

Small Group Guide: Palm Sunday and the Supernatural Realm



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand His Word and the spiritual realities we often overlook.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: Have you noticed an increased interest in supernatural or paranormal topics in our culture? What shows, podcasts, or conversations have you encountered recently that deal with these themes?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Two Entries into Jerusalem:** Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly on a donkey (fulfilling prophecy), but will return on a white horse as conquering King.
2. **The Bigger Story:** Behind the personal salvation story is a cosmic battle where Jesus is reclaiming the earth from rebellious spiritual entities.

3. **Genesis 11 & Deuteronomy 32:** At Babel, God divided the nations and set boundaries, taking Israel as His portion while allowing rebellious spiritual beings to rule other territories temporarily.
 4. **The Church's Mission:** We are called to participate in reclaiming the spiritual realm for Christ by making disciples of all nations, breaking down spiritual boundaries before His physical return.
 5. **Greater Works:** Jesus promised we would do "greater works" - not more powerful, but greater in number and scope as we spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15-20 minutes)

1. **Read Matthew 21:1-11.** What details stand out to you about Jesus's entry into Jerusalem? Why was riding a donkey significant versus riding a horse?
2. **Read Deuteronomy 32:3-9.** What does this passage suggest about how God divided the nations? What was significant about God choosing Jacob (Israel) as "His portion"?
3. **Read Psalm 82.** Who are the "gods" (lowercase 'g') mentioned in this psalm? What will ultimately happen to them according to verse 7?

Digging Deeper (20-25 minutes)

4. How does understanding the spiritual rebellion at Babel (Genesis 11) and the "sons of God" incident (Genesis 6) change your perspective on spiritual warfare?
5. The sermon suggested that when Jesus cast out demons, He was reclaiming territory. How does this affect your understanding of Jesus's earthly ministry beyond just personal healing?
6. **Read Acts 1:6-8.** How does Jesus's commission to be witnesses "to the ends of the earth" connect to the idea of reclaiming nations that were divided at Babel?
7. What does it mean that spiritual entities have power, but not ultimate power? How should this truth affect how we view spiritual warfare?

Personal Application (20-25 minutes)

8. The sermon emphasized that we're part of the story of reclaiming the earth for Christ. How does this cosmic perspective change the way you view:

- Your personal evangelism?
 - Your prayers?
 - Your daily battles with temptation or spiritual opposition?
9. **Read Revelation 19:11-16.** How does keeping Jesus's return in mind (riding a white horse as conquering King) motivate you in your current spiritual battles?
10. Are there areas in your life or community where you sense spiritual opposition? How might you participate in "reclaiming territory" for Christ in those areas?
11. The sermon mentioned that we fight "not against flesh and bone, but against spiritual darkness" (Ephesians 6:12). How can this truth help you when dealing with difficult people or situations?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Prayer Mapping

- Identify a specific area in your community, workplace, or sphere of influence where you sense spiritual darkness
- Commit to praying daily for that area, asking God to break spiritual strongholds and bring His light

Option 2: Intentional Witness

- Recognize that sharing the gospel is participating in reclaiming territory for Christ
- Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and intentionally build relationship with them this week

Option 3: Study Spiritual Warfare

- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 daily this week
- Journal about what spiritual armor means practically in your daily life
- Share your insights with the group next time

Option 4: Palm Sunday Reflection

- Spend time this week meditating on both entries into Jerusalem (the humble donkey and the future white horse)
 - Write down how this dual perspective affects your understanding of who Jesus is and what He's doing
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Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Closing Discussion (10 minutes)

1. What was the most challenging or eye-opening concept from this sermon for you?
 2. How does understanding the "bigger story" of what God is doing change your perspective on:
 - The importance of the Great Commission?
 - Your role in God's kingdom work?
 - The reality of spiritual warfare?
 3. What is one specific way you want to respond to what you learned today?
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Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank Jesus for His humble entry into Jerusalem and His sacrifice on the cross
- Ask for courage and power through the Holy Spirit to be faithful witnesses
- Pray for anticipation and readiness for His return as conquering King
- Ask God to open your eyes to spiritual realities and equip you for spiritual battles
- Pray for specific areas or people you identified during discussion

For Further Study**Books Mentioned:**

- *The Unseen Realm* by Dr. Michael Heiser
- *Angels and Demons* by Dr. Michael Heiser

Related Scripture:

- Genesis 3, 6, 11 (the three major rebellions)
- Daniel 10 (spiritual princes over nations)
- Ephesians 6:10-20 (spiritual warfare)
- Zechariah 14 (Jesus's return to the Mount of Olives)
- Isaiah 43:10-11 (there is no God but Yahweh)

5-Day Devotional: The King's Two Entries



Day 1: The Humble King

Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:1-11

Devotional:

Jesus deliberately chose to enter Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling ancient prophecy and demonstrating profound humility. While the crowds shouted "Hosanna," only Jesus knew the suffering ahead. This humble entry reveals God's unexpected ways—He conquers not through military might but through sacrificial love. The same King who rode peacefully into Jerusalem will one day return on a white horse in glory. Today, consider how Jesus enters your life. Are you looking for a conquering hero to solve your problems, or are you willing to receive the humble Savior who transforms through surrender? The pathway to victory often begins with humility. Reflect on areas where pride prevents you from fully receiving Christ's kingship in your life.

Day 2: Reclaiming What Was Lost

Reading: Genesis 11:1-9; Deuteronomy 32:3-9

Devotional:

At Babel, humanity's rebellion led God to scatter the nations and set boundaries. Yet even in judgment, God had a redemptive plan—choosing Abraham's lineage to eventually bless all nations. This reveals God's patient, long-term strategy to reclaim what was lost. Through one people, one descendant—Jesus—all nations would be restored. You are part of this grand redemptive story. God hasn't abandoned the broken places in your life or our world. He's working through His people to reclaim territory from darkness. Where do you see brokenness around you? How might God be calling you to participate in His redemptive work? Remember, God's timeline spans generations, and your faithful obedience today contributes to His eternal purposes.

Day 3: Authority Over Darkness

Reading: Luke 6:17-19; Ephesians 6:10-12

Devotional:

When crowds from Judea to Tyre and Sidon gathered around Jesus, everyone was healed simply by His presence. Demons fled, diseases vanished, and wholeness was restored. This demonstrates Christ's absolute authority over all spiritual forces. We don't fight against flesh and blood but against spiritual darkness—yet we fight from victory, not for victory. Jesus has already conquered. The same power that healed multitudes dwells in believers through the Holy Spirit. You don't face spiritual battles alone or powerless. Consider the struggles you face—anxiety, addiction, oppression, or despair. These may have spiritual roots, but they have no power against Christ in you. Stand confidently in His authority today, knowing that darkness must flee when confronted with His light and truth.

Day 4: Greater Works Ahead

Reading: John 14:12-14; Acts 1:6-8

Devotional:

Jesus promised His followers would do "greater works"—not more powerful miracles, but ministry of greater scope. While Jesus ministered primarily in Israel for three years, the church would carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. This is our sacred calling: to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and beyond, reclaiming spiritual territory for God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit empowers you for this mission. You're not called to wait passively for Christ's return but to actively participate in expanding His kingdom. Who in your "Jerusalem" (immediate circle) needs to hear about Jesus? What about your "Samaria" (those different from you)? The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead empowers you to be His witness. Your faithful witness today prepares the way for His glorious return tomorrow.

Day 5: The Victorious Return

Reading: Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 14:1-4

Devotional:

The humble King who entered Jerusalem on a donkey will return on a white horse as the conquering King of Kings. He left from the Mount of Olives; He'll return there to establish His eternal kingdom. This isn't wishful thinking—it's our certain hope. The spiritual battles we fight today are preparing for that physical, visible kingdom. Every prayer, every act of obedience, every demon cast out, every soul saved diminishes the enemy's territory. When Christ returns, He'll complete what He began at the cross. Until then, we live between two entries—grateful for His sacrificial love and expectant for His glorious return. Let this hope fuel your endurance today. The battle is real, but the victory is certain. Keep your eyes on the returning King.