



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

Week 6

3/29/2026

Teaching Summary: Pastor Elisabeth explores Palm Sunday as a moment filled with expectation, but also deep misunderstanding. The crowd rightly longs for salvation, shaped by centuries of Scripture and history, yet they misinterpret what that salvation will look like. Drawing on vivid imagery (like the Berlin tower vs. the cathedral view), the sermon shows how people often miss true glory because it doesn't match their expectations. The people welcome Jesus as king, but expect political victory, not a suffering Savior. In contrast, Jesus reveals that God's glory comes through humility, sacrifice, and the cross. The invitation of Palm Sunday is not just to praise Jesus, but to surrender our expectations and follow Him into a deeper, truer understanding of who He is.

Conversation Starter: What's a time when something didn't turn out the way you expected, but in hindsight, you can see it led to something better or more meaningful?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,

As we gather, quiet our expectations and open our hearts. Help us to see You not just as we want You to be, but as You truly are. Teach us to recognize Your presence, even when it looks different than we expected.

Amen.

Read Scripture together: Mark 11:1-11

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the Palm Sunday story, the actions of the crowd, the disciples, or Jesus Himself?
2. Based on the sermon, what were the people expecting Jesus to do? Why do those expectations make sense given their history?
3. Where do you see the biggest disconnect between what the crowd expected and what Jesus actually did?
4. Pastor Elisabeth said we often carry our own “palm branches” or expectations of how Jesus should act. Where do you see that in your own life right now?
5. How do you typically respond when Jesus doesn’t show up in the way you hoped (e.g., unanswered prayer, delayed change, unexpected outcomes)?
6. The sermon says God’s glory often looks like humility, sacrifice, and surrender rather than power and control. Where have you seen that kind of “unexpected glory” in your life or in others?
7. Palm Sunday invites us not just to praise Jesus, but to follow Him beyond the parade and toward the cross. What might it look like for you this week to follow Jesus beyond your expectations?
8. Deeper Dive Question (Optional) - If Jesus consistently defies our expectations, how can we faithfully discern His work without reshaping Him into our own image?

Memory Verse: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” Mark 11:9

Closing Prayer: Jesus,

You are greater than our expectations and better than we imagine. Help us to trust Your way, even when it is unfamiliar or difficult. Teach us to follow You with open hands and faithful hearts.

Amen.