yellow food coloring into the next bowl. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Gold is the color that reminds us of Easter morning and the gift of eternal life we now have with Jesus!**
9. Give each kid a plate, a napkin, and a plastic knife.
10. Place king cakes on plates. **What did the people do with their coats and palms as Jesus came down the road?** (*spread them on the ground, waved them*) Have kids spread frosting on top of their cakes.
11. **The religious leaders didn't understand what kind of King Jesus was. What did the religious leaders tell Jesus?** (*Tell the people to be quiet.*) **What did Jesus tell the leaders?** (*If the people were quiet the stones would start to shout.*) Demonstrate how to sprinkle some of each of the three colors of sugar on top of the cakes.
12. **The people celebrated Jesus as he rode into town. We celebrate Jesus, too. Jesus is our king!** Enjoy the cakes. Remind kids to wash their hands before Wrap Up.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thanks for coming to Cooking! We read about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palms and celebrated Jesus as king. The religious leaders wanted the people to be quiet. We made King Jesus Cakes to celebrate Jesus. Jesus is our king! What would you do if you saw King Jesus riding down the street? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to stand. **We're going to praise Jesus with our bodies at the end of our prayer.** Show kids how to do the "wave." One kid bows and stands while others copy, one at a time, like a wave.

Dear Jesus,

We praise you!

We love you!

You are our king!

Praise Jesus!

Amen. (wave)