

# This I Believe: Small Group Guide

Week 5: Jesus' Plan

March 29, 2026

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## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** Share about a time when you planned something in great detail. How did it feel when everything came together as planned?

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## Sermon Summary

This Palm Sunday sermon reveals that Jesus was not a helpless victim of circumstances but was fully in control, implementing a detailed plan for our redemption. From knowing where the donkey would be to fulfilling Old Testament prophecy, Jesus orchestrated every detail of Holy Week. This truth challenges us to trust Him not just on Sunday mornings, but in every moment of our daily lives.

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## Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus planned His own demise** - He was not a victim of religious persecution or political oppression, but the orchestrator of redemption.
  2. **Palm Sunday provides proof of Jesus' divine authority** - The detailed fulfillment of prophecy demonstrates He is who He claims to be.
  3. **Jesus' humility was intentional** - Choosing a donkey over a horse showed His submission to God's plan (Zechariah 9:9).
  4. **The crowd missed the significance** - They wanted a political messiah, not understanding the deeper spiritual redemption Jesus came to bring.
  5. **Our daily trust matters most** - It's easy to declare Jesus as Lord on Sunday, but harder to trust Him on Tuesday morning.
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Sermon

1. **What stood out to you most from this sermon?** What was new or challenging about viewing Palm Sunday through the lens of Jesus' detailed planning?
2. **Read Matthew 21:1-11.** What specific details in this passage demonstrate Jesus' foreknowledge and control over events?
3. **Why is it significant that Jesus chose to ride a donkey instead of a horse?** What does this reveal about His character and mission?

4. **How does understanding that Jesus planned His own suffering change the way we view Good Friday?**

### Personal Reflection

5. **The pastor asked: "Who is Jesus to you on Tuesday morning?"** When in your daily life do you find it hardest to trust that Jesus is in control?
6. **Share about a time when you struggled to see God's plan in a difficult situation.** Looking back, can you see evidence of His hand at work?
7. **The teens in the video talked about the confusing "rules" of English.** What "rules" or expectations about faith have you found confusing or challenging?
8. **Read Psalm 118:21-27.** How does this prophecy being fulfilled encourage you in your current circumstances?

### Application & Action

9. **The sermon presents two inescapable questions:**

- Is Jesus who He says He is?
- Who is Jesus to you?

**How would you answer each question? Has your answer changed over time?**

10. **What specific area of your life do you need to surrender to Jesus' authority this week?**  
(Examples: finances, relationships, career decisions, health concerns, etc.)
11. **The pastor mentioned that "if we can receive, then we can have peace."** What would it look like practically for you to "receive" Jesus' lordship in your current struggles?
12. **How can viewing Jesus as the orchestrator (not victim) of Holy Week impact how you face your own suffering or challenges?**

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### Memory Verse

**Matthew 26:53-54** *"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"*

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### Closing Prayer Points

- Thank Jesus for His intentional, planned sacrifice for our redemption
- Confess areas where we struggle to trust His authority
- Ask for faith to believe Jesus is in control, even in our "Tuesday morning" moments
- Pray for those in the group who are facing unknowns or transitions
- Ask God to reveal Himself more fully this Holy Week