

**THE
KING
THE
WORLD
DIDN'T
EXPECT.**

PALM SUNDAY



THE KING THE WORLD DIDN'T EXPECT

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

SUNDAY 29 March 2026

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THE KING THE WORLD DIDN'T EXPECT

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GETTING STARTED

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the final week of Jesus' life before the cross. Jerusalem was full of people arriving for Passover, remembering how God rescued Israel from slavery. Into that moment Jesus entered the city riding a donkey while crowds waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna", meaning "save us now."

Many people expected a powerful political king who would overthrow Roman rule. Instead, Jesus came as a humble king bringing peace and salvation.

Questions

- When you hear the word "king", what kind of leader do you imagine?

- Why do you think the crowd was so excited to welcome Jesus?

INTO THE WORD

Read John 12:12–19

The crowd welcomed Jesus with palm branches and praise, declaring him the king of Israel. Yet Jesus deliberately entered Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy and showing that his kingdom would be different. It would not be built on military power but on humility and sacrifice.

Many people came because they had heard about the raising of Lazarus. Jesus' miracles caused people to talk about him everywhere, and the religious leaders began to worry about his growing influence.

Questions

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem the way he did?
- What does the crowd's response reveal about their expectations?

GOING DEEPER

At Passover Jerusalem was tense. Roman authorities often entered the city with soldiers to maintain order and show their power.

Against that backdrop Jesus entered quietly on a donkey. Two different kinds of kingdoms were on display. One built on power, fear and control. The other built on humility, love and sacrifice.

Jesus was not the king people expected, but he was the king they truly needed. Only days later many who shouted “Hosanna” would turn away. Palm Sunday reminds us that following Jesus is more than a moment of excitement. It is a decision to trust him as king.

Questions

- What differences do you see between worldly power and the way Jesus leads?
- Why do you think people sometimes celebrate Jesus one moment but ignore him the next?
- What does it practically mean for Jesus to be king in your life?

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus as the humble king who brings peace and salvation. Ask God to help you follow Jesus not just in words but in the way you live each day. Pray that your heart would continue to grow in trust, obedience and love for Christ.