



Small Group Study Guide for March 24, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Did the crowds really know what Jesus was there to do? There were many conceptions and misconceptions about Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday. Crowds waved their palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!” – which means, “Save us!” That’s *exactly* what Jesus was going to do.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. How will you (and your family) celebrate Easter?
2. What has been something meaningful to you from this Lenten Season?

In the Word: Read John 12:12-19

3. John mentions a “great crowd” of notably large size. Jesus was always followed by large crowds at the end of His ministry, but this seems larger. Jerusalem usually had 20-30,000 inhabitants, but during the festivals, would swell to over 150,000 or more. (Ancient historian Josephus claims 2.7 million were in Jerusalem in the time of the Passover, but this seems to be an exaggeration. But maybe not?!) With those estimates, and Jesus’ three years of popularity, try to describe the feeling of those in the crowd and what this moment could have looked like.
4. “Hosanna!” is a greeting, much like, “All Hail!” and it literally means “Save us!” They were greeting Jesus as a Savior. The phrase, “Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” is a passage of the Old Testament. See if your Bible has a footnote that tells you where it is from. Look up the Old Testament passage and examine the context. Discuss the context and meaning of the verse in light of Palm Sunday.
5. Jesus fulfilled over 40 direct prophecies from the Old Testament, and nearly 400 allusions and illustrations in the Old Testament of the Messiah. Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a young donkey, as prophesied in Zechariah 9. Look up and read **1 Kings 1:32-35** and discuss how that passage may also point to Jesus on Palm Sunday.
6. How does **John 12:16** ground this story in reality and make the disciples sound like ‘real people’?

7. Why are the Pharisees frustrated on Palm Sunday?
8. As Jesus saw the crowds cheering and celebrating Him, what do you think was going through His mind as He rode into Jerusalem? (This is purely an opinion answer – we don't know what was really going through His mind, but take some time to speculate!)

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

9. Some were skeptical of Jesus as He rode into the city. How are some people skeptical of Jesus today? Why are some people skeptical of Jesus today and what do they say about Him?
10. Some were fans of Jesus just caught up in the moment. Have you ever seen someone famous in person? There is a crowd mentality that can quickly materialize. Are there fair-weather fans of Jesus today? How might people be following Jesus only because they are 'going along with the crowd' yet without any true understanding?
11. Then there were the true believers. These were the handful of people who knew Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. They stayed near Jesus until the end, and waited for God to act. And He did! How are we today in a much better position to believe in Jesus than the followers on that Palm Sunday?
12. The people who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead continued to spread the word, so that more people were coming to check Jesus out. What might you tell people that you have seen God do today? Is there something God has done for you, or something that you have seen God do, that might become part of your testimony as we spread the word?

Prayer: Thank Jesus for going to the cross for us, and giving up His life for our salvation. Pray for our witness as we spread the word about Jesus to our community, families, and neighbors this Easter season, that more might come and see Jesus as the Savior of the World.

Holy Week Continues: Maundy Thursday worship is at 7 p.m. Good Friday services are at Noon and 7 p.m. The OSL Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday from 9:30-10:30. Easter Sunday worship is at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. There will be a study guide for Easter Sunday, so watch for that!