



JESUS IS ALIVE.

What Did You Expect?

Icebreaker: Share one of the following with the group:

1. A fun family tradition you do every Easter.
2. What is the worst outfit your parents ever made you wear on Easter?
3. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you on Easter?

Worship:

What I See | *Elevation Worship*

Holy Forever | *CeCe Winans*

There Is A King | *Elevation Worship*

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Discussion: *Matthew 21:1-11 describes the triumphal entry of Jesus on the back of a donkey into Jerusalem. The promised King had finally come to redeem the people of Israel after years of anticipation; however, the way He entered wasn't at all how the people were expecting a King to come. On the back of a donkey? Isn't the One who comes with great glory and power to redeem us from oppression supposed to come with a great royal caravan like a "normal" king would?*

While Jesus was entering as a King, he was not entering as a "normal" earthly king assigned by man; Jesus was sent by God the Father to rule and reign by first dying to set us free from sin and death.

1. What does this passage teach us about Jesus' character? And what does this passage teach us about our own expectations?
2. Verse 8 tells us that people "spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road." They were reacting with excitement and joy because their King was finally there with them. What does this teach us about people's reaction to Jesus when he entered Jerusalem? What can we learn from this and how can we apply it to our lives today?
3. The way people received Jesus suggests they had great expectations from Him. What do you think they hoped He would do for them? If you were there, what would have been your expectations?
4. What is the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a colt? Was he coming to conquer the Romans as a mighty warrior or to bring peace and hope?
5. Jesus quotes the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 to his disciples. Why is this prophecy important?

Prayer:

Break into groups of 2-3 and share with one another how you will prepare yourself for Easter during Holy Week. Pray for each other and ask God to prepare your hearts to have a more meaningful time with Him this Easter.



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The Upside-Down Kingdom of King Jesus

Icebreaker: What do you like most about spring and why?

Worship: Check out the worship resources we have available on Lifegroupleaders.com. You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo. New set list available: [Worship Playlist 11](#).

Blessed Be Your Name | *Matt Redman*

Here I am to Worship | *Hillsong*

Reckless Love | *Cory Asbury*

Read: Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 38-43; Matthew 6:5-6; 6:19-21; Matthew 7:1-5

Discussion: The King of the Universe came to Jerusalem on a donkey. He was beaten and crucified, and His body was put in another man's tomb. After three days in the grave, the stone was rolled away to reveal an empty tomb. Jesus had overcome death. He is clearly the initiator of a new kingdom very different from those of the world. From the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus told us and showed us what this upside-down kingdom would look like. Read these excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount aloud and discuss the following questions.

1. How does Jesus take common understanding of laws and practices and turn them upside-down? (murder, adultery, justice, giving, prayer, judging)
2. Which of the following excerpts is most convicting for you and why?
3. What might this "new kingdom" look like in your context right now—where you live, work and do life?
4. How would you describe this upside-down kingdom to someone who does not follow Jesus?

Prayer: Break up into groups of 2 or 3 and pray for each other to embrace the counter-cultural ways of Jesus.