

WONDERING TO JERUSALEM

A WONDER-FILLED LENT DEVOTIONAL FOR KIDS

Sample



VANESSA MYERS

What people are saying about *Wondering to Jerusalem* ...

"*Wondering to Jerusalem* is an invitation for all families to explore the unfading story of the Gospel in a new, interactive adventure. Throughout Vanessa's relatable storytelling, built-in moments to stop and reflect, and activities to engage the littlest readers, this devotional offers families an opportunity to learn about Truths worth exploring long after the devotional is over. *Wondering to Jerusalem* is a perfect way for the entire family to build memories centered around the Gospel."

-- **Lauren Jackson**

CEO of Kids Ministry Circle, Kids Minister, Mom of 2

"I loved this devotional! The way Vanessa invites families to 'wonder' and ask questions makes it feel like you're actually traveling through the stories together. It's easy to understand and fun for all ages, and your kids will love questions like 'Were Peter and John good cooks?' or 'Did someone give Jesus a hug?' It's such a creative and meaningful way for families to explore Jerusalem and grow in faith during the Lent season."

-- **Christen Clark**

Podcast Host and Family Ministry Expert

"This family devotional will cultivate your kid's curiosity and engage their hearts with the truth about Jesus and the Biblical events leading up to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. As a mom of 4, I believe *Wondering to Jerusalem* is a fantastic resource for parents wanting to intentionally prepare their children's hearts for Easter and focus on Jesus during the Lent season."

-- **Charity Rios**

Host of the Mama Bear Prayers podcast,
children's author and boy mom of 4

“*Wondering to Jerusalem* invites kids to do more than read—it invites them to wonder, imagine, draw, and pray as they walk with Jesus toward Easter. Vanessa Myers has created an interactive devotional that helps families experience Lent together with joy and curiosity.”

-- Kim Botto

Author of *Boundless Hope for Every Child* and
Children's Pastor

“Vanessa Myers has written a Lenten devotion that allows us to wonder and wander through the streets of Jerusalem, becoming one of the children who curled up into His lap, sang ‘Hosanna,’ cried when parents told their children that He had died, and shouted ‘Hallelujah’ at His resurrection. Vanessa doesn’t shy away from the realities of the cross, nor does she shy away from the hard questions. Instead, she invites all of us to become like little children - to follow Jesus as a child of wonder. Vanessa draws us close to Jesus through questions, but also, by allowing us to stop and see everything and everyone around Jesus, to experience His miracles and ultimately His love. I invite all of you on this journey. Let us go *Wondering to Jerusalem* together so that united in Christ your children and you may experience fully the resurrection on Easter Sunday!”

-- Rev. Robin Parr

Associate Minister at Dahlonega Methodist Church,
Presiding Elder and Seminary Representative of the
Global Methodist Church

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Riding on a Donkey

Matthew 21:1-6

Jesus and His disciples finally arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They had gathered on the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem, and it was time to enter the city. Instead of walking into the city, Jesus asked two of His disciples to go to the village ahead of them, find a donkey and her colt, and bring them to Him. Kind of an odd request, right?

But did you know there is so much meaning behind Jesus acquiring these two donkeys and riding them into Jerusalem?

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. As He entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, Jesus the King gave a message to all the people. Here are three things the donkey would help the Jewish people understand about Jesus:

1. In the ancient Near East, donkeys were a common mount for rulers and kings. So, when Jesus rode on a donkey, He was letting everyone know that He is the King of all.¹
2. Jesus was fulfilling Scripture found in the Old Testament. If you look up Zechariah 9:9, you will see that it says that Zion's (Jerusalem's) King will come to them "lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." And this is exactly what Jesus did! It was also widely known in Jewish teaching that a King riding on a donkey to the city of Jerusalem was the sign of the arrival of the Messiah (the Savior). Jesus was telling the people that He is the Messiah.

Scripture Packing List

"Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me."
Matthew 21:2

3. Horses were associated with war in Old Testament times. Donkeys symbolized peace. So, when Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey instead of a horse, He was showing that His kingship would be one of peace and not war.

Now that you understand the significance of Jesus choosing to ride a donkey as He entered Jerusalem, what thoughts are going through your head?

- I wonder which two disciples Jesus sent into the village to get the donkeys?
- I wonder if they thought this was an odd request from Jesus?
- I wonder how long it took them to get the donkeys?
- I wonder what Jesus and the other disciples did while they waited for the donkeys to arrive?

What we might consider an odd choice for a king to ride into a city was actually the perfect choice. When the Jewish people saw Jesus riding on a donkey, they knew what that meant. Here came their King!



Most Holy King, You are almighty and powerful. We praise You and thank You for being our King and our Savior. Amen.



Wandering Journal

What wondering thoughts, prayers, or questions do you want to share with God today?

Sample



Wondering Snapshot

If you were traveling with Jesus and could take a picture of the scene in this Bible story, what would it look like?

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SAMPLE OF WONDERING TO JERUSALEM
LENT DEVOTIONAL FOR KIDS!**

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