

The King You Want vs. The King You Need

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Questions:

1. If someone threw you a parade tomorrow, what would it absolutely need to include?
2. What is something you used to think was a big deal, but now it barely matters to you at all?

Read the following passage(s): Mark 11:1–11; Mark 11:15–18; Colossians 2:13–15
Palm Sunday holds a real tension: the crowd cries out for rescue, but many are still expecting a King who will meet their needs without confronting what truly rules their hearts. Jesus enters Jerusalem not only to answer their cry, but to expose false rulers and reveal the deeper freedom He came to secure. Through Holy Week, He uncovers what has taken His rightful place so that, through the strange victory of the cross, those powers can be broken. The invitation is to bring your honest “Hosanna,” let Jesus look around at everything, and surrender every space of your life to His saving reign.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

We often welcome Jesus at the level of our need, not yet at the level of His authority.

1. Read Mark 10:46–49. We often welcome Jesus at the level of our need, but not yet at the level of His authority. Where does that feel uncomfortably true for you right now?
2. What is your clearest “Hosanna” right now—and what would it look like to stop just crying out for rescue and actually trust Jesus with the way He wants to lead you?
3. What outcome are you so attached to that it is hard to imagine Jesus being faithful if He works differently than you hoped? How might God be inviting you to loosen your grip on that outcome this week? How can your group support you this week as you try to trust Jesus beyond that expectation?
4. What part of your life do you gladly want Jesus involved in? What part do you keep more guarded, managed, or off-limits? What is one step of surrender you could take there this week?

Jesus came to fight a deeper battle than the one they could see.

5. Read Mark 7:20–23. When life feels hard, where are you most tempted to locate the problem completely outside yourself? What might Jesus be trying to show you about what is happening in you, not just around you?
6. What “room” in your life are you asking Jesus to fix right now? What hidden “rot” have you learned to live around instead of letting Jesus deal with directly?
7. The sermon said, “Exposure is not the enemy of freedom.” What in your life still feels too risky to bring fully into the light, and why? What would it look like to trust that Jesus brings things into the light to free you, not shame you?
8. If Jesus is repairing the foundation and not just redecorating the room, where in your life do you feel that resistance most right now? What would it look like to stop avoiding it, and how can this group support you as you take one honest step toward freedom?

What has been ruling you in the places only Jesus can free?

9. The sermon said, “What kept you alive in one season cannot be the lord of your life in the next.” What coping strategy or survival pattern do you sense Jesus exposing right now? What would it look like to stop protecting it this week?
10. Where does Jesus feel safe to you right now, and where does His authority still feel threatening or costly? What would trusting Him in that exact place look like in practice this week?
11. Read John 8:31–36. What truth about yourself have you been resisting because it would require change, surrender, or naming something more honestly? What would it look like to stop resisting that truth this week?
12. What rival ruler do you most easily excuse, spiritualize, or explain away—control, image, anger, comfort, fear, self-protection, performance? What is one concrete way you can stop making peace with it this week?
13. If Jesus is exposing what has been ruling you in order to free you, not shame you, what is one area you need to bring fully into the light this week? Who needs to know, and how can this group help you follow through?
14. Seven days from now, what is one specific act of obedience you want to be able to tell this group you took in response to what Jesus is exposing in you right now?

Pray Together.