

LESSON 4

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Passover

For many centuries now, the Passover is celebrated each year in the month of Nisan (the first month of the Jewish New Year, which usually corresponds to late March and April) in remembrance of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. During the time of Jesus, all Jewish males over the age of twelve were required to go to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.

Prophecy Fulfilled

Jesus entered the city sitting on a donkey and her colt. The Gospel of Matthew is the only book of the Four Gospels to mention two animals. The other Gospels only mention the colt. However, Matthew's recording fulfills the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, which said that the King would come in this fashion.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

It is always easy to give praise to God in times of joy. The people in Jerusalem sang praises because they saw their King and envisioned a better future for themselves. It is only natural for people to thank God for the wonderful blessings they have received. But how many can do the same during times of hardship and suffering? One of the few people who did just that was Job. Even though his wife told him to curse God and die because he was in such pain, he told her that it was selfish to accept only the good things from God. In his prayers, he still praised the Lord.

When your students encounter a problem, their first reaction may be to complain or to blame someone. They will not think to praise God. Remind them that Jesus can help them, no matter the situation. Encourage the students to praise God. Praising God will help them feel better and take away the bad feelings they have for anything or anyone. Let them understand that they should praise God at all times. When this attitude becomes an intrinsic part of their lives, they will grow up experiencing comfort and strength from God.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 21:1-11, 14-18

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is the King.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To praise Jesus at all times.
2. To thank God by praising Him during good times.
3. To know that praising Jesus in bad times will give you peace.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will sing praise to Your name,
O Most High."

(Psalm 9:2b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know that You are the only God and Savior for us. You are the only King. Let us always praise You and give thanks to You for all the wonderful things You have done for us. Even during times of hardship, we should still remember to pray to You and give praise to Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

triumphant: victorious, winning, successful

Passover: an annual Jewish feast that celebrates the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt

Hosanna: A Hebrew expression meaning "save," which became an exclamation of praise

praise: to respect, give glory, and use words of admiration

authority: the power or right to order or decide

REVIEW

In last week's lesson, Jesus spoke to His disciples about being a great person in the eyes of God. Jesus taught them this lesson because the disciples were arguing about who was better. James and John also asked Jesus if they could sit next to Him in the kingdom of heaven. It was wrong for them to think this way because God's kingdom is not about status or honor. The world measures the success of people through wealth and status. However, Jesus explained that in order to be the greatest, it was necessary to become a servant. The disciples were surprised because they were not expecting this kind of answer. Jesus said that God will bless those who love and help others. This is the best way to become a great person.

BIBLE STORY

The Passover Feast

One day, the city of Jerusalem was crowded with many people. Men, women, and children were everywhere. They were in the city for a special reason. [Ask the students why they think the people gathered in Jerusalem.] These people had come because of the Passover Feast. Every year around this time, many people would come to Jerusalem to remember how God saved the Israelites while they were in Egypt. God commanded the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts as a sign to the angels not to go into that house and kill the firstborn son, as they would do for all the Egyptians. The angels passed over the houses of the Israelites that were marked by the blood of a lamb. Everyone gathered in Jerusalem to worship and give praise to God for protecting them during that time.

Preparing the Donkey and Colt

But something even more exciting was going to happen during this Passover. The people did not know that Jesus and His disciples were planning on coming to Jerusalem. When they were all busy getting ready to celebrate the Passover Feast, Jesus and His disciples had arrived in a small town called Bethphage. This was very close to Jerusalem, where all the excitement was. Jesus called two of His disciples over to Him.

Jesus said to them, "Go into the village. There, you will find a donkey and her colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks you why you are taking them, just say that the Lord needs them."

The disciples weren't sure why Jesus needed these animals but they followed His instructions and went into the village. When they got there, everything was as Jesus

said it would be. They untied the donkey and her colt and brought them to Jesus.

On the Way to Jerusalem

Usually, Jesus walked from place to place, preaching the word of God. But this time, He chose to go into the city of Jerusalem riding a donkey and her colt. He did this because, many years ago, God had revealed through the prophet Zechariah that the King would come riding on a donkey. Jesus wanted everyone to understand that He was the promised King and had come to help the people.

After the disciples brought the animals to Jesus, they put their clothes on the donkey and colt's backs to make the seat softer. Then Jesus got onto the donkey and her colt and rode to Jerusalem.

Everyone Praises Jesus

As Jesus rode on the animals, many people who were traveling on the same road saw Him. They immediately recognized who He was and began to whisper excitedly to each other. They didn't expect to see Jesus there. They all knew about Him because they had heard of His powerful words and the wonderful miracles He had performed. The Israelites were very happy to see Jesus and joyfully welcomed Him. Some people took off their clothes and spread them on the road and others cut palm branches from the trees and put them on the road. [Tell the students that they did all this to show that they knew Jesus was the King.] Jesus' entrance fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, "Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey."

As Jesus got closer and closer to the city, the people

shouted in loud voices, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” They were all praising Jesus the King.

The Triumphant Entry

People inside the city of Jerusalem heard the shouts of praise. There was a large crowd surrounding a person sitting on a donkey and her colt.

Some people asked, “Who is this person?” while others wanted to know what was happening to cause all this fuss. As the crowd entered the city, they told the people that this person was Jesus. When everyone else realized who Jesus was, they also began to shout praises. The King was finally here!

Jesus Helps the People

After Jesus entered the city, He went straight to the temple. Many people who were sick came to see Him and He healed every one of them. The people in Jerusalem saw the power of God and praised God even more. Even the

children sang praises. They kept shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

While most of the people were happy, some of the Jewish leaders did not like what they were seeing and hearing. They didn’t want Jesus to be so popular because it might take away some of their power and authority. They wanted the children to stop praising Him.

Final Thoughts

What did you learn from the lesson today? [Discuss. Share these additional teachings with the students.]

What can we praise God for today? [Discuss. Some answers may include praising God for His protection and guidance for us, praising God when we hear of miracles and testimonies, or praising God because He is the King. Emphasize that we should praise God with a joyful heart. For example, during every class, we sing hymns to praise God. We are singing to God, the King and Creator of our universe, so we should praise Him with our hearts.]

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Where was Jesus going?** Jerusalem.
2. **What animals did Jesus tell His disciples to bring back?** A donkey and her colt.
3. **What did the people shout when they saw Jesus riding on the animals?** Hosanna (to the Son of David)!
4. **What did the people put on the road when they saw Jesus?** They put their clothes and palm branches on the road.
5. **Why did the people put their clothes and palm branches on the road?** To show that Jesus was the King.
6. **How were the people feeling when they saw Jesus?** Happy.
7. **Why did Jesus ride on a donkey and her colt into Jerusalem?** To fulfill Zechariah’s prophecy and prove that He was the King.
8. **Why didn’t the Jewish leaders like Jesus, even though He was helping people?** They were jealous of Jesus. They didn’t want to lose their power and they didn’t want the people to like Him.
9. **How can you praise Jesus today?** We can praise God by praying, by singing, by not saying bad words, by saying things that praise God, etc.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:2b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Praise God at all times

From today's lesson, we learned that we should praise God at all times. We learned about how the Israelites praised Jesus when He entered Jerusalem. Both children and adults praised Jesus joyfully with their hearts. They also took action to praise Jesus. The disciples followed Jesus' directions, and the Israelites willingly cut palm branches and put their clothes on the ground to welcome Jesus. At that time, throwing cloaks in the path of someone was an act of special honor. The people were showing recognition that Jesus was the promised Messiah! Also, people cried out "Hosanna," which means "save now." They were so happy because they saw Jesus, their Savior, entering

Jerusalem! It was such a joyful time! Today, we can also praise Jesus! We can praise God anytime and anywhere, not just at home or at church.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the Israelites welcomed Him with open hearts. Although the children were young, they welcomed Jesus by praising Him and shouting "Hosanna!" It may seem like such a simple thing for children to shout "Hosanna!" yet their actions are recorded in the Bible. This teaches us that we can all praise God, no matter how young we are.

a. Praise God spontaneously

Prayer is our communication with God. There is no wrong time to pray—whenever we lift up our voice to Him, He's listening! Today, many people have a set time to pray. It may be in the morning before they go to school or work, before they go to bed, or three times a day, like Daniel in the Bible. While it is a very good habit that we have a set time dedicated to God every day, we should not limit our prayer times. If God is always in our hearts, we will find many opportunities to praise God by saying a small prayer or a silent prayer in our hearts acknowledging the greatness of God's works. Here are some examples:

1. When I see beautiful scenery, I praise God for all He has created.

"Dear God, thank You for making this beautiful world for us to live in. Everything I see speaks of Your greatness, and I praise and thank You for all that You have created. Amen."

2. When I get home from a tiring day of school, I praise God for the shelter He has provided for me.

"Dear God, thank You for this beautiful home that

You have given to me and my family. Even though we do not deserve Your love, You have freely provided so many things for us so that we do not feel lacking in anything. May all the glory and praise be unto Your almighty name!"

3. When I have dinner with my family, I praise God for always keeping us safe and sound.

"Dear God, thank You for this wonderful family You have given me. Whenever I am with them, I feel happy and loved. I know that it is You who always keeps us together. I praise and thank You for Your abidance and love. Amen."

When we mention "prayers," what comes to mind is most likely requests to God. However, we should also not forget to incorporate praises into our prayers. Most of the psalms in the Bible are directed towards God. They are prayers filled with praise. Reading psalms can be a good way to learn how to better offer our praises to God.

[You can pick a couple of verses from Psalms to illustrate how the psalmists praised God.]

b. Praise God in good times

We all know that we should praise and thank God during good times. However, sometimes we may forget to praise God when good things happen to us. Like the nine lepers whom Jesus healed, we may forget God's grace soon after receiving it. If we keep asking for God to help us and He does, we must remember to thank and praise Him. Imagine that one of your classmates always needs your help with his homework, but he never says "thank you" for your help, how would you feel? [Let students answer.]

You would probably not feel appreciated at all. For that reason, after God has helped us, we should praise and thank Him so that He feels appreciated. We should never take God's help for granted. Let us also remember to be thankful for all that God has given us, for the big gifts and the small gifts.

c. Praise God even when something bad happens

When we encounter problems, we may focus on them and become very worried. We might even look for something or someone to blame. However, the Bible teaches us that we should not feel discouraged during bad times. Instead, we should be joyful because we know that God has everything taken care of and that we can rely on God's power to overcome any difficulties. One way to fill our hearts with joy during bad times is to praise God. When we praise God, we think about how He has helped us before. We begin to remember God's mercy and love for us. Praising God helps us turn our focus away from the problem and toward God. Then we will think about God's great power. Indeed, He can help us in any difficulty. The Bible says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). It is not because of our strength that we are able to overcome difficulties. Rather, it is because of God's love, mercy, and power. Let me share a testimony with you:

When Michael was eight years old, he woke up one day feeling very itchy all over his body. He realized that there were red dots everywhere on his body! After seeing the doctor, Michael was told that he had chicken pox and that he had to stay home for one to two weeks without going anywhere. For the first few days, Michael had a fever, and he was in bed most of the time. His body was so itchy that he couldn't

sleep...and it only got worse each day! On top of that, Michael missed his school trip because of his chicken pox. He had really looked forward to this trip and had planned many fun games to play with his friends. When all of his friends were out having fun, Michael was home, lying in bed.

Even though Michael didn't understand why God had allowed him to suffer from chicken pox and miss his school trip, he didn't complain. During the two weeks at home, Michael's mom spent every minute with him, taking care of him and reflecting upon all the blessings that God had given his family in the past few years. They spent time to pray together and talk about God every day. They also read the Bible and sang hymns, praising God together. Even though Michael had to stay at home for almost two weeks, Michael didn't feel lonely at all, not just because his mom was with him, but also because he felt very close to God. Moreover, Michael also received a "Get Well Soon" card from all his church friends. He was very touched by the love and care that they shared together in Christ. Despite the itchiness on his body, Michael had a lot of joy in his heart, praising and thanking God each day for the time he had to draw closer to Him due to this unexpected illness.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. save
2. lamb
3. angels
4. clothes, palm branches
5. King
6. C
7. True
8. False; they still praised Him because people of all ages can praise Jesus.
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

1**Praise Mobile****Objective:** To create a mobile that reminds students to always praise God.**Materials**

- Slender wooden dowels cut in short lengths
- Pattern printout, one per student
- Card stock weight paper
- Clear tape
- String or yarn
- Single hole punch
- Crayons or markers to decorate the shapes

Instructions

1. Make copies of the provided patterns and give one to each student. They will be making mobiles [see sample].
2. Have the students cut out and color the shapes.
3. Use the hole punch to punch holes near the top of each shape.
4. Cut varying lengths of the string or yarn and thread them through the holes in the shapes.
5. Take two dowels, place one on top of the other in a cross formation, then tape them together.
6. Tie the shapes to the dowels using the strings. Put the cloud in the center.
7. Tie one length of string to the dowels at the point where they intersect for hanging.

2**Let's Praise God!****Objective:** To recall God's guidance and to share God's grace with others.**Materials**

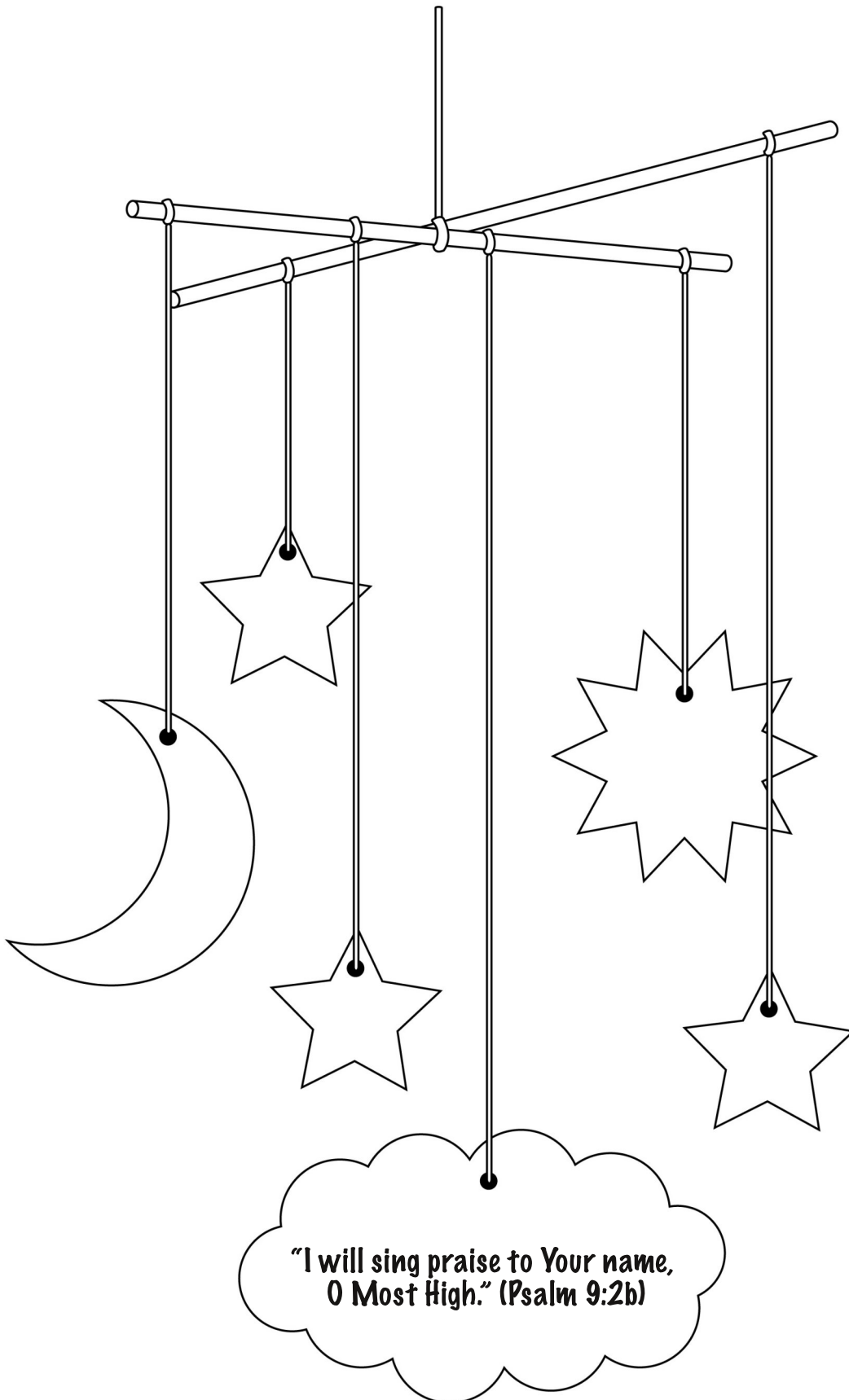
- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons

Instructions

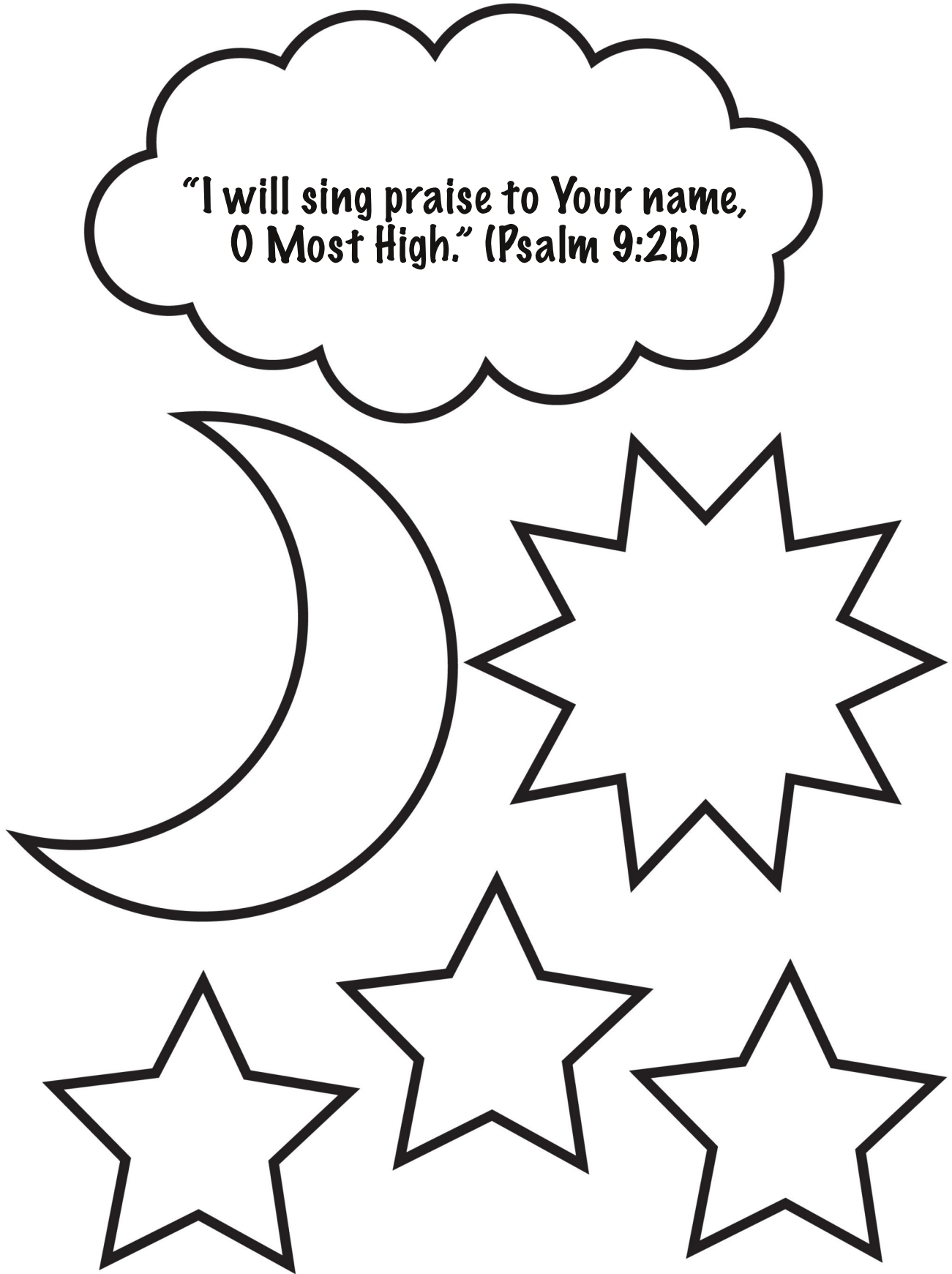
Explain to the students that a great way to praise God is to think about a time when He helped them and to testify for Him, or share with others about how He helped them. Ask the students to think about a time when God helped them. Demonstrate this activity as you explain it to the students.

1. First, write "Praise God!" at the top of a piece of paper.
2. Then, draw a picture of a time when God helped you. Let the students see your drawing clearly.
3. Pass out paper to the students for them to draw on. If time permits, have them color in the drawings.
4. After the students are finished, ask for volunteers to share with the class. If there isn't much time, the students can share with a partner as you walk around the room and listen.

Praise Mobile Sample



**"I will sing praise to Your name,
O Most High." (Psalm 9:2b)**



E1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 4—The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is the King.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To praise Jesus at all times.
 2. To thank God by praising Him during good times.
 3. To know that praising Jesus in bad times will give you peace.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 9:2b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

clothes angels save King lamb palm branches

1. Hosanna means "_____."
2. While the Israelites were in Egypt, they put the blood of a _____ on their doorposts as a sign.
3. The _____ passed over the Israelites' houses that had the blood on them and the firstborn of the Israelites were saved.
4. When the Israelites saw Jesus coming into Jerusalem, they put their _____ and _____ on the road.
5. The Israelites welcomed Jesus because they knew that He was the _____.

Multiple Choice

6. ____ : The Israelites went to Jerusalem to ____.
 - a. Visit their friends
 - b. Ride on a donkey
 - c. Go to the Passover Feast

True or False

7. At the Passover Feast, the Israelites remembered how God protected them in Egypt. _____
8. The children didn't praise Jesus because they were too young. _____

Life Application

9. When do you praise God?

10. What are 3 things you praised God for this week?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____