A

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JOHN 12:12-19

The Passover was a very special feast day in Israel's religious calendar and was The Passover was a very special feast day in Israel's religious calendar and was inextricably linked to what took place in the Exodus (Exodus 12:13). It became entrenched in Israel's tradition and has always marked the day of redemption from Egypt. Passover began with the slaying of the Passover lamb, which had to be a lamb without blemish. Friday of Passover would have begun on Thursday at sunset. According to Josephus, it was customary in his day to slay the lamb at about 3PM. This was the time of day that Christ, the Christian's Passover lamb, died (1 Cor. 5:7; Luke 23:44-46).

🤹 Why was it significant for Christ to enter Jerusalem at Passover time?

2 What do the words of the multitude (12:12,13) tell you about their hopes and plans for Jesus? (See John 6:15)

🖋 a. Why do you think Jesus allowed this display of public enthusiasm, when earlier He had discouraged it? (See John 6:14; 7:1-8)

b. What gets in the way of you praising Jesus exuberantly? How would reflecting on Jesus' identity as your Savior ("Hosanna!"), and your powerful-yet-humble king ("Seated on a donkey's colt"), help provoke your praise?

Read Psalm 118:1-29. This "Psalm of ascent" (along with Psalms 113-117) was frequently sung by pilgrims as they went up to Jerusalem for special feasts and by the temple choir during Israel's religious Festivals.

Q a. Describe the tone and mood felt in this psalm of ascent. How does this compare with the scene when Christ entered Jerusalem?

🎔 b. How could you use Psalm 118 as a way of personally reminding yourself of the goodness of Jesus?



6

Read Zechariah 9:9 (and the surrounding verses). If Christ really was Israel's promised Messiah and King, why would He have come riding into town on a donkey instead of a war horse or stallion?

🗱 What did this crowd in John 12:12-19 expect Jesus to conquer? What did Jesus actually conquer? Share some times when you have wanted Jesus to be a conqueror over your circumstances. Is that why he came? Explain.

5 John 12:17-18 indicates that it was because of the testimony of those who witnessed the raising of Lazarus from the dead that such a huge crowd came to hail Jesus during His entry into Jerusalem. What does this mean to us today as followers of Jesus? What is your testimony about Christ? Why is the sharing of our stories so important? What would happen if we stopped testifying?

The major point of John 12:12-19 was that Jesus is the king that we seek. Have you ever submitted to Jesus as king of your life? Take time to share with your group.

PRAYER REQUESTS