

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS' LAST NIGHT

SERIES THEME//

In the lead up to Easter Sunday, this sermon series will spend time learning from Jesus' final words to his disciples in John 13-20. Jesus, ever the creative and engaging teacher, uses several rich images to help his disciples understand who He is, how He gives life, and why He will never leave them. We will explore each of these images. This Lenten series will give us a chance to see what was most important to Jesus as he spent his final night on earth, culminating in Holy Week. Each image He calls us to behold reveals the kind of people He's helping us to become.

SERMON; ARRIVAL | John 12:12-19

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

SERMON THEME//

LEADER//

Palm Sunday launches us into Holy Week. Depending on when you have this discussion/study – make sure you make your group aware of that fact and that they engage Holy Week with a deep sense of prayer and anticipation for God to do great things at Easter.

Also, make sure your group has invited their "one" that we discussed as part of the #ShareHope campaign.

Finally, while a fair amount of processing of the sermon may be necessary and often helpful, remember that the point of this discussion is to take the word *preached* and consider how to make it the word *lived*.

Practically, this means taking the questions, discussion and ideas from "What do you think about this?" to "What does this mean for your life?"

OPENING UP// *Start with prayer*

1. For those who grew up going to church, what were your church's Palm Sunday traditions?
2. From your estimation, what vital point does Palm Sunday represent to Christianity?
3. (Fun Question) If Jesus was going to be in a local parade, what would you bring to 'wave' at the parade?

DIGGING DEEPER//

- o As we read this passage, consider this question for later discussion: What different responses to Jesus do we see in the different groups of people (disciples, crowd, Pharisees) ?



JOHN 12:12-19 (ESV) THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

- Take a moment to pray over this text, asking God to use this text to continue to fuel your life as you take the word preach and make it the word lived.

LEADER//

This will help stir the memories of all as they watch the sermon video and prepare for discussion.

- Before we watch the sermon video, take a moment and go in a circle having each person bring up one thing they remember from the sermon (doesn't necessarily have to be a teaching point, it can be something else Pastor Ryan said, or something that happened during the sermon.

SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing or insightful as you hear Pastor Ryan discuss the sermon he preached.

THE WORD PREACHED//

- How many Palm Sunday sermons have you heard in your lifetime?



- Each sermon in this sermon series has had the same basic flow: Behold and Become. Behold is where we see what is happening in Scripture, and Become is the portion where we embody the lessons learned from our passage into our daily lives.
 - o Pastor Ryan's outline was like this:
 - BEHOLD: The arrival of our Humble King
 - BEHOLD: The arrival of our Heroic Savior.
 - BECOME: An unashamed worshipper
 - BECOME: An unstoppable witness
 - o Starting with *Behold*, what encouragement do you find knowing that Jesus is our humble king?
 - Using this passage, and from what you know about Jesus, how is he humble?
 - Using this passage, and from what you know about Jesus, how is he our king?

THE WORD LIVED//

- o Under the become section; what caused pastor Ryan to use the phrases "unashamed worshippers" and "unstoppable witnesses"?
 - Who in your life would you say is an 'unashamed worshipper'?
 - What causes you to say that about this person?
 - How does this person challenge you to worship more fully and more deeply?
 - Who in your life would you say is an 'unstoppable witness'?
 - What causes you to say that about this person?
 - How does their witness drive you to live more openly for Jesus Christ?
- o The crowds that followed Jesus on Palm Sunday are the same crowds that would later yell, "crucify him." This was, no doubt, in part because many of them were not following Jesus, but rather just following the crowd. Where do you fall into the trap of "following the crowd" instead of "following Jesus."
- o How can this growth group encourage you to be a more unashamed worshipper and unstoppable witness for Christ?
- o What is one challenge you have for yourself that this group can keep you accountable on and that will push you to be more open for Jesus?



#SHAREHOPE//

- o One last question: Have you invited your “one” to Easter and is he/she/they coming?

CLOSE IN PRAYER//

LEADER//

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from your group.

1. But this week, in addition to the prayer request, spend time focusing your prayers on the #ShareHope campaign!

