

## LEADER NOTES

Review the Guidelines each time you have a new member join your group or once a month.

- **Help the group see what Jesus is doing.** Matthew 21 is not just about a crowd getting excited. Jesus is deliberately presenting Himself as the promised King.
- **Slow the group down on the details, the fulfillment of prophecy.** King riding on donkey. Zechariah 9:9 makes the statement that the king would come riding on a donkey and offering salvation.
- **Press into the crowd's response.** The people shout "Hosanna" and celebrate Jesus, but many still misunderstand Him. Bring out the tension. It is possible to be near Jesus, excited about Jesus, and still not truly surrender to Jesus.
- **Make the question personal.** In verse 10 it says the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" Ask your group this question. Every person has to answer it. Not just with words, but with their life. This should be agreed.
- **Expose and brings to the surface level false expectations.** Many in the crowd wanted rescue on their own terms. Your group may do the same. Some want Jesus as helper, fixer, or provider, but not as King. Gently challenge where your group may be trying to define Jesus instead of submitting to Him.
- **Emphasize that Jesus is in control.** He is not swept into Jerusalem by emotion or trapped by events. He is moving with purpose toward the cross. That matters because it means His death was not an accident. He came willingly to save.
- **End with both invitation and response.** Palm Sunday calls for more than admiration. It calls for surrender. Some people in your group may need to move from familiarity with Jesus to trust in Jesus. Others may need to stop holding back areas of their life from His rule. Leave room for both conviction and hope.

Share & record prayer requests.  
Ask a volunteer to close in prayer.  
Follow up throughout the week.

PLEASE TAKE ATTENDANCE

## TARGET

**Topic:** Responding to the King

**Take Away:** Jesus did not enter Jerusalem by accident. He came as the promised King.

**God Stories:** A God Story is an undeniable encounter or experience that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day-to-day life.

**Ice Breaker Question:** Who have you seen walk into a room and immediately change the atmosphere, and what made their presence matter?

**This Week's Passage:** *Matthew 21:1-11*

**Share background:** *Jerusalem was swelling with thousands of Jewish pilgrims, creating intense religious expectation for God's deliverance and the hoped for Messiah. Entering the city, the pilgrims often sang Psalms of Ascent and celebrated God's past acts of salvation. The crowds were emotionally primed. Israel lived under Roman occupation, producing resentment, oppression, and a longing for a king who would free them. Passover was one of Jerusalem's busiest weeks, with merchants, money changers, and temple commerce booming, highlighting the contrast between the wealthy priestly elite and the common people burdened by taxes and corruption. The religious leaders had grown increasingly suspicious of Jesus because His miracles and teachings...and now the story from God's Word.*

**Tell the story. Rebuild the story. Read the story from God's Word.**

**Head Question:** *What details show that Jesus is intentionally presenting Himself as the promised King rather than simply arriving in Jerusalem like any other pilgrim?*

**Heart Question:** *What kind of response to Jesus do you see in yourself right now: worship, questions, hesitation, mixed motives, or something else?*

**Hands Question:** *Where in your life are you trying to control the hard things, keeping Jesus at the edge? How can you let Jesus lead? What do you need to do?*

**ASSIGN NEXT WEEKS STORY:** John 20:24-29