



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: Palm Sunday 2024

GATHER

Deeply rooted by sharing life seeking the presence of God.

This community based context can to heighten your awareness of God's presence in your time together, and give one another space to talk about what's really going on in life.

-
- Pray. Thoughtfully acknowledge God's presence in the room. Commit your time together to him.
 - What practical needs should everyone know about? What can we do as a group to help?
 - What decisions are you facing? Is there any input you'd like from us as a group?
 - What are you praying about right now? How can we as a group join you in prayer?
 - Does anyone have a story of where you've seen God at work? Is there something we can join you in celebrating?

GROW

Deeply rooted by being formed through the word of God.

This biblically based content overlaps with the current weekend teaching at your Northview campus and positions you, as a group, to be shaped by studying Scripture.

- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to hear what he's saying.
- **Share a takeaway from the weekend sermon.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
- **Facilitate a guided reflection on Scripture.** The text from this "Palm Sunday" weekend took us out of our Gospel of John series and into **Luke 19:28-48**.

Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Luke describes Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem ahead of the events of his arrest and crucifixion. We'll discuss this further below but for now, share from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know one another).

Icebreaker question: If King Charles came to Abbotsford and had a public parade/procession (with the possibility you could shake his hand or get a selfie!), would you make time to attend? Why or why not? (If not, you could also share which celebrity you would make time to go out and greet instead.)

Step 1: Read The Text

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses.

Step 2: Understand Their Story

Ask *observation questions* to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

- Who does Luke say began to rejoice at Jesus' coming in 19:37?
 - What title do they use when referring to Jesus in 19:38?
- Praise isn't the only reaction to Jesus' coming.
 - What response does Jesus get in 19:39? From who?
 - What other plans are made in response to Jesus according to 19:47? From who?
- What is Jesus' reaction to seeing the city in 19:41?
 - His reaction reflects the state of the people's hearts. What description/actions do we have that characterize their "lost-ness" in...
 - 19:44?
 - 19:46?

Keep these observations in mind as you proceed through step 3.

Step 3: Connect To God's Story

Ask questions to understand how this text fits in the larger gospel story.

- The words of praise in Luke 19:38 come from Psalm 118:25-26.
 - Compare these two texts. What does Luke add that the Psalm does not?
 - Now go back to Luke 2:13-14. How is this first declaration of praise from the angels similar to what the crowds say in Luke 19?

- In 19:40, Jesus tells the Pharisees that if the crowds were silent the "very stones would cry out".
 - What God has made has always brought him glory. Look up Psalm 19. What does 19:1 tell us about what the heavens and sky do?
 - Look further at creation's specific connection to Jesus.. What does John tell us about Jesus' relationship to creation in John 1:1-3?

- Human response to God always has consequences - both good and bad - throughout the biblical story. Look up Deuteronomy 30:15-20, for example.
 - What command do the people receive in 30:16?
 - What is the consequence of not following this command according to 30:17-18?
 - What does Moses encourage the people to choose in 30:19-20? What is the benefit of this choice?
 - How does this connect with what Luke tells us about Jesus in 19:41-42?

Take these reflections with you into Step 4 below.

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- This text has two contrasting responses to Jesus' arrival: praise and hostility.
 - We know from later in the story that the praise of the crowds doesn't last. The disciples flee, and the crowds call for his crucifixion. This can be similar to how we live, rejoicing in one moment and doubting or denying Jesus in the next.
 - Have there been noticeable times when your excitement about Jesus has faded? What commonly contributes to this?

 - What do you think contributes to lifelong worship?
 - Are any of your group's answers something to be more intentional with this week?

 - Who do you know personally who responds to Jesus similar to the Pharisees? (Hostility, would rather he not be in the picture)
 - What reasons or causes do you think shape their perspective?
 - How can you pray for them by name today?

GO

Deeply rooted by participating in the mission of God.

These culturally relevant applications are meant, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, to prompt actions that bring the life of God's kingdom into us and out to others.

- Pray for the "lost" in your sphere of influence. Use the **5x5x5 cards** as a tool.
 - Is there something that seems especially relevant for us to do personally based on our discussion?
 - Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?
- *Opportunity from our staff team:** Would you be interested in serving together as a group May 9-11 at our Pastors/Elders retreat? We're looking for 10-12 people to help! Email Pastor Jesse for more information!
- Is there something we as a group should plan to do to spend time with someone who doesn't yet follow Jesus? Or to make/strengthen connections with our neighbours?