

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

This week we walked through the story of the "Triumphal Entry" of Jesus in Luke 19 and spent a lot of time connecting dots to the Old Testament. This event in the Jesus timeline was super important because it was His declaration to Israel that HE is the Messiah, HE is their King, and HE has come to Jerusalem to do what His Father sent Him to do: bring salvation and peace to mankind!

1. Jesus' entry on a donkey points back to Genesis 22 where Abraham displayed a willingness to sacrifice his only son. Ultimately God stopped Him and provided a *better* sacrifice: Jesus! The donkey also fulfilled the Messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9.
2. The Triumphal Entry is found in all 4 of the Gospel accounts. In each, the crowds shout joyfully that Jesus is "Hosanna!" or, "Salvation is here, and his name is Jesus!" The Pharisees however knew Jesus was bad for business and tried to silence the crowd.
3. Jesus left the party in tears, knowing that many of these folks celebrating would forsake Him. He also left reflecting on how the nation of Israel as a whole had forsaken Him and wasn't following God. The passage ends with Jesus prophesying of Jerusalem's coming doom in AD 70.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- This week's passage focused heavily on Jesus's claim to the throne. If He IS the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, this demands a SHIFT in the way we live. Phil asked 5 questions to help you reflect and pray:
 - Will you steal the donkey? (Will you trust him no matter what?)
 - Will you ride the donkey? (Will you care more about His opinion than peoples?)
 - Will you speak up? (Does your life reflect the joy of the Good News?)
 - Will you stick it out? (Are you really all in through thick and thin?)
 - Will you get started? (Have you decided to follow Jesus?)
- Which of these resonated with you the most and why?
- How is the shifting going so far as you work out *your* question with God? What is He showing you and calling you to?
- Read Luke 19:35-38. It's likely many of the people from the story shouting "Hosanna" later shouted "Give us Barabbas!" Do you have people in your life who have ceased fighting the good fight? Why? How can you encourage and point them back to Jesus?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and Jude 1:17-24. What are some things we can glean from these passages about "sticking it out" and about how God sustains us? What are some things from these passages we can commit to prayer?
- In Acts chapter 4, Peter and John rode the donkey (aka they get thrown in jail for preaching Jesus even though they were told not to). They returned and shared the story with the others, which encouraged and emboldened their faith and saw the Holy Spirit move! Share some of YOUR stories of times you've trusted and obeyed God even when it sounded crazy or when everyone said you had it wrong. Your testimonies are powerful!