

**Martyn Payne**

# *The Easter Story*



**for families to share**

readings, questions, activities and prayers

**Martyn Payne**

*The  
Easter  
Story*

**for families to share**

readings, questions, activities and prayers

# 1 Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” say, “The Lord needs it.”’

<sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

<sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’

<sup>34</sup> They replied, ‘The Lord needs it.’

<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

<sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

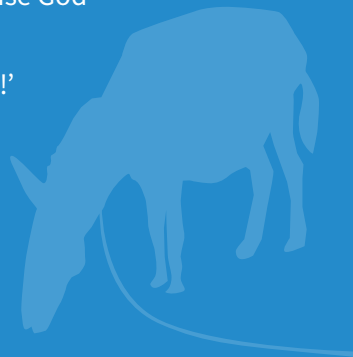
<sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup> ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’  
‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’

<sup>40</sup> ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’

LUKE 19:28–40





## Commentary

The final week of Jesus' life arrives. It is such an important week that each of the gospels devotes several chapters to the events of the next few days. The news of Jesus' wonderful deeds, teaching and healing people, assures him of a hero's welcome into Jerusalem on the day we now call Palm Sunday.

In the style of a victory procession for a Roman general, people line the streets, waving palms and throwing their clothes on to the road to make a sort of red carpet for a new king. They shout out an extravagant welcome, believing that Jesus has come to rescue them from the

Romans. Their words about peace and glory are almost an echo of what the angels sang on the night Jesus was born, but, just as the arrival of the king then as a helpless baby was unexpected, so this arrival takes everyone by surprise too. He chooses to ride a donkey, not a fine white stallion, which would have better suited a great king. Jesus is a different sort of king; even so, he recognises that this is a day of rejoicing because an amazing rescue is about to happen, one that the crowds cannot begin to imagine.



## Questions

- ▶ What makes you think that Jesus had planned ahead for this special day?
- ▶ What was so special about this particular donkey?
- ▶ Why had such large crowds gathered to welcome Jesus?
- ▶ What sort of king was everyone expecting?
- ▶ Why were the Pharisees so upset?



## Visual aid

Find a branch with large leaves to be your 'palms' for this story. You might even be able to find a real palm leaf somewhere, or perhaps a cross made from palm leaves.



## Activity idea

Many Christians receive a palm cross at church on the Sunday when we remember this story. You may already have one. On the internet there are instructions for how to fold paper to make your own palm cross. Once you have something to wave, recreate the sounds of that day, cheering and shouting 'Hosanna!', which means 'Save us!'



## Prayer idea

Use the palms of your hands to signpost different sorts of prayer.

- Wave the palms of your hands in praise of Jesus.
- Hold up your palms asking Jesus to be king of your life this day.
- Turn over your palms to let go of all that is bad.
- Press together the palms of your hands and ask God to help you to be ready to say 'yes'.
- Stretch out your palms to bless each other in the name of the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



## Old Testament story link

**Long ago, the prophet Zechariah wrote about the way in which the special king from God would arrive in Jerusalem.**

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

## Key verse

**'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'**

LUKE 19:38

## **The Bible Reading Fellowship**

15 The Chambers, Vineyard

Abingdon OX14 3FE

**brf.org.uk**

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is a Registered Charity (233280)

ISBN 978 1 80039 101 7

First published 2021

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

All rights reserved

Text © Martyn Payne 2014

This edition © The Bible Reading Fellowship 2021

The author asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work

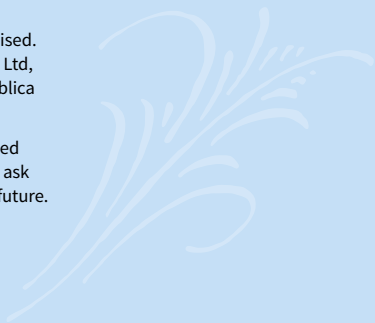
### **Acknowledgements**

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version Anglicised. Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, an Hachette UK company. All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica UK trademark number 1448790.

Every effort has been made to trace and contact copyright owners for material used in this resource. We apologise for any inadvertent omissions or errors, and would ask those concerned to contact us so that full acknowledgement can be made in the future.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Printed and bound in the UK by Zenith Media NP4 0DQ



# The Easter Story

is written for parents, grandparents and carers to share with their children through an interactive family Bible and prayer time.

Each section provides a brief comment on the passage, questions to discuss, a visual aid to encourage engagement with the story, an activity idea, a prayer idea, a key verse and an Old Testament story link.



Formerly part of BRF's Messy Church team, **Martyn Payne** is a gifted storyteller whose previous books *The Big Story* (2011) and *Creative Ways to Tell a Bible Story* (2012) demonstrate the variety of approaches he uses to bring the Bible alive for children and adults alike. He is passionate about the blessing that comes when generations explore faith together.

This publication has been made possible through generous donations from BRF supporters. If you would like to support our work, please donate at [brf.org.uk/give](http://brf.org.uk/give).



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

UK £2.50

ISBN: 9781800391017



9 781800 391017



[brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk)

The Bible Reading Fellowship is a Registered Charity (233280)