

## Small Group Discussion Guide

### Easter Week: Palm Sunday



#### Warm Up:

How did you celebrate Easter when you were growing up? What are your plans this year for making it meaningful? Looking back at your notes from this weekend's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

#### Dig In:

Digging deeper --- The Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday) story is found in all four of the Gospels. Each Gospel writer approaches it a little differently. When studied collectively, a richer understanding of the story emerges.

Read Matthew 21:1—11. Matthew's Gospel was written with a Jewish audience in mind. Why do you think it was important to connect this event with OT prophecy specifically for this audience? Why was Jesus' entrance such a big deal? What were the expectations of the crowd that praised Jesus upon His entrance?

Read Mark 11:1—11. What do you think went through the minds and hearts of the disciples sent to get the colt for Jesus? What does verse six reveal about Jesus' reputation, that people would deem His needing it an acceptable reason for taking the colt? Why did people lay down cloaks and branches?

Read Luke 19:28—40. Why does the passage say the people were praising God? Why did the Pharisees think the disciples deserved a rebuke? What did Jesus mean in verse 40? Why did Jesus weep when He came upon the city? Why will the people of Jerusalem face so much suffering/opposition?

Read John 12:12—19. What didn't the disciples understand when it was going on? Why do you think John included that statement in his account? What was the primary motivator for people going out to greet Jesus? What did the Pharisees mean by their comment?

#### Live Out:

When Jesus wants to make an "entrance" into specific relationships or life situations, how do you typically receive Him?

Share about a time/experience in your life when following Jesus was exciting and came easily.

Share about a time when following Jesus was an unpopular choice. How did you respond to potential opposition or persecution?

How can you "stir" your circles of influence in such a way that people want to know more about the Jesus that you know?

Pray specifically for the people who you're inviting to the Easter services. Pray for those in our church body who face persecution in some way for following Jesus - at work, school or home. Pray for those who hear the Gospel for the first time this weekend in Easter services throughout our region that their hearts will receive Christ as their King.