

# GROWING IN FAITH



## John 12:12-16

<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: <sup>15</sup>“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” <sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.”

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## STARTING OUT

Begin with a prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

Dear God, We are grateful to come together with this community to grow in our faith. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us that we might grow closer to You and one another. Remind us of the new beginning we have today to be renewed in your image. Amen.

Read the scripture verse for the day – John 12:12-16. Remind everyone that we are reading through the last 12 chapters of John’s Gospel. This lesson covers chapters 12 and 13.

## PLAY THE VIDEO

## GOING DEEPER

In the video, Josh told a story of a movie that he saw with a surprise ending that caught him off guard.

Have you ever read a book or watched a movie that surprised you with its ending? Why did you think you knew what the ending was going to be? What was it about it that surprised you?

When the people started shouting “Hosanna!” on the first Palm Sunday they were asking Jesus to save them.

What did they want Jesus to save them from?

What do you want Jesus to save you from?

What do you think Jesus has saved you for?

The people were looking for a warrior Messiah who could raise up an army, fight the Romans, and restore independence to the nation of Israel. They were looking for someone like the Maccabees.

What would have been the long-term result if Jesus had fulfilled this idea of a Messiah?

What kind of Messiah was Jesus?

What does Jesus’ idea of a Messiah tell us about the nature of God?

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## GOING DEEPER

Some scholars believe that on the Sunday Jesus made his entry to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, there would have been another parade happening at the same time on the other side of Jerusalem with Pontius Pilate entering the city on his war horse clad in battle armor with chariots and an army behind him.

Why would Pilate be entering Jerusalem during Passover week with an army and a huge military parade?

How do these two images of power compare to one another?

What does Jesus’ parade tell us about God’s power compared to Pilate’s power?

Jesus made it even more obvious for his disciples that the Messiah didn’t come to be served, but rather to serve when he gets down on his hands and knees in chapter 13 to wash their feet. Read John 13:12-17 together.

How does serving others draw us closer to God? Share an experience you have had serving others and what it did for your relationship with Christ.

What leaders have you seen that exemplified what it means to be a servant leader? How can we live our lives as servant leaders?

John 12:16 makes it clear that even though the disciples didn’t understand everything in the moment, they would look back through the lens of resurrection and be able to make sense out of it all.

How does looking at life through the lens of resurrection affect the way we view the world?

How can we help others view life through a resurrection lens?

Remind the group that they may want to read John 14-15 before next week.

## Closing

Take time to lift up joys and concerns in your group before closing in prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

God of mercy, we are so grateful that you have come to save us. Thank you for being our Messiah. Thank you for opening our eyes to new ideas of what it means to be Lord and Savior. Equip us with the gifts that we need today to be servant leaders in our community spreading your message of peace, love and hope with others. Let us live with a spirit of hope and resurrection as Easter People. Amen.