

Wednesday

Read Luke 19:35-36 *The procession begins*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why were people so excited to see and honor Jesus? Can you imagine being part of that crowd?*
2. *What were the people hoping for when they saw Jesus coming?*

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit, fill us with the same need to shout our praise, the desire to share the greatness of our God. Lift our hearts and give us the hope of Christ.

Thursday

Read Luke 19:37-38 *Hosanna!*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What if Jesus had turned back before he got to the gates of Jerusalem? Did he have a choice?*
2. *The disciples shout "Peace in heaven!" How does Jesus' coming make for peace?*

Prayer Focus: Jesus, this Holy Thursday, show us what you mean by peace. Show us how you keep bringing peace even today, even when we turn stony hearts to you. Thank you for always choosing the way of peace.

Friday

Read Luke 19:39-40 *The stones will declare Jesus*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is Jesus inviting us to do as he leads the way into Jerusalem? What does Jesus need?*
2. *The truth of Jesus will not be silent even if people are silent. What would the stones cry out for today?*

Prayer Focus: Blessed One, help us to turn our hearts to you, as we walk the same path that starts with palms and praise and ends in darkness—for a while. Help our wilderness hearts to embrace the truth of Jesus' life and death, of the suffering and triumph that ultimately comes with the Resurrection. We thank you God, for the chance to share your truth, so we may serve to transform the world.

Even the Stones Will Cry Out

Even at the gate of Jerusalem, Jesus still has a choice. If he listens to the powers that be, and silences the truth, he may still take an easier road. But Christ comes to walk the path of truth - not the path of comfort. What truths would the stones cry out to us today? How do we - as the church - walk the path of truth?

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Have you ever attended or been part of a parade? What was it like? What do you remember most?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read **Luke 19:28-40**. Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

April 14, 2019
Wilderness: Palm Sunday



Monday

Read **Luke 19: 28-31** *On the road to Jerusalem*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Does Jesus have to go to Jerusalem? Why or why not?*
2. *A colt or a donkey was humble, but it was also very valuable to its owners—like a car to us. Why would Jesus choose this animal to ride into the city?*
3. *Do you think Jesus planned this event ahead of time? Why or why not?*

Prayer Focus:

Jesus didn't veer off the path to Jerusalem, even when his life was threatened. He sets his face to the future and stubbornly, bravely keeps going. Keep on the path for us, Jesus. We may wander all over, but you are our steady compass, refusing to give up on us or withdraw your love. Teach us to be stubborn and brave in our loving, too.

Tuesday

Read **Luke 19:32-34**—*The disciples bring the colt*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think the owners of the colt allowed the disciples to take it?*
2. *Would you be ready to offer something so valuable if you were asked this way?*

Prayer Focus:

Ask today what Jesus needs from you. Spend time reflecting on what is of value to you and what is of value to God. Consider, with the help of the Holy Spirit, how you can be ready if you are asked to give out of the true love of God.