

Conversation Starters

- How has your week been?
- What were some of the highlights?

Discuss

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, a time of remembering and celebrating the life of Jesus at Easter. Palm Sunday specifically remembers the day Jesus first visited Jerusalem during his ministry, when the people laid palm branches before Him as he entered riding on a donkey. They knew this time was important because Jesus spent His entire ministry pointing towards His return to Jerusalem, and was the climax to his eventual death and resurrection, signifying overcoming death caused by sin and restoring us into a right relationship with God.

Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!" (Mark 11:8-10 NLT)

- Do you take time to remember and celebrate the life of Jesus during this time of year? How?

The Jews during Jesus' day had been waiting for The Messiah, prophesied about in Scripture, to restore their people and kingdom. They expected an earthly king that would deliver them from oppression and restore Israel to a time of peace and prosperity. However, the kingdom they had in mind was different from what God had planned.

- What have you learned about Jesus?
- Is what you know about Jesus different from what you expected?

Palm Sunday is about laying down your life (as the people laid down the palm branches) to Jesus as both forgiver and leader. God wants us to experience life-change through a relationship with Him, and Jesus is the way to that relationship. It can be easy to allow Him to be our forgiver, like the Jesus we see paraded as He entered Jerusalem. It gets hard to allow Him to be our leader, as He turns the tables of the temple of our life over to make us more like Him. Both are important to Him.

When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him... (Mark 11:15-18 NLT)

- Have you made a decision about who Christ is for your life? Describe it.
- How do you view Jesus as your forgiver?
- How do you view Jesus as your leader?

Next Steps

We believe where you stand with Jesus is the most important decision you can make in life. Have you taken the time to honestly evaluate and then decide on what you believe about Him? Take some time to consider what you know about Him and explore it. The class below is a great place to start. You can even ask to speak with a pastor by emailing churchoffice@mecklenburg.org.

Exploring the Bible

When: Every Monday, from 04/29/2019 to 05/20/2019, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: North Charlotte Campus, 8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269

Registration: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/855439-2019-04-29-exploring-the-bible/>

Have you already made a decision to follow Christ? Go public at our next baptism:

Baptism

When: May 18 and 19

Where: At every Meck campus.

Registration: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/baptism/>

Further Reflection

See Mark 11:1-10, 15-18; Luke 9:51; 10:38; 13:22; 18:31-33 NLT.

Pray

God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for loving us. Loving us enough to die for us. Help us to completely accept and respond to the relationship that you offer us, both as forgiver and leader. Please accept this week and time that we give to remember and celebrate all that you have done for us as a gift of worship to you.