

Life Group Questions Matthew 21:1-17

Week 7 | March 24, 2024

ICEBREAKER: Many Christians cheer like crazy at sporting events on a Saturday yet sheepishly sing praise songs to God the next morning. Is that OK? Explain.

1. What stood out from Steve's message? If you know Steve, share your connection. What in his message encouraged, challenged, or intrigued you?

Read Matthew 21:1-17

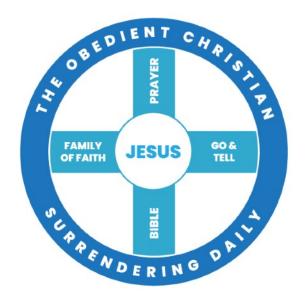
- 2. Jesus sent two disciples to find and return with what? Why? (v.1-3)
 God prepared the way for the disciples to succeed with this task. When has God prepared a way for you? What did God do in your life?
- 3. What did the crowds shout as Jesus entered Jerusalem? (v.9) What did it mean?*
- 4. How did this "parade" affect those living in Jerusalem? (v.10) The people asked, "Who is this?" Has there been a time in your life when someone's faith so inspired you that it motivated you to learn more and take action? What happened? How can we pray for one another that our lives would cause others to want to know more?
- 5. How do you define worship? In what ways do we simplistically "cheer" Jesus? Can we worship outside of a church service? What would that look like? Can we worship without music? What would that look like?
- 6. How should worship play a role in your daily life? What is one way you would like to worship God this week? [**LEADER NOTE** As people share, ask other group members to volunteer to pray for that person this week. Encourage them to follow up by calling or texting to check in to see how it's going.]
- 7. Jesus references buying and selling in verses 12-13. In what way could our handling of money be an act of worship? Brainstorm at least five ways money can be a catalyst for worship.
- 8. Review the WHEEL illustration (on the next page if needed). Ask the group to explain how the wheel's rim is an act of worship.

As always, ask for and encourage commitments people can make and ask others in the group to pray for them and follow up with them during the week.

And as you know, be prepared to set the pace with your example.

*LEADER NOTE — Hōsanna occurs five times in the gospels (Matt 21:9; Mark 11:9; 11:10; John 12:13) as the cry raised by the crowd when Jesus entered Jerusalem the first day of the week ending with Passover and his crucifixion. The term is simply a transliteration of the Heb imperative hôša', "save," augmented by the enclitic precative particle - (n)nā, which adds a note of urgency, "save, now/please."

The form hôša nnā actually is not found in the Hebrew Bible, but the imperatives hôša and hôšî āh, without the precative particle -nnā, "please," occur 29 times, addressed to deity, mostly in the Psalter, and twice directed to royalty.



¹ Marvin H. Pope, "Hosanna," ed. David Noel Freedman, The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 290.