

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## Palm Sunday

### Mark 11:1-11

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

#### 3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The Mission of Jesus**
- **The Misunderstanding of Man**
- **The Movement to the Real Issue**

#### I. The Mission of Jesus

- **Read Mark 11:1-7** Why do you think Jesus sent his disciples to get a donkey? Read Zechariah 9:9 to help answer this question.
- What was Jesus’ mission in his first coming? How did people misinterpret this mission? Read Mark 8:27-38 to help answer this question.
- **Read Revelations 19:11-16** and discuss the difference between Jesus’ first coming and his second coming.

#### II. The Misunderstanding of Man

- **Read Mark 11:8-10** Who were these people praising Jesus in this passage?
- What was symbolic about Israel laying down coats and palm branches?
  - **Leaders Cheat:** It was an ancient custom for citizens to throw their garments in the road for their King to ride over, symbolizing their respect for him and

their submission to his authority. It was as if to say, “We place ourselves at your feet, even to walk over us if necessary.”

- Why did these same people want Jesus dead a week later?
- **Read Mark 11:9** What does the word “Hosanna” mean? What does “Son of David” mean?
  - **Leaders Cheat:** Hosanna literally means “Save us”
- Why is it ironic that this crowd was praising Jesus and calling him “Lord & Savior”?
- **Discuss the following Quote**
  - Israel heard Jesus’ message, they attested to His miracles, and they even acknowledged His divinity, but they rejected His saviorhood and His lordship. They were totally earthbound, materialistic, and self-satisfied. They were interested only in the kingdoms of this world, not the kingdom of heaven. They would have accepted Jesus as an earthly king, but they would not have Him as their heavenly King. – John MacArthur
- Why is a correct understanding (or doctrine) of the words Lord & Savior so important?
- Do you believe there are people today that call Jesus their “Lord & Savior” yet aren’t truly saved? Explain.

### **III. The Movement to the Real Issue**

- What is man’s greatest problem and need?
- How can earthly circumstances blind us to our true problem and need?
- What circumstances are you facing right now that are distracting you from your relationship with God?
- How were the Israelites blinded to their true problem? Who did they blame for all their troubles?
- When it comes to sin, why is blame-shifting so devastating?
- Why is it the Devil’s goal to get you to focus on outward circumstances and not inward heart issues?

- Where and when are you most tempted to blame-shift when you should be looking within?

How would you answer the following question if an unbeliever asked it?

- *Why should I follow Christ as my Lord and Savior if he is not promising to make my earthly circumstances better?* As a group, come up with a few ways you could answer this question.
  - Read the following verses to help answer this question
    - James 4:4
    - Romans 8:28
    - Matthew 10:28
    - Matthew 16:24-26