

middle school



Triumphal Entry / March 24, 2024

# Gathering Evidence

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

## Triumphal Entry Lesson

### Focus:

Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies.

## Triumphal Entry Lesson

### Bible Basis:

Zechariah 6:12-13;  
9:9; 11:12-13; 12:10;  
14:3-4

## Triumphal Entry Lesson

### Memory Verse:

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”  
—Luke 24:44b

**Students will grow in their knowledge of the way that Old Testament prophecies point to Jesus as the promised Savior.**

### Materials:

- Internet access

**Imagine that someone from the local newspaper wanted you to write an article about a big event happening in your school that will give digital devices to all students. The newspaper wants a student’s perspective of how this will impact digital learning.**

- **What’s the first step you’d take in writing the article?** (Answers will vary but may include brainstorming, drafting, and gathering sources.)
- **If you’re going to write an article, you first have to know the facts about your story. What types of trusted sources might you use?** (Answers will vary but may include interviewing the donors of the devices, interviewing school staff who requested the donation, interviewing teachers to ask how the devices will help learning, interviewing students to ask how it will impact them, etc.)

**Gathering information and evidence—whether it’s an interview, eyewitness testimony, factual information, or video footage of an event—is an important part of news and journalism. Let’s watch a video about how reporters gather information and craft their stories.**

Share this video with your students [4:07; stop at 3:44]:

How does a story become the news?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I2CHVs1cbk&t=47s>

- **Why is it important for news reporters to use sources and evidence for the stories they tell?** (Using evidence and good sources allows reporters to show their credibility, it shows the news reports are built on facts rather than speculation, it shows the journalists and news sources can be trusted to report real stories, etc.)

**Today, we're going to explore something else that people might want evidence for: Is there evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Savior that—for hundreds of years—the Jewish people waited for? In our effort to gather that information, we're going to gather the evidence of Old Testament prophecies, and see if they match up with the life of Jesus. He's our "suspect" for the role of Messiah.**

**Let's examine the evidence presented by the prophet Zechariah, who predicted key facts about the Messiah 500 years before Jesus was born. Does the information about Jesus match the Savior that Zechariah wrote about?**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Triumphal Entry / March 24, 2024

# Gathering Evidence

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

### Triumphal Entry Lesson

#### Focus:

Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies.

### Triumphal Entry Lesson

#### Bible Basis:

Zechariah 6:12-13;  
9:9; 11:12-13; 12:10;  
14:3-4

### Triumphal Entry Lesson Memory Verse:

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”  
—Luke 24:44b

#### Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

**Our lesson today has been about solving a mystery. Does Jesus fit the description presented by the prophet Zechariah?**

- **Based on the evidence we’ve explored today, do you think it’s likely that Jesus is the Savior described by Zechariah?** (Allow your students to answer honestly without judgment.)

The prophecies we’ve read today aren’t the only evidence that points to Jesus as the promised Savior. There’s also evidence that Jesus really lived, that He died on a cross as described in the Gospels, and that He rose from the grave. We haven’t had time to explore that evidence, but it’s out there. A good place to start is a book called *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel. There’s even a “Student Edition” specifically designed for teens.

**You and I have a responsibility to *do something* with the evidence we’ve gathered today about Jesus. If you think the prophecies we’ve read help to prove that Jesus is the promised Savior, you need to act on them! Maybe you’ve never committed to making Jesus your Savior because you weren’t sure He is the real deal . . . but now you’re convinced!** Encourage those students to talk to you after class today. Tips for telling students in this age group about how to become a follower of Jesus can be found in your teacher’s guide.

**Or maybe you’ve already decided to follow Jesus as your Savior. We still need to do something with the evidence we’ve gathered.**

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **Look again at the prophecies of Zechariah that Jesus fulfilled. Then pick out the one that you think provides the clearest evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah, or Savior. Write it on your index card.**

**If you think Zechariah 12:10 is the best evidence, you might write, “Zechariah predicted that the Savior would be pierced and mourned. Jesus was pierced by nails and mourned by his mom and disciples.” Take your evidence home with you. Every day this week, dedicate a few seconds to praising God for the way Jesus fulfills that prophecy!**

**It’s pretty cool that God not only sent us a Savior, but also gave us evidence that He was coming 500 years before He was born. This week, don’t let the evidence that Jesus is the Messiah just sit on a shelf! Instead, *do something* with it. Thank Jesus for coming to save us from our sins and rising from the dead!**

Close in prayer.

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