

SEPTEMBER 2011

KIDZONE

SPY REPORTS ON JESUS 8

It was a very dangerous time. The Pharisees huddled together, white with fear. The roads into Jerusalem were packed with excited crowds of pilgrims for the Passover Festival.



"Anything can happen. Things can easily get out of control," one Pharisee warned.

"It could be much worse this year," another said.

"That man Jesus is much too popular. I wish we could arrest and kill him."

"The crowds would riot. Lots of people and even we ourselves could be killed. What can we do?"

"We can send the spies to investigate," another Pharisee suggested.

THE KING ON A DONKEY

"Why are you untying that donkey?" a man shouted.

The hearts of the two disciples jumped. Did he think they were stealing it? Then they remember what Jesus had told them to say.

"Jesus needs it. We'll bring it back," they explained and the owner let them take it. The donkey had a foal called a colt, which came along too.

As soon as Jesus mounted the donkey, the crowd of pilgrims became very excited. They grabbed palm branches from trees beside the road and waved them. They took off their cloaks to make a moving carpet along the road for Jesus and the donkey.

"Praise to King David's Son," they chanted. "God bless the Messiah who comes in the name of the Lord. Praise God!"

Everyone remembered what Zechariah, the prophet said long before: "Rejoice! Shout for joy! Your king is coming to you in victory, but humble and riding a donkey."

"The Pharisees won't like this. It's just what they're afraid of," the spies thought, as they hid in the crowds.

More and more people joined in as they came near Jerusalem. Everyone could hear the joyful shouts as they went in through the gates in the city wall.

When they got to the Temple, Jesus got off the donkey and sent it back to the owner with its colt.

He was angry to see what was happening. The Pharisees had turned the part of the Temple where anyone could come to pray into a market. There were pigeons and doves in cages, cows and bulls, sheep and goats tied up to be sold for sacrifices. They were cooing, mooing and bleating, and money was jingling as people argued about the prices. The Pharisees were making a good profit but it was too noisy to pray.

Jesus tipped over the tables. The coins spun across the floor. He set the birds free from their cages and untied the animals. He drove them all out of the Temple.

"This is God's house – a place for prayer – not a bazaar for thieves," he said.

News spread that Jesus was cleaning up the Temple. Blind, lame and other disabled people came to the Temple and Jesus healed them all.

The children were still shouting: "Praise to the Messiah, King David's Son."

This time the spies didn't need to report to the Pharisees. They could see it

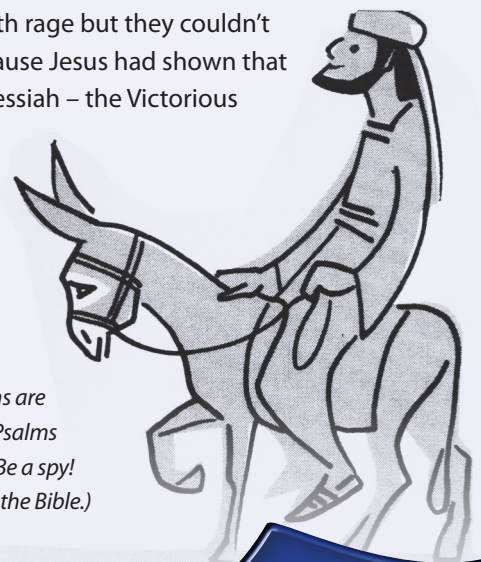
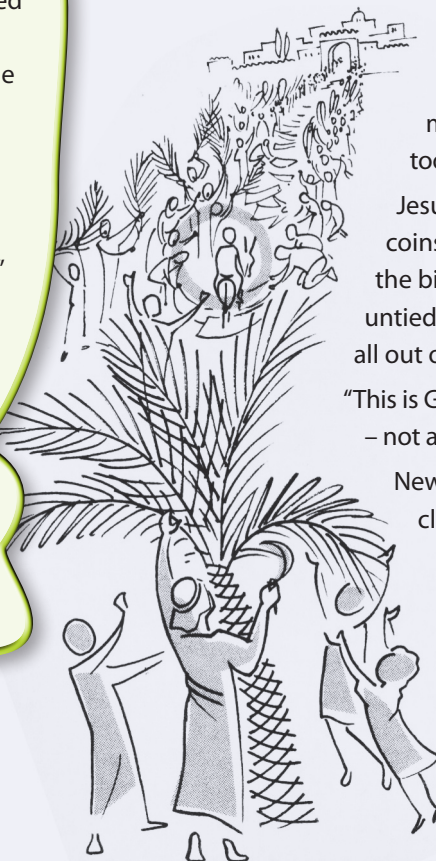
themselves and they were furious.

"Stop all this noise," they protested.

"Children and babies offer God perfect praise," Jesus said, quoting the Bible.

They were hot with rage but they couldn't do anything, because Jesus had shown that he really is the Messiah – the Victorious King God had promised, coming in peace on a donkey.

(This report is filed under Matthew 21:1 – 17. The Old Testament quotations are from Zechariah 9:9; Psalms 8:2 and 118:24 – 27. Be a spy! Investigate this from the Bible.)



TOP SECRET REPORT



TOP SECRET VERSE

BE a SPY!

Fill in the blanks. Look up the references in a Good News Bible to check your answers. Then copy the whole of the report, except the references, into your Top Secret Notebook or onto your computer file.

Jesus showed everyone that he was the Messiah, the King God had promised.

He rode into Jerusalem on a **d** _ _ _ _ _ and the **c** _ _ _ _ of the **d** _ _ _ _ _ went with them (Matthew 21:7). The crowds cheered.

He went to the Temple and drove out the **p** _ _ _ _ _ s, **d** _ _ _ _ s (Luke 2:24), **c** _ _ _ s, **b** _ _ _ _ s (Leviticus 3:1), **s** _ _ _ _ _ and **g** _ _ _ _ s (Leviticus 3:6), which were being sold for sacrifices.

Make a SOUND PICTURE

"The King on a Donkey" is a noisy story. There were lots of sounds – the cheering of the crowds and children, animal noises and Jesus clearing the Temple. Work with your family or friends to re-create these sounds. Just make the sounds without words. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Use a cell phone or a computer microphone to record the World Cup crowds cheering on TV. Play this as the background to the other noises.
- ◆ Clap small wooden bowls together or on a hard surface to make the rhythm of the donkey's footsteps.
- ◆ Use your mouth to make the animal noises – cooing, baaing and mooing.
- ◆ Jingle coins for the money to sell the animals.
- ◆ Clatter furniture for Jesus clearing the Temple.

Optional: record your sound picture on a tape recorder.

Make a 3D MODEL OF THE STORY

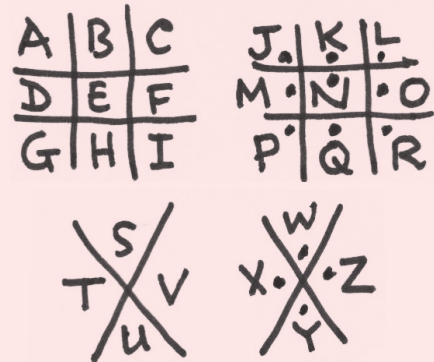
You will need a big piece of cardboard, some felt pens, some off-cuts of card and coloured paper, sellotape and greenery from the garden. (Ask the gardener first.)

Draw the winding road into Jerusalem on the big piece of cardboard. Cut out clothes from the coloured paper and stick these onto the road for the moving carpet for the donkey to ride on. Cut the people and the donkey from the card and stick these standing up along the road. Stick the greenery onto the people's hands and the bigger pieces standing alone to make trees.

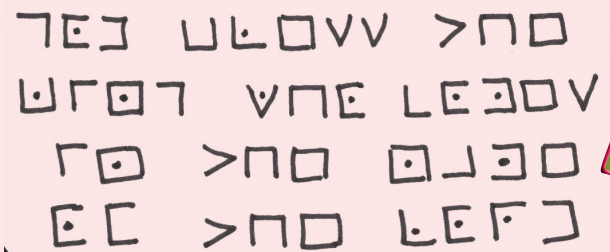
BE a SPY!

Can you read this verse? It is in "Pig Pen" code

Here is the **CODE**:



Here is the **MESSAGE**



Look up **Luke 19:38** in a Good News Bible to check your answer.

Now use the "Pig Pen" code to turn this verse into a secret Pig Pen message and give it to a friend to decode:

The Lord is King forever and ever (Psalm 10:16).

A PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you welcome the praise of children even when we are noisy. Help me to praise you as my King.

Amen.

