

## Leaders Guide 4: The Triumphal Entry

1. **Suggested Ice breaker:** What hobby or interest would you most like to develop during the rest of your life?
2. **Prayer time:**  
**A Prelude to Prayer : Gospel Workers 254, 255** "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience."
3. **Sharing from the week**
4. **Read Matthew 21: 1-11, Luke 19: 29-44** and be familiar with the background.
5. **Questions for Discussion**
  - a. Jesus usually walked with His disciples why was it important that He ride on a donkey coming to Jerusalem? Matthew 21: 5; DA 569 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. As the disciples got the donkey and prepared it for Jesus, what were they expecting to happen? DA 570. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What did the multitude have in mind when they quoted psalm 118: 25? What was their anticipation? Matthew 21: 8,9. DA 570 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Where do you see yourself in this procession? Putting palm branches in from of the donkey and shouting; watching the whole experience; running off to get someone else to celebrate? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. The people in the city asked who is this? What would you have answered if you had been there? See participants guide for further thought \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. The disciples and multitude were expecting Jesus in a moment of triumph to announce Himself as a king and help overthrow the Romans. What did they witness Jesus doing as He overlooked the city? Luke 19:41. Why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Read Isaiah 2: 1-4 and see God's high expectation for Jerusalem. Jesus was demonstrating great sadness and disappointment. Share about an unfulfilled expectation that brought you sadness. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Jesus words, Luke 19: 42-44 were no doubt said with great emotion. They forecast future events for His people. They were heartfelt words. Can you think of a time when you heard decisive words that you knew was going to effect your future? \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Why are people prone to joining a crowd when they don't know the whole story of what is happening. Have you experienced this in your life? What procession might you join? \_\_\_\_\_

## Background

Sunday—The triumphal entry: (Jesus began the day in Bethany and ended in Bethany).

Have you ever experienced delight and disappointment within a few hours of the same day. The followers of Jesus were about to go through that clash of emotions. Jesus seemed to finally align with the people's hopes to declare Himself King. As He rode on a donkey toward Jerusalem with an ever increasing multitude of cheering people, this surely was the launching of their moment of national greatness, when Jesus would declare Himself King. But just minute—what was this-- their king is weeping as He looks over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives? Shouldn't He be cheering? His words about Jerusalem were words of disappointment not jubilation! In that dramatic moment the realities about the city He loved appeared before Him. He foresaw Jerusalem's rejection of Him and its later demise by Roman powers—it pained Jesus heart. He wept.

Jesus knew He must now make public what had been at times kept secret—who He truly was. If ever the people would make sense out of the next few days they needed to know who He was and the nature of His mission. They must know He was the prophesied Messiah and long-awaited Saviour. However they must realize the kingdom He is to establish is not to rule governments and territories but the hearts of people--a spiritual kingdom that now is awaiting the fullness of the Kingdom later. His second return would be the true triumphal entry. The days ahead for the disciples would appear to be their greatest defeat and disappointment-- their hoped-for king dying. Little did they realize it then but their disappointment would give way to their greatest triumph. Christ would rise from the dead, ascend to heaven and as the enthroned King, guide their life and mission. It would be the reason for their greatest joy. Disappointments are often the preludes of breakthroughs to new hopes and encouragements.

Life with Jesus always has hope beyond the moment. Much of our world in 2020 has come to a halt. Disappointment and confusion are felt globally. In the upper room at the last supper Jesus said to His disciples, "Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you." Jesus is a master pilot who guides His people through the storms of life to a safe harbor. We need Him to guide us through another storm. With Jesus there are always better days ahead!