

Ice Breaker Question:

Who is the most famous person you've ever seen in a parade or a motorcade? Did you cheer for that person?

Read and discuss this week's Scripture [Matthew 21:1-11]:

1. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, not a stallion. What does that say about what kind of king/leader Jesus is? Why would you follow a leader like that?
2. What kind of king and kingdom were the people expecting when Jesus entered Jerusalem? What kind of king, and kingdom do you want or expect?
3. If you were in the crowd on that Palm Sunday, would you have been cheering and waving palm branches or not? Do you tend to jump on the bandwagon, or hang back and see what all the fuss is about? What would you look for in Jesus if you were seeing him for the first time as he entered the city?
4. Jesus had already told his disciples he would go to Jerusalem and suffer and be killed, then resurrected (Matthew 16:21). He showed great courage in going to Jerusalem. Like Jesus, when have you been called to show courage and enter into a difficult situation to do something good? Are you being called now to show courage?
5. As we look toward Maundy Thursday (the last supper and Jesus' arrest), Good Friday (the crucifixion), and Easter Sunday (the resurrection), which day or remembrance moves you the most? What helps you to believe in the story of this week - that Jesus died for forgiveness of sin and was raised from the dead?
6. The image of Jesus coming on a donkey while receiving praise and worship is a perfect illustration of Jesus' humanity and divinity. Do you tend to focus on the divinity of Jesus or the humanity of Jesus? What could it look like if the two were more balanced?

Prayer Requests:

- > Prayers of healing for Talbott Sumners, Ellie Jensen, and Hadley Lehr.
- > Prayers of comfort for Don and Sue Armstrong in the death of Don's sister, Susie Thacker, and Dustin and Rachel Milstead in the death of Dustin's father.

Reminders for your group:

- > Passion Walk | Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-5 pm & Friday | 8:30 am-12 pm
- > Maundy Thursday Service | 7 pm | ZPC Sanctuary
- > Next round of Home Groups begin the week of April 10.

Leaders notes:

We are already at the week of Easter! Thanks for completing this 10 week journey with us as we have studied the Sermon on the Mount, now Palm Sunday and Easter. Jesus reveals himself to be a humble king, arriving on a donkey, and still so worthy of our praise. We can study and worship the one who is human like us, knows all our struggles, and is still the Messiah – worthy of praise!

[Question 1] Jesus is a humble leader and king. Roman soldiers may have ridden powerful horses, a sign of war. Jesus entered on a donkey, a sign of humility and coming in peace. Jesus represents a servant leader, who is compassionate, real, and understands us.

[Question 2] The Jewish people were looking for a Messiah, a king, who could help overthrow the Roman occupiers. But Jesus brought a kingdom that was about loving enemies, being poor in spirit, seeking God first, and praying and giving in secret. We may sometimes want God to come in power and "smite" our enemies. God often comes to us humbly and with gentle guidance, as Jesus does here.

[Question 3] Most of us probably like to cheer and jump on the winning side. Some of those who did were yelling "Crucify him!" just a few days later. Others like to wait and see what's real. May we realize our own sinfulness and see in Jesus the answer – that we have a Savior for our sins.

[Question 4] Encourage your group to share where they have had courage. Share a story of your own. It can be powerful to share if you are feeling God is challenging you even now to do something for him. Share that for yourself and ask your Home Group to pray for each other!

[Question 5] Have your group share what is most moving to them about Holy Week. Then go around and share why we can believe what we believe. A couple of good reasons to trust Jesus are the thousands of people who put faith in him very soon after the resurrection (see the end of Acts 2 and Acts 4). Another is that the disciples all were willing to give their lives for their faith in Jesus. This shows that they truly believed what they were teaching.

[Question 6] What do you focus on: Jesus' humanity or his divinity? Some want to worship Jesus as God and hold him "high and lifted up." Others tend to focus on his humanity, his spending time with the poor, lepers, tax collectors and "sinners." We can balance both – we have a Savior who is both God and human – who we can worship as God and follow as the perfect example for us – who was like us, knows us, and can empathize with our troubles.