

Discussion Guide

April 13, 2025

For Me: Week 2

Make The Exchange

Pastor Jackie Groves

Main Idea

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week—the start of Jesus’ journey to the Cross and the story of our redemption.** Historically, it reminds us of what it meant then: the arrival of our Savior, humble and purposeful. Today, it calls us to reflect on its purpose now—the reason behind our faith. Our God is not a God of coincidence—every step toward the cross was intentional, each moment revealing His deep love and the grace He prepared then to sustain us now. The journey begins today. Praise God for His redemption!

Anchor Passage

But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5, NIV)

Read John 12:1-9, Matthew 21:1-9, and Luke 19:39-40

1. They Gathered Because They Heard of the Miracles

People are drawn to hope, and in Scripture, crowds gathered because they heard of Jesus’ miracles—His power sparked belief. Just like then, your testimony of God’s faithfulness today can lead others to the Miracle Worker, so don’t stop telling what He’s done.

Read John 12:9, 18; Romans 10:14; Luke 8:39; John 20:30-31; Psalm 71:15-18

Question: What is one miracle or moment of God’s faithfulness in your life that you haven’t shared in a while—and who might need to hear it now? Since the crowd celebrated because they trusted the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, what promise from Scripture do you need to hold onto and celebrate, even before you see the breakthrough?

2. ***They Celebrated Because They Expected victory***

The crowd celebrated Jesus' arrival with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" because they expected victory, recognizing Him as the prophesied King who brought peace. Just as His presence then meant victory, His presence with us now promises continual victory if we trust in Him.

Read Zachariah 9:9; Mark 11:8-10; Matthew 28:20, Psalm 16:11

Question: Matthew 28:20 reminds us that Jesus is always with us—how does that truth practically change the way you face challenges or uncertainties in your daily life? In what area of your life do you need to shift from hoping for victory to celebrating it in faith, simply because Jesus is present?

3. ***They Turned Because They Wanted It Done Their Way***

The crowd praised Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna," but when He didn't meet their expectations of a militant king, they turned on Him. They wanted saving without surrender—seeking victory on their terms rather than submitting to His.

Question: Are there areas in your life where you're asking Jesus to save or intervene but struggling to fully surrender to His way of doing it? In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' How can you practically surrender your own expectations and follow Jesus' leadership in a situation you're currently facing?

SUMMARY

True surrender means making an exchange—giving up our way for His, our sin for His freedom, our shame for His joy, and our will for His heart. Jesus offers us the opportunity to exchange what we hold onto for the joy, strength, and freedom found in trusting Him—are you ready to make that exchange and fully surrender?

CALL TO ACTION

Share Your Story: Reflect on the miracles God has done in your life, and take time this week to share your story with someone who needs hope and encouragement. Your testimony could lead them to the miracle worker, Jesus.

Celebrate The Victory in His Presence: Choose to trust in Jesus' promise of continual victory (Matthew 28:20) by celebrating His presence in your life, even when things don't go as planned. Find moments today to worship and rejoice in His peace and victory.

Make the Exchange: Identify something in your life that you've been holding onto—whether it's your way, sin, shame, or a relationship—and take the step to surrender it to Jesus. Trust Him with the exchange, and experience the freedom, joy, and strength He offers in return.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

What's Next

With the small group semester coming to a close, introduce the topic of next steps for your group. You begin by playing a game of Simon Says and remind them how in our early days, our next steps were often chosen for us. Now as adults, we need to be intentional and action oriented when it comes to our next steps. You can be as general or specific as you want leading into the conversation about personal next steps and the next steps for your small group for the summer.

1. What are you excited about for the summer?
2. What are you currently considering as your next step in your faith journey?
(Offer the options provided by Hope City...water baptism, leading a group, generosity, serve projects, dream team...)
3. What's one thing you're seeking guidance on in your Christian journey?