Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For April 10, 2022 sermon:  
***“The perfect storm”***

**Warm up:**   
1. Did you grow up in the church (regular attendance as a child)? Have you ever thought about the impact that had on you and your spiritual perspective on the amazing stories and miracles in the Bible? Do you think it is easier or more difficult for you to believe the Bible as a result?

2. What is your favorite part of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) and why?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

The Triumphal Entry is the beginning of a week where Jesus is going to do everything required to accomplish our salvation. Jesus knows the significance of this journey, but the crowds and even his closest friends misunderstand who Jesus is, and why these things must happen.

Re-read **Luke 19:36-39** alongside the prophecy of **Zechariah 9:9-17** and **2 Kings 9:13**. Why did the crowd say these words about Jesus and put their coats on the ground? Who did they think Jesus was and what did they think he was going to do?

During the period from the Triumphal Entry to Easter, Jesus repeatedly said who he was and what he was going to do. Read and discuss his plan in the following verses:  
**John 14:6 John 15:1, 4 John 16:28 John 18:37**

**Read these claims made prior to the Triumphal Entry:  
John 8:12 John 10:9-11 John 10:31-33**

**How do the claims of Jesus differ from what the crowd thought AND from our current cultural values? Are Jesus claims still relevant today and what do they mean to you?**

**2. It is much easier to follow Jesus when the crowd is shouting “Hosanna!” than it is when the crowd is shouting “crucify him!”. Within days, all his followers had abandoned him. Jesus makes it very clear that following him is not always an easy or comfortable way of life…but it is worth it!**

**What is the promised benefit of following Jesus no matter what?   
Luke 18:29-30, John 10:10**

**HOW do we follow Jesus when the going gets tough?   
Luke 9:23**

**Share what that strong challenge means to you.**