

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

Palm Sunday

April 1 & 2, 2023

Start Talking

Have you ever had a time when you have run out of gas? I'm sure you might be able to laugh about it now, but we all have had funny situations where things ended badly because we weren't prepared.

Main Idea

This weekend Pastor Jackson talked about John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Jesus. John came to serve the great servant, who is Jesus. Pastor Jackson shared that the long to accomplish great things cannot be separated from the calling to serve. We all have different gifts, callings, and passions, but when it comes down to it, we are all called to serve.

Jackson used the story of John the Baptist to remind us that each of us has a responsibility to prepare the way for the Lord, and we can do that by preparing ourselves, preparing for another, for those around us, and preparing with prayer.

Personalize It

The three ways we can prepare the way for the Lord today are to prepare ourselves, prepare for another, and prepare with prayer.

1. What does it look like for you personally to prepare yourself? Spend time reflecting and talking with the group about what this is like for you. Whether it's implementing a new prayer time into your daily routine or creating intentional time each day to be in God's word, we each have something new we can be doing to prepare ourselves for the way of the Lord.

2. What does it look like for you to prepare for another? Pastor Jackson reminded us that a personal relationship with Jesus is never designed to stop with us, but it's about passing it on to another. We all have people in our lives that don't know Jesus or who might be on the journey of asking questions. Who are those people in your life, and what can you do this week to take a step to prepare the way for them? It may be meeting with them for coffee to build a relationship or committing to praying for them and their journey every day. Whatever it is, we can be intentional today to prepare for another.

3. What does it look like to prepare with prayer? Prayer should be focused on the anticipation and expectation that God will move. Prayer is powerful, and it is something that we can dig deep into every day. Spend some time discussing how to incorporate prayer into your daily rhythms. It might be whenever you're in the car, waiting in line at the grocery store, or drinking coffee in the mornings. Whenever it is, we can be more intentional this week to prioritize prayer and praying for one another.

LET'S DO IT! Commit to a step and live it out this week

Pastor Jackson gave us three specific things to do this week as we prepare for Easter. If we do these things, we are not just telling the Easter story but playing a bigger part in fulfilling our destiny and God's calling on each of our lives.

1. Prepare yourself.
2. Prepare for another.
3. Prepare with prayer.

Commit this week to do these three things 1. spending daily time with God 2. inviting someone to Easter at Cypress with you, and 3. joining the entire movement of Cypress with our prayer prompts. These three tangible acts can change your life's trajectory and someone else's life for eternity.

Pray

Lord, thank you for who You are and for sending Your Son to walk on the earth—to be with and save us. Please help us walk through this week, working towards preparing the way. Walk with us as we work to prepare ourselves and dig deeper into your word. Walk with us as we prepare for another. We ask that You provide blessings in our lives, not for our own sake, but so that we can bless those around us. Walk with us as we prepare with prayer. We know you hear our prayers and that there is power in prayer. Please help us remember that power this week as we prepare for Easter and all that You will do in and through people this season.

Key Scriptures

Mark 11:1-3; 8-10

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!^[a]" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Luke 1:8-13

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.