

Group Gathering Question:

What is it like for you (and your family) as you deal with the Coronavirus challenges? On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being “overwhelmed” and 10 being “great”, how are you doing right now?

1. Why would a king ride on a donkey (verses 14-16)? What convinced you that Jesus is your King? What is the best thing you’ve seen about the type of King he is?
2. In verses 12:12-19 we read how the crowds, the Pharisees, and Jesus’ disciples viewed Him. How do your views differ from theirs?
3. In verses 12:20-26 Jesus spoke of “His hour,” of “glory,” of “a seed,” of “loving” and “hating” life. With these references, what do you think he meant and why?
4. The life of a follower of Jesus is one marked by death and new life. Jerry asserts that one’s ability to live a deeper and more meaningful life that is increasingly shaped like Jesus is directly proportional to one’s willingness to die to things in his or her life. Do you agree with that? If so, what is an area of your life that you have died to (or need to die to) and in what way will that help you to be shaped more like Jesus?
5. How can we pray for/support/care for each other this week? (share personal prayer requests)

prayer requests

- > Praises for Liam Bechtel, son of Haley and Adam, who is home from the hospital.
- > We pray for healing for: Christy Baugh, recovering from surgery for a broken wrist; Stacy Shafer, her father dealing with cancer; Angie Campbell (Food Pantry Volunteer), family dealing with sickness
- > We ask for continued healing for Joe Mundil, Carver McGriff, and Robert Neal
- > We ask for comfort for: Melissa and Kevin Schmidt in the loss of Melissa’s mother, Gretchen Young; Brian and Denise Herhusky in the loss of Brian’s father
- > We pray for those unemployed, and those making difficult decisions of all kinds.
- > We pray for all healthcare workers and their families during this difficult time.

Proposed 40 Minute Home Group Agenda

- > 5 minutes Welcome everyone, chit chat, opening prayer
- > 2 minutes Read scripture
- > 20 minutes Answer Home Group questions (you don’t have to do all of them)
- > 10 minutes Collect prayer requests
- > 3 minutes.....Closing prayer and say goodbye

Note: Doing Home Group virtually may awkward as first. Don’t give up, keep working at it. Use as few or as many questions as you need. Don’t feel you have to stick to these questions, but be led by God’s Spirit as you lead.

During this strange time while we can’t physically can’t be together, we hope we can be together virtually and share in whatever ways we can. As we head into Holy Week, we look again to the Gospel of John. John tells us that Jesus makes 7 “I am” statements, meaning Jesus is claiming to be God, as God said “I am” to Moses back in Exodus. Jesus claimed to be God, and now shows the full extent of his love as the Son of God, starting on Palm Sunday, which we discuss in John 12.

1. A donkey was a sign of some wealth in ancient times. But a donkey was also a sign of peace, so a king riding a donkey would be a king of peace. Had Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a horse, it would be a sign of a conquering king. But Jesus was a humble king, arriving on a donkey, as prophesied in Zechariah 9:9. Share for yourself how Jesus is King.
2. The crowds say “Hosanna” which means “Save!” The crowds call him Lord and King. The disciples don’t understand. The Pharisees are frustrated or afraid thinking that the crowds and “the whole world” is following Jesus. How do you view Jesus on Palm Sunday 2020?
3. His hour means his hour has come to die. Glory means going to glory, to die, to sacrifice, to give for God. A seed here means to be buried in the ground, and springs to new life, producing other life. Jesus means we must hate things which distract us from God, to choose life with God which will lead to life eternal with God.
4. In a Jewish world and mind, people were asked to choose one or the other. Choose worldly things and let go of God. Or choose to die to worldly things so that you can choose God. Jesus calls us to die to self, to die to the world, so that we can follow his way, gain his life, and gain eternal life. Share with your group how you might die in order to be shaped more like Jesus.
5. Spend a few minutes sharing personal prayer requests. Be transparent. Then the leader close in prayer, or open it up for group prayer as you feel led.

Give yourself freedom to go off this agenda, or expand it as needed to 60 minutes or more. Give yourself grace that it might not work very well the first week, but with practice it will get better.

Finally, give us feedback on how your groups are going. We need to hear from you. We can make adjustments with you as needed.

Thank you for providing this valuable connection with our church family!