

## Riding Through Jerusalem

(This introduction is shared with the congregation as the children come forward. In addition, you might also use a stuffed donkey, such as Eyore, a donkey from a manger scene set or a picture of a donkey for illustration.) The lesson describes Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Near the Mount of Olives Jesus sends two of his disciples into Jerusalem. They are instructed to find a young donkey and bring it back to Jesus. Jesus then rides the donkey into the city of Jerusalem.

Good morning girls and boys. This morning we are going to talk about Jesus riding into the city of Jerusalem. Do you know what Jesus was sitting on when he rode into the city? Let's listen to the donkey tell his story.

I'm a little gray donkey.  
I'm not a royal horse.  
I don't know why they chose little me,  
Instead of a stallion as big as a tree.  
I'm just a little gray donkey with ears that stick up  
I eat my oats from a bucket and drink water from a cup.  
They say a king will ride upon my back.  
Other than that, I know no other fact.

Then Jesus sits on me straight and tall.  
And the gates of Jerusalem open for all.  
"Hosanna! Hosanna!" The people shout  
With palm branches waving all about.  
The golden bells ring.  
And the children sing.  
The drums bang.  
And the loud symbols clang!  
They are so loud it hurts my head.  
I want to go back to my straw bed!

Palm branches are spread along the way  
For Jesus, The King, has come today.  
What does this mean, I don't understand.  
My ears are still ringing from the sounds of the band.  
Then I hear a chorus singing  
And I know who I am bringing.  
Now I understand what I am to do  
I am to honor Jesus, the King of the Jews.  
It is Jesus who comes not with a sword  
But in the name of the Lord.  
As a little gray donkey I am to bring  
This message of Jesus our Lord and King!

(The message concludes with the children's choir or the adult choir singing "Ride Through Jerusalem!")

Ride through Jerusalem, little donkey, ride through the city today;  
Ride through Jerusalem, little donkey, palms spread along the way.  
You bear a dear and precious load, making your way down a crowded road.  
Ride through Jerusalem, little donkey, ride through the city today.

Ride through Jerusalem, little donkey, ride through the city today;  
Ride through Jerusalem, little donkey, palms spread along the way.  
You bear the Son of God, you see, he'll bear a cross and set us free  
Sing Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Let us pray.  
Thank you God  
For the donkey who shared  
The message of Jesus  
Our Lord and our King.  
Now help us to share  
This message of Jesus.  
Amen