



Sunday Recap Guide

The King We Needed

E — Encouragement

Start by creating space for honesty and reflection:

- What was a high and a low from your week?
- When did you feel closest to God this week? When did you feel distant?
- What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?
- Have you ever had expectations of God that didn't match your reality? What did that feel like?

Leader Note:

Remind your group—God is not intimidated by our questions or expectations. He invites us into deeper trust, even when we don't understand.

S — Scripture

Primary Passage: Matthew 21:1–11 (NIV)

Jesus enters Jerusalem not as a conquering king—but as a humble Savior.

1. Jesus Wasn't Reacting—He Was Orchestrating

"This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet..." (v.4)

- Jesus fulfilled Zechariah 9:9—showing this moment was planned, not random.
- Even the details (the donkey, the timing, the crowd) were intentional.

Discussion:

- Where in your life do you feel like things are out of control?
- How does it change your perspective to know Jesus is not reacting—but orchestrating?

2. The Crowd Celebrated... But Misunderstood

“Hosanna... Blessed is He who comes...” (v.9)

- The people expected a political king to overthrow Rome.
- Jesus came as a spiritual King to defeat sin and death.

John 18:36 — “My kingdom is not of this world...”

Key Truth:

They weren’t wrong to celebrate—but they were wrong in their expectations.

Discussion:

- Have you ever expected God to move in a certain way—and He didn’t?
- Are you following Jesus... or your version of Him?

3. Jesus Is the Plan—Not Just Part of It

John 14:6 — “I am the way... the truth... the life...”

- Jesus doesn’t just have a plan—**He IS the plan.**
- If He wasn’t surprised by the cross, He’s not surprised by your situation.

Isaiah 55:8–9 — God’s ways are higher than ours.

Discussion:

- Do you trust Jesus’ plan even when it doesn’t match yours?
- Is your faith based on outcomes... or on who He is?

4. The King Came Differently Than Expected

Zechariah 9:9 — “Your King comes... gentle and riding on a donkey.”

- A donkey symbolized peace, not war.

- Jesus didn't come to take over—He came to lay His life down.

Key Truth:

Sometimes Jesus doesn't show up how we expect—but always how we need.

Discussion:

- Where might Jesus be working in a way you didn't expect?
- Are you open to His way, even if it looks different?

5. Don't Miss the Moment—Because You Miss the Mission

Luke 19:41–42 — Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

- They were close to the moment... but missed the mission.
- You can be near church, worship, and community—and still miss Jesus.

Discussion:

- Have you ever been “around” church but not fully surrendered?
- What might be distracting you from truly seeing Jesus?

6. From Celebration to Surrender

Romans 12:1 — “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...”

- It's easy to wave palm branches.
- It's harder to lay down your life.

Key Truth:

Jesus isn't looking for a moment of praise—He's looking for a life of surrender.

Discussion:

- What is something in your life you need to lay down to God?
- Are you praising Him only when things go your way?

P — Prayer

Take time to pray intentionally as a group:

- **Surrender Prayer:**
“God, help me surrender the version of You I’ve created and trust You for who You truly are.”
- **Trust Prayer:**
“Even when I don’t understand Your plan, help me trust that You are working.”
- **Heart Alignment:**
“Search my heart, God. Show me where I’ve been in the crowd but not truly following.”
- **Group Prayer Moment:**
Pray that each person would move from surface-level faith to full surrender this week.

N — Next Steps

Personal Next Steps:

- Identify one area where your expectations of God need to shift → surrender it this week
- Spend time in worship even if life doesn’t feel “good” (build praise not based on outcomes)
- Read Matthew 21 again and ask: *What kind of King am I following?*

Church Next Steps:

- Invite someone to Easter—this is a powerful moment for people to encounter the real Jesus
- Attend Starting Point if you’re new or still exploring your faith
- Take your next step in Growth Track