

Small Group Guide: Palm Sunday - The King of Glory

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking Him to open hearts and minds to His truth.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you had high expectations for something or someone that ended up being completely different than what you anticipated. How did you respond?

Key Takeaways

1. The Purpose of Church

We gather because of Jesus—to make Him the centerpoint of our lives and make Him known in our community.

2. Two Rooms of Life

- **The Mirror Room:** Self-focused living that leads to distortion and emptiness
- **The Window Room:** God-focused living that leads to worship and meaning

3. Everyone Worships Something

We are hardwired to worship. The question is not whether we worship, but what or whom we worship.

4. The King of Glory

Jesus is the King of Glory prophesied in Psalm 24—the only one worthy of worship who came to defeat our greatest enemies: sin and death.

5. The Exchange of the Cross

Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness. He defeated our true enemies not through military conquest, but through sacrificial love.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Sermon

1. **Palm Sunday to Good Friday:** How do you explain the shift from the crowds shouting "Hosanna!" on Sunday to "Crucify him!" on Friday? What does this reveal about human nature and expectations?
2. **David's Dance:** What was the difference between King David and King Saul? Why was David willing to look foolish while worshiping God?
3. **The Question of Worthiness:** In Psalm 24:3-4, David asks who can stand in God's presence. What are the four requirements listed? Why is this impossible for us to achieve on our own?

Personal Reflection

4. **Mirror vs. Window:** Which "room" do you find yourself living in most often? What are the signs that you're in the mirror room versus the window room?
5. **Modern Idols:** David Foster Wallace said we worship money, beauty, power, or intellect. Which of these (or other things) do you find yourself tempted to worship instead of God? How does this manifest in your daily life?
6. **Clean Hands, Pure Heart:** When you read the requirements to enter God's presence (clean hands, pure heart, no idols, complete honesty), what is your honest response? How does this make you feel about your need for Jesus?

Application

7. **Worship Response:** The sermon emphasized that worship is "responding with all we are to all that God is." What does genuine worship look like in your life beyond Sunday mornings?
 8. **The Greatest Enemy:** Jesus came to defeat sin and death, not Rome. What "Rome" in your life do you want Jesus to defeat? How might God be calling you to trust Him with a different battle—the one against sin in your own heart?
 9. **Receiving Jesus:** The sermon ended with the invitation to "receive Him." For those who have already received Jesus, what does it look like to receive Him more fully in a specific area of your life right now?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Window Room Living

- Each morning this week, start your day by looking out a window (or going outside) and thanking God for three specific things He has made or done.
- Journal about how this shifts your perspective from self-focus to God-focus.

Option 2: Worship Audit

- Track what you spend the most time thinking about, talking about, or pursuing this week.
- At the end of the week, honestly assess: What am I worshiping? Where do I need to redirect my worship toward Jesus?

Option 3: Holy Week Journey

- Read one passage each day this week following Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter:
 - Monday: Matthew 21:1-11 (Triumphal Entry)
 - Tuesday: Matthew 21:12-17 (Cleansing the Temple)
 - Wednesday: Matthew 26:1-16 (Plot to Kill Jesus)
 - Thursday: Matthew 26:17-30 (Last Supper)
 - Friday: Matthew 27:32-56 (Crucifixion)
 - Saturday: Matthew 27:57-66 (Burial)
 - Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10 (Resurrection)

Group Action

Plan to attend the Good Friday service together as a group, or if that's not possible, commit to praying for each other as you each attend.

Scripture for Meditation

Psalms 24:7-10 "Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Closing Prayer

Take time to pray together:

- **Confession:** Acknowledge areas where you've been living in the mirror room or worshiping idols
 - **Thanksgiving:** Thank Jesus for the exchange at the cross—taking our sin and giving us His righteousness
 - **Worship:** Declare together "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"
 - **Intercession:** Pray for those in your group who need to move from the mirror room to the window room
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Looking Ahead

Next week, celebrate the resurrection together! Come prepared to share one way the reality of Jesus' resurrection changes how you live.

"We are here because of a man that lived 20 centuries ago halfway around the world... We are here because he's alive. And because he defeated sin and death."