

Palm Sunday Small Group Discussion Guide
***"That Seems Random" Series - John 12:12-19**

Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking Jesus for His humility and His power, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help you see Him more clearly.

Icebreaker

What's one time you had high expectations for something that turned out completely different than you imagined? How did you respond?

Scripture Reading

Have someone read John 12:12-19 aloud.

Discussion Questions

The Donkey Reveals Our Expectations (verses 12-14)

1. **Why do you think Jesus chose to ride a donkey instead of a more impressive animal?** What does this choice reveal about His character and kingdom?
2. **The sermon said we're "right in our declarations but wrong in our definitions."** How can we celebrate Jesus while still misunderstanding what He's actually doing in our lives?
3. **"Can you shout Hosanna even when God does it His way and it's not your way?"** Share a time when God answered your prayer differently than you expected. How did you respond?

The Potential of the Overlooked (verse 14)

4. **Jesus chose an inexperienced donkey that had never been ridden.** When have you felt overlooked or unqualified? How does this story encourage you?
5. **The sermon contrasted being "impressive" versus being "available and willing."** Which do you tend to pursue more? What would it look like to shift toward availability?

Do Not Be Afraid (verse 15)

6. **"Do not be afraid" - why is this the key message as Jesus enters Jerusalem?** What fears keep people from drawing near to Jesus today?
7. **The crowd wanted a conquering king, not a kind king.** How do we sometimes want Jesus to fix our circumstances without changing our hearts?

The Paradox of Jesus (verses 17-19)

8. **Jesus is both gentle/humble AND powerful enough to raise the dead.** Why is it important to hold both truths together? Which aspect do you tend to emphasize more?

9. **"Jesus didn't come for a parade. He came for people."** How does this shift your perspective on worship and following Him?

Personal Application

10. **The disciples "did not understand all this at first" (verse 16).** What's something about God or your current season that you don't understand? How can you trust Him while waiting for clarity?

11. **Looking ahead to Good Friday and Easter:** How can you prepare your heart this week to truly celebrate what Jesus accomplished?

Closing Reflection

"What feels random in this moment will feel like revelation later."

- What's one "random" or confusing thing God might be revealing about Himself to you right now?
- How will you choose to be available and willing this week, even if you don't understand everything?

Prayer Time

- Pray for anyone who gave their life to Jesus today
- Pray for open hearts during Holy Week services
- Pray for each person to trust Jesus even when they don't understand His ways
- Thank Jesus for being both humble enough to ride a donkey and powerful enough to conquer death

This Week's Challenge: Each day leading to Easter, thank Jesus for one aspect of His character that surprises you or challenges your expectations.

Invite others to Good Friday (6pm & 7:30pm) and Easter Sunday (8am, 9:30am, 11:15am)!