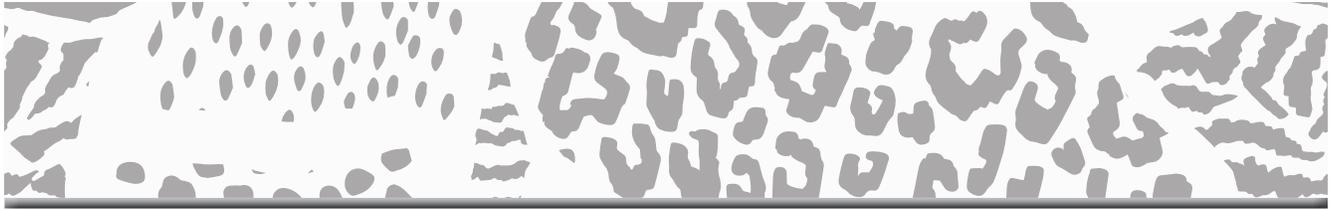


**TOP
50**

**Bible
Lessons
WITH
God's Amazing
ANIMALS**

**Dean A. & Mindy
Anderson**

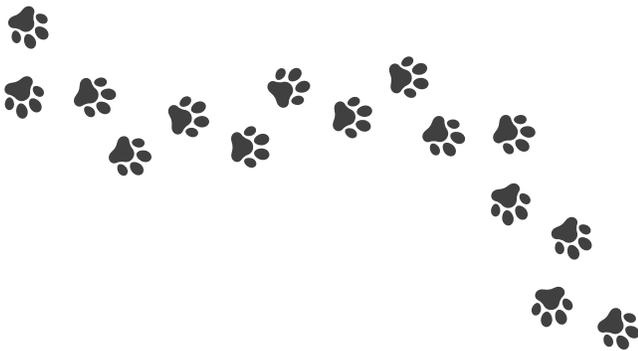
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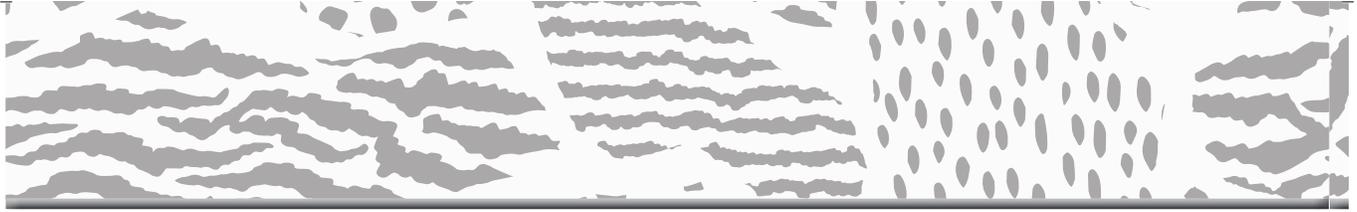


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Introduction

How can you learn about God through animals? The Bible is packed with stories about animals, like Noah's Ark, Daniel in the Lions' Den, and Moses and the Ten Plagues. Jesus used animals in parables to explain important truths. Can a camel pass through the eye of a needle? Jesus asks this question to emphasize how difficult it is for us to let go of our possessions and follow him.

From creation to the Old Testament prophets to the Psalms and the Gospels, see how animals can teach your children about God's love. In the *Top 50 Bible Lessons with God's Amazing Animals*, enjoy Bible-based lessons focused on overcoming fears, forgiveness, caring for the sick and more! Our feathered, scaly, furry friends can teach us a lot about God's character and your relationship to him. You can jump to your favorite lessons or work your way from beginning to end of the book.

How to use this Book

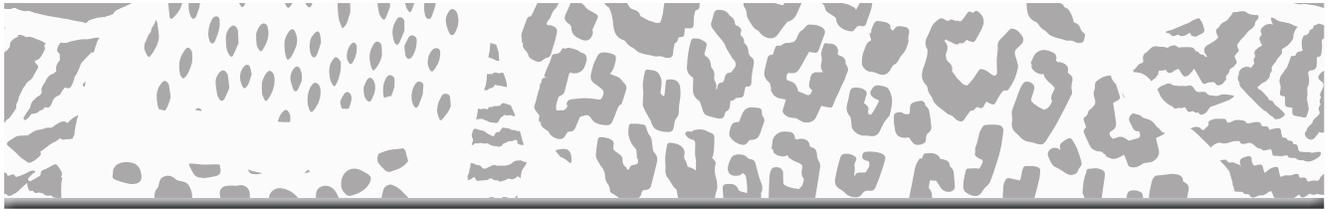
These fifty Bible lessons are divided by animal species: Big Cats, Dogs and Wolves, Horses and Donkeys, Birds, Sheep, Farm Animals, Fish, Insects, and Reptiles.

Each lesson includes:

- Memory Verse
- Big Idea: Bible truth emphasized in each lesson.
- Introduction: Guided conversation to introduce the lesson.
- Bible Story
- Opening Game related to the Bible story or the animal species.
- Object Lesson: Use everyday objects to explain biblical truths.
- Three Optional Activities: Children with different learning styles engage with Bible truths through crafts, games, snacks, and more. Includes quick reference materials lists, step-by-step instructions, and guided conversations.
- **And More!** Includes a Bible lesson index and a memory verse index at the back of the book!



See creation in a whole new light in the *Top 50 Bible Lessons with God's Amazing Animals!*



Chapter 18: A King on a Colt

Matthew 21:1–11

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You have said it."

Mark 15:2



Introduction

Say: In the Bible, there were a lot of prophecies about what the Messiah would be like. One of them was about Jesus riding on a donkey. When Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, it was one of the ways God shows us that **Jesus is King**. (Open with prayer requests, praises, and a time of prayer.)

Bible Story

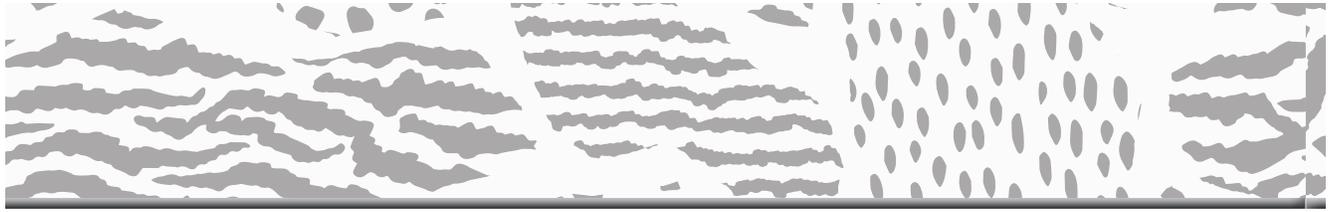
Say: Even people who thought Jesus was a king thought he acted in unexpected ways. (Read Matthew 21:1–3). This was a strange errand, right? Jesus told his disciples to take a donkey and its colt. Let's find out what he planned to do. (Read Matthew 21:4–11)

Through prophecies that were written long before Jesus was born, God showed his Son would be special. How did God use an animal in this story? (Children respond.) Jesus used the donkey to fulfill the prophecy. For hundreds of years people waited for a sign.

There was Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. It was a sign that **Jesus is King**. Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey? (Children respond.) Riding on a donkey was a symbol of humility, not one of power. Jesus came to set up a new kingdom—one where a powerful king acted like a servant.



A King on a Colt •



Opening Game

Pass the Palm

Directions: Children divide into evenly numbered teams. If necessary, leader joins one of the teams to even things out. All players grab a chair and place it side-by-side with the rest of their team (church-pew style). There should be two rows of chairs.

Children sit down. The first player on each team is given a palm branch. On the leader's signal, the first player on each team passes the palm branch to the player sitting next to them. That player passes it to the next player, and so on down the line. When the last player gets the palm branch, player carries it to the front of the line. While player is moving, the rest of the team moves down one chair, leaving the first seat open for the moving player. Player takes the first seat and starts the passing of the palm branch again. Play continues until the players of both teams have returned to their original positions.

Say: In Bible times, the palm branch was a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life. Why is a symbol for victory or triumph a good one for Jesus? Peace? Eternal Life? (Pause after each question for children to respond.) When Jesus rode a donkey over the palm branches into Jerusalem, he was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah. That told everyone that **Jesus is King!**



Materials

- Chairs, one for each child
- Palm branches (real or cut from green construction paper)

Object Lesson

Modes of Transportation

Directions: Hold up extreme close-up images one by one for children to name.

Say: Which mode of transportation would you prefer to use? (Children respond.) Which is the worst? (Children respond.) Which one do you think the President of the United States uses? (Children respond.) What do you think movie stars use? (Children respond.)

Jesus, the Son of God, rode on a donkey. Why do you think he did that? (Children respond.) Prophets in the Old Testament predicted that Israel's King would come riding on a donkey. At the same time, God let us know he had come to save us, because **Jesus is king.**

Materials

- Close-up images of different modes of transportation (private jet, yacht, helicopter, limousine, carriage, donkey, etc.)



• Horses & Donkeys



Optional Activities

Hop for the King

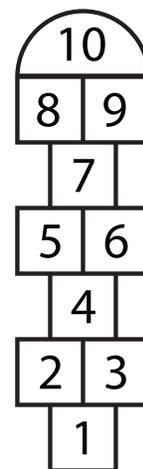
Preparation: Use masking tape, rope, or other marker to create a hopscotch board. Number the boxes.

Directions: Children throw a beanbag and hop to the correct square. Ask the question that corresponds to the number the beanbag landed on. Children answer, or choose a volunteer to answer, the question. If the question has already been asked, the class recites the memory verse.

1. Did Jesus enter Jerusalem or Bethlehem? *Jerusalem*
2. Did Jesus enter the city alone or with his disciples? *With disciples.*
3. Jesus told his disciples to get an animal for him. Did they pay for it or did they take it? *They took it.*
4. What were the disciples supposed to say if someone saw them taking the animal that Jesus wanted? *It's for the Lord.*
5. Did Jesus ride a donkey or a horse? *Donkey*
6. What would you think if someone claimed to be king?
7. Why did Jesus chose to ride the animal he did? *To fulfill the prophecy and because a donkey was a humble animal.*
8. Why did Jesus choose to enter the city? *He knew it was soon time for him to die on the cross for our sins.*
9. What holiday celebrates Jesus entering Jerusalem? *Palm Sunday*
10. Donkeys are smaller or bigger than horses? *Smaller.*

Materials

- Masking tape, rope, or other marker
- Beanbag



Say: We talk about Jesus a lot in church. We hear about him so much that we might forget how amazing he is. What was amazing about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey? (*Children respond.*) It showed that he was a different kind of king. He was powerful, but he chose to enter on a lowly, humble animal. **Jesus is King**, but he doesn't use his power to force people. Instead, he asks us to come to him with love.

Palm Branch Parade

Say: Today we are going to act out Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. This was a very special day because **Jesus is King!** When Jesus entered the gates on a donkey, it showed everyone else that he was King. He fulfilled the prophecy!

Directions: Choose volunteers to be Jesus, the Donkey, and a Disciple. Distribute palm branches to remaining children. The three named volunteers remain standing. Jesus puts his hands on the Donkey's shoulders to pretend like he is riding it. The Disciple

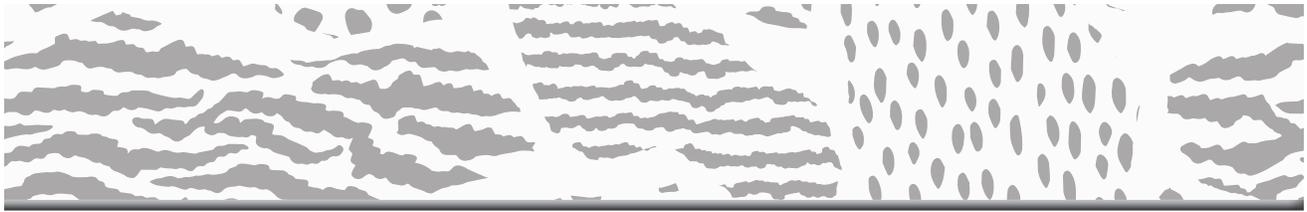
Materials

- Palm branches (real or cut from green construction paper)
- Rope

Optional

- Children's worship music and player

A King on a Colt •



puts the rope over the Donkey's shoulder and pretends to lead the donkey. Palm-branch children raise the branches to form a tunnel where Jesus, the Donkey and the Disciple are walking.

The goal is to keep the three named volunteers walking. Once Jesus has passed a pair of children holding palm branches, they race to the opposite end to continue the tunnel. Tell the volunteers to move slowly. If the tunnel gets stuck (facing a wall, table, or other obstacle) the round is over. Children recite the memory verse. Then choose new volunteers and play as time and interest allow.

Optional: Play worship music as the three volunteers move.

Pipe-Cleaner Donkey

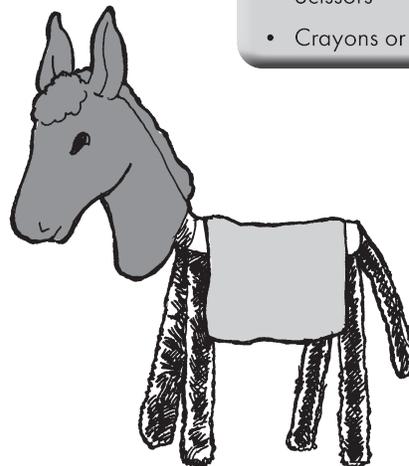
Preparation: Photocopy Donkey Head Pattern, making one for each child. Cut the drinking straw into 2-inch sections. Cut the pipe cleaners into 6-inch sections.

Directions: Distribute Donkey Head Pattern to children. Children follow instructions:

1. Color your donkey head.
2. Cut out the donkey head.
3. Color your blanket and write the memory verse or "Jesus Is King." Cut out blanket.
4. Squeeze together and thread three pieces of pipe cleaner through the straw. There should be three ends sticking out of each side of the straw.
5. Bend one end of the pipe cleaner up and two down on the front end of the straw for the neck and front legs.
6. On the back end of the straw, bend two pieces of wire down for the back legs and one up for the tail.
7. Carefully glue the donkey heads together back-to-back with the pipe cleaner neck in the center.
8. Glue the blanket over the donkey's back.

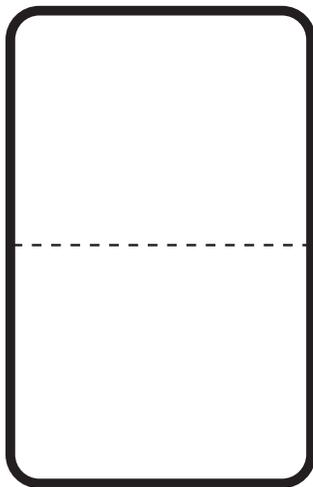
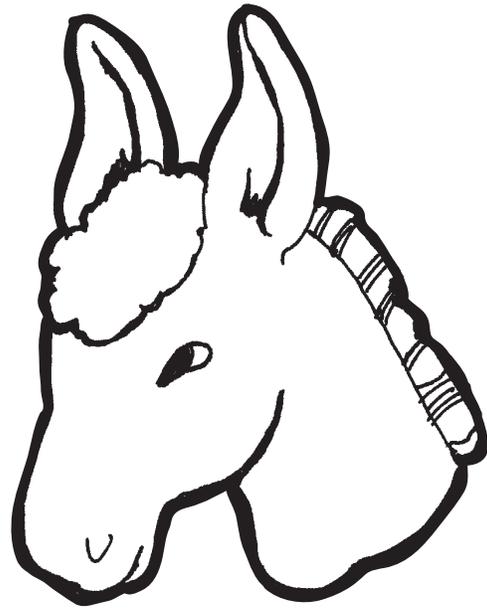
Materials

- Donkey Head Pattern (p. 97)
- Brown pipe cleaners
- Clear plastic drinking straw
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

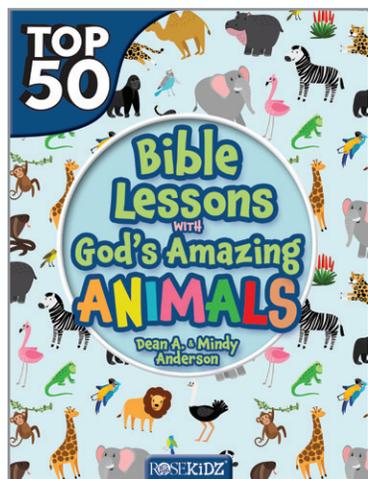


Say: What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

(Children respond.) A donkey! Why did he choose to ride a donkey instead of a more powerful animal? (Children respond.) He fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. This proved to everyone that **Jesus is King.**



..... Donkey Head Pattern



Top 50 Bible Lessons with God's Amazing Animals

Kids and animals go together like peanut butter and jelly! In these handy reproducible lessons, learn what the Old Testament prophets, the Psalms, and the Gospels have to say about God's creatures--- and what they can teach us about the Lord. Each section includes memory verses, games, discussion questions, craft ideas, and more. Ages 5 to 10.

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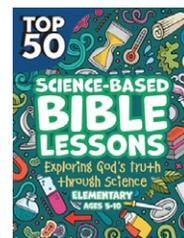


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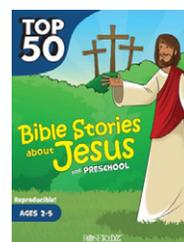


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