Mark 11

*“A Fruitless Life”*

**Scripture:** Mark 11: 1-33

**Memory Verse:** *“….have faith in God.”* Mark 11:22 b

**Lesson Focus:** Faith in God produces fruit in our lives.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Sheet; Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: “Fruit Loop” Necklace.

**Introduction:** Ask the kids to answer the following questions with as many fruits as they can think of:

What kind of fruits grow on trees:

apples, oranges, lemons, limes, peaches, cherries, nectarines, plums, apricots

What kind of fruits grow on vines: grapes, watermelon, cantaloupe, kiwis, passion fruit;

What kind of fruits grow on bushes: raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries

Ask the kids what their favorite kind of fruit is?

Tell them that today Jesus is going to talk about a “fruitful” life.

**Bible Study:**

**Mark 11:1-11;** “*Preparation for the King”*

Review: In Mark 10:33, Jesus told the disciples what was going to happen next.

Jesus told them that they were headed toward Jerusalem. He tells them exactly what will happen there:

1. Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes
2. They will condemn Him to death
3. They will deliver Him to the gentiles to be put to death
4. They will mock Him (make fun of Him)
5. They will scourge Him (whip Him)
6. They will spit on Him
7. They will kill Him
8. On the third day Jesus will rise again.

√ Does Jesus speak plainly?

√ Is it clear what He is saying will happen?

√ Do you think that the disciples understand what Jesus is saying?

Jesus is trying to prepare the disciples for what is going to happen. As we will see they do not understand or they cannot comprehend what Jesus is telling them.

When we come to Mark 11 – Jesus is entering Jerusalem.

√ What does Jesus tell His disciples to go and do?

1. Go to the village
2. Find a colt (small donkey)
3. Bring the colt to me
4. If anyone asks what they are doing they are to tell them that the Lord needs it.

√ Does anyone ask? (Yes)

Why a colt of a donkey? (This was a prophecy of the Messiah written 500 years before by Zechariah. “*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey*.” Zechariah 9:9)

√ What did Jesus do with the colt? (Sat on it)

King Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. He was fulfilling prophecy. Jesus is unlike any other king that ever lived. He did not demand “pomp and circumstance.” No horns where blowing – but the people gave Jesus a welcome parade.

√ How did Jesus enter Jerusalem?

On the colt

People spread their coats on the ground for Him to ride on

People spread palm branches on the ground for Him to ride on

The crowd yelled out:

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord….Hosanna in the highest.”

√ What does “hosanna” mean? (save us)

√ Why did the people do this?

They did this for many different reasons.

1. Some wanted Jesus to be the Messiah – the one that would save them from Roman rule.
2. Some were rejoicing in all of the works and miracles Jesus had done (Luke 19:37)
3. Some believed in Jesus.

Luke 19:41 tells us; “*Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.”* Jesus knows what is going to happen to Jerusalem in the future. He knows that they will be overtaken and the city will be leveled. The people of Jerusalem did not follow God like they should have and they will be punished for it. Jesus loves this people and His tears show that. Jesus has great sorrow over a lost soul.

**Mark 11:12-19:** *“Jesus’ first day in Jerusalem”*

√ What does verse tell us about Jesus? (He was hungry)

√ Tell me what happens with the fig tree?

√ What happened when Jesus came into the Temple?

1. Jesus drove out everyone who bought and sold in the temple
2. Jesus overturned tables
3. He would not allow anyone to carry wares (or things to sell) into the temple.

√ What does Mark 11:17 say what Jesus’ reason for doing this was?

Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7 that tells us the temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations; a place to seek God.

They had turned it into a market place, a place where people were trying to make money instead of worshiping God. They got in the way of ture worship.

√ How did the scribes and Pharisees reacts to Jesus doing this?

1. They sought to how they might destroy Him
2. They feared Jesus

**Mark 11:20-26; “***The Lesson of the Fig Tree and Prayer”*

√ What had happened to the fig tree? (It had died from the roots up)

Jesus is going to use this tree to teach His disciples an important lesson.

1. The fig tree was green and healthy – full of leaves.
2. Usually when the leaves came so did the figs
3. When they come back the next day the tree is dead from the roots out.
4. Jesus is teaching the lesson that Jerusalem and the temple may look healthy, but it is dead from the inside out.
5. The fig tree was a national symbol of Israel. Jesus is saying that Israel is fruitless and spiritually dead.

The roots of a tree are where the tree gets fed. We have “spiritual roots” that need to be feed every day by God’s word and prayer. The more we “feed” on God’s word the more our “root” system grows. As our roots grow we have more “faith” in God. Jesus wants our faith to grow!

√ What does Jesus teach the disciples?

Prayer:

1. Have faith that believes. Simple faith!
2. Faith that believes that God will get His work done in lives. (this is not a “name-it-and-claim-it teaching. Jesus is not saying if you want all the toys in the world – just believe and ask God. He is saying if you want to see God’s work being done and fruitfulness be seen in lives then pray and believe and it will be done.
3. Forgiveness is an important part of prayer. Un-forgiveness hinders our prayers.

**Mark 11:27-33;** *“Jesus’ Authority Questioned”*

√ What did the chief priests, scribes and elders ask Jesus? (by what authority

do you do these things?)

√ Did Jesus answer them directly? (no, He asked them another question)

√ What question did Jesus ask these men? (by what authority did John the

Baptist come in.)

√ How did they “reason among themselves?”

1. They could not say from heaven – because they did not believe him
2. They could not say from man – because the people saw John as a prophet.

√ How did they answer Jesus? (They said that they did not know.)

√ How did Jesus answer them? (He would not tell them.)

**Conclusion:** What can we learn from this passage?

1. Jesus is the KING – He knows what He came for and He is heading into Jerusalem to die on the cross for our sins. He is determined!
2. Jesus wants to see fruit from our lives for Him. What is fruit that He can see in our lives?
3. Jesus does not want us to get in the way of any one worshiping God.