

What kind of king is Jesus?

Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives. They were almost near enough to hear the noise of the pilgrim crowds in the city. Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead, and they went, his surprising words echoing in their minds.

He had said, ‘Go into the next village, and as soon as you enter it, you will find tied-up a colt * that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks you what you are doing, just say, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’

So they went off and found a colt in the street, tied up near a door. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it.

Then the disciples brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks on it and he sat on the animal. There was a crowd of people and many of them spread their cloaks out on the road in front of Jesus, while others laid down leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And these pilgrims sang their ancient song: ‘Hosanna! * Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! * Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ And in these words, they heard the cries of the prophets of old. Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple. He looked around at everything and, as it was late, he went to spend the night at Bethany with his twelve disciples.

See session outline on p.28.

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the * to share these points with the children.

- * A colt is a young donkey. You would usually expect to see a king on a horse.
- * A Hebrew word usually used to mean ‘Praise’, but it actually means ‘Save us, please!’
- * David was the king in the Old Testament and Jesus is from his family.

