

Sermon Based Small Group Guide
For March 28, 2021 sermon:
Palm Sunday: "The coming storm"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

- What was a highlight (or maybe a "lowlight") for you this past week?
- Did you have specific Easter traditions in your family growing up? What?
- Is there anybody you could invite to Easter worship with you next week? Who?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes) "Now for something completely different!"

As a group...and depending on how much time it takes...choose 1 or 2 of the topics below that make up Jesus' last week and study/discuss them.

Deeper into Palm Sunday: Read Matthew 21:1-11

- Near the end of his life, Jesus was popular with most. Talk about why.
- Jesus asks a couple of disciples to do a "donkey-jacking". Would you want this assignment?
- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd treated him like a king. What did they expect him to do next?
- Many people were disappointed when Jesus didn't fulfill their expectations. Have you ever known someone who was disappointed when God didn't meet their expectations?
- What are some unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of God? What can we do to keep our expectations of God rooted in truth?
- In truth, their expectations that he would then become their king were too small. We do the same. Share a time that you may have expected too little of God.

Deeper into Jesus Clearing out the Temple: Read Luke 19:45-48

- Jesus cleared the temple early in his ministry, now again in the last week. What does that tell you about his passions compared to the priorities of the religious leaders selling animals and making money there?
- Is there any time when we would be right to use such behavior in God's behalf?

Deeper into the Last Supper: Read Luke 22:14-30

- Summarize what you know of the purpose of the Passover meal.
- How is this a new revelation about what the Passover Meal was to symbolize all along?
- How do you think such an important and solemn meal turn into another argument about "greatness" among the disciples?

Deeper into the Garden of Gethsemane: Read Mark 14:32-52 and John 18:1-11

- How are these accounts similar? Different?
- The disciples keep falling asleep on Jesus. Why would the authors include this?
- Jesus prays for God to take this cup from him. When have you prayed a similar prayer?
- He concludes "not my will but what your will" Have you prayed this prayer?