

Discussion Guide

March 29, 2026

This Is A WAKE UP Moment

Palm Sunday

Pastor Jackie Groves

Main Idea

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week—the final steps of Jesus’ journey to the cross and the unfolding of God’s redemptive plan. What looked like a celebration was actually a wake-up moment, revealing how people respond to Jesus: they gathered, they celebrated, but many stopped short of true surrender. As Easter approaches—the defining moment of salvation—we’re confronted with the same question: are we fully submitting to His Lordship, or just staying close enough to benefit without being transformed?

Achor Verse: *“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Matthew 21:9, NIV).*

Read: Matthew 21:1-9

1. HOPE WAS REVEALED

At Passover, the Jewish people gathered to remember God’s past deliverance from Egypt while longing for freedom again under Roman oppression—and when Jesus entered Jerusalem, hope was reignited as they sensed God was moving once more. That same moment revealed that hope isn’t just a feeling but a promise, and because it was revealed then, we can live with confident expectation of His faithfulness now.

Scripture: John 12:1, Exodus 12:14, Romans 15:4

Discussion: Where in your life do you find yourself hoping God will move again, and what would it look like to trust His promises instead of just waiting for a feeling of change? In what ways might you be remembering what God has done in the past but struggling to believe He can do it again right now—and what step of faith could you take this week to act on that belief?

2. IT WAS INTENTIONAL

Everything about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was intentional—Lazarus' testimony drew the crowd, prophecy confirmed His identity, and even the donkey revealed a King who came in humility and peace, not power as they expected. Every detail pointed to a God who doesn't act by coincidence but by design, demonstrating that His plan to rescue us has always been purposeful and deeply personal.

Scripture: John 12:9 & 18, Zechariah 9:9

Discussion: Where in your life might God be working in ways that don't look impressive or obvious, and how can you begin to recognize His intentional hand instead of dismissing it? What would it look like for you to reflect the humility of Jesus this week—choosing obedience and surrender over control, even when it challenges your expectations or comfort?

3. JESUS KNEW

Jesus knew the crowd would celebrate Him as King, crying "Hosanna," yet also that their expectations would turn to rejection when His salvation didn't fit their version of victory. Even still, He moved forward in love—revealing that God's provision may challenge our comfort, but His sacrifice is enough, calling us not just to moments of surrender, but to lives fully submitted.

Scripture: Luke 19:39-40, Mark 11:9-10, Luke 19:41-42, Ephesians 2:4-5

Discussion: Where might your expectations of how God should move be limiting your ability to trust what He's actually doing—and how do you respond when His provision doesn't look like your version of victory? What would it look like for you to move beyond occasional moments of surrender and begin living a fully submitted life to Jesus in your everyday decisions this week?

**God's Provision Can Still Make You Uncomfortable...
So Stop Placing Your Natural Limits On God's Supernatural Rhythms.**

SUMMARY

Palm Sunday is a wake-up moment that reveals how easily we can gather and celebrate Jesus without fully surrendering to Him. As He intentionally moved toward the cross, knowing both the praise and rejection ahead, we're challenged to stop limiting God to our expectations and instead live fully submitted to His Lordship—trusting that His provision and sacrifice are enough.

CALL TO ACTION

- **Identify one area of misalignment** — Take time this week to honestly evaluate where you may be prioritizing urgency over obedience, and choose one specific way to put God first in that area.
 - **Practice intentional surrender daily** — Set aside consistent time each day (prayer, Scripture, worship) and consciously surrender your expectations to God, asking Him to align your heart with His will.
 - **Take a step of visible obedience** — As a group, encourage one another to act on what God is prompting—whether it's generosity, serving, sharing your faith, or reconciling a relationship—and follow up next week on how you responded.
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GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Spin Cycle

Give everyone a different-colored (or patterned) plastic Easter egg, and have them stand around a table with their Easter egg.

When you say go, everyone has to spin their egg on the table. If at any point the egg stops spinning or falls off the table, they're out.

It's okay if the egg falls to its side and keeps spinning – as long as it's spinning, the egg is still in! Also okay if eggs hit each other – it just adds to the fun of the game!

The last person whose egg is spinning wins and is out for the next round. Play three total rounds to get a 1, 2, and 3rd round winner.

After everyone answers, ask a quick follow-up:

This game is a fun reminder of how easy it is to stay “in motion” without actually being anchored—just like the crowd on Palm Sunday who gathered and celebrated but weren't truly surrendered. As we play, think about this: are we just spinning—busy, active, and close to Jesus—or are we actually rooted and living fully submitted to Him?
