

# Community Groups

## Sermon Discussion Guide

March 29th, 2026 | Palm Sunday

### Prayer

Take time before discussion to take prayer requests and pray for each member of the group that requests prayer.

### Read Matthew 20:17-19 out loud as a group.

1. Jesus plainly tells his Disciples what his plan was for heading to Jerusalem, yet they still did not expect his death. How do we also have moments when our expectations are misaligned with what Jesus has said?

*Even though Jesus clearly explained what would happen, the disciples still filtered His words through their own expectations of victory and power. We do the same when we assume how God should work instead of trusting what He has already said in His Word. Help your group reflect on where they may be unintentionally shaping Jesus into their own expectations rather than surrendering to His.*

### Read Matthew 21:1-9 out loud as a group.

2. Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. What does this say about what kind of King that Jesus is? How does that inform our relationship with Him?

*By entering on a donkey, Jesus reveals that He is a humble King. This shows us that our relationship with Him is not built on fear or performance, but on trust, surrender, and intimacy with a King who serves. Guide your group to consider how this challenges their assumptions about authority, leadership, and what it means to follow Him.*

3. The crowds worshipped Jesus because they believed that he would bring physical freedom from their oppression. How do we also at times put conditions on our praise and worship of Christ?

*The crowds praised Jesus as long as they believed He would meet their immediate, physical needs. We can fall into the same pattern when our worship rises or falls based on circumstances or whether God meets our expectations. Encourage your group to be honest about where their devotion may be conditional and gently point them toward a deeper, steady life of worship rooted in who Jesus is, not just what He does.*

4. Eventually the people rejected Jesus because their hope was misaligned. How do you tend to respond when your life, worship, and prayers do not align with God's word?

*When life doesn't align with our expectations, it's easy to become discouraged, distant, or even frustrated with God. Often, this reveals that our hope may have been placed in an outcome rather than in Him. Help your group process their responses honestly, and guide them toward trusting God's character even when His plans look different than they expected.*

**Read 1 John 4:9-10 out loud as a group.**

5. Jesus, as the true Messiah and King, was the propitiation for our sin. How is this a much greater act of love than simply “letting us off the hook” for our sin?

*Jesus didn't just ignore our sin, but He fully satisfied the justice of God by taking our place, which shows a deeper, more costly love than simply “letting us off.” This means we are not only forgiven but restored in a way that upholds both God's holiness and His mercy. Lead your group to sit in the weight of that love and consider how it reshapes their view of both sin and grace.*

**Read Hebrews 9:12-14 out loud as a group.**

6. Jesus' atonement for sin settles our debt and clears our conscience. What is the importance of a clear conscience to our ability to be fully devoted to God?

*A clear conscience frees us from guilt and shame so that we can approach God with confidence and fully devote ourselves to Him. When we are weighed down by unresolved sin or condemnation, it hinders intimacy and obedience. Encourage your group to talk about how living in Christ's cleansing work allows them to serve and follow God with freedom rather than fear.*

**Read Romans 8:1-2 out loud as a group.**

7. We are not just liberated by Christ from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin. What does it look like for you to continually walk and grow in the freedom of Christ?

*Freedom in Christ isn't just a one-time reality, it's something we actively walk in as we daily choose the Spirit over the flesh. This looks like ongoing surrender, renewing our minds, and trusting the Spirit's leading in everyday decisions. Help your group move from abstract ideas to practical rhythms that help them live in that freedom consistently.*

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 out loud as a group.**

8. Jesus has reconciled us to God and calls us as ambassadors, making His appeal through us. In what ways this week can you live out this call to allow Christ to ministry through you?

*Being an ambassador means we represent Jesus in both our words and actions, allowing Him to work through us to reach others. This can happen in simple, everyday moments like encouragement, forgiveness, conversations, and intentional love. Challenge your group to identify specific opportunities this week and remind them that it's not about perfection, but about availability and obedience.*