



PALM SUNDAY: TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Brian Flewelling
MARCH 29, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **My King Forever** (*Bethel Music*)
- **All Hail King Jesus** (*Jeremy Riddle*)
- **Hosanna** (*Hillsong Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. John 12:12-19
2. I Corinthians 5:7
3. Hebrews 12:2

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help each person encounter God as their loving Father.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

What comes to mind when you think of Easter week? What traditions or memories stand out to you?

Sermon Overview

This sermon explores the final eight days of Jesus' life, beginning with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. These days reveal Jesus' intentional plan to sacrifice Himself as the Passover Lamb, demonstrating the power of His indestructible love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding the Sermon

1. Pastor Brian mentioned that Jesus' behavior shifted in the weeks leading up to His crucifixion. What specific changes did he highlight? Why do you think these changes occurred?
2. The sermon outlined a detailed timeline from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday. What stood out to you most about this timeline? What was new information for you?
3. How does understanding Jesus as the "Passover Lamb" change or deepen your understanding of His death?

Going Deeper

4. Six witnesses were cited who testified that Jesus' death was intentional and for our sins (John the Baptist, Isaiah, Abraham's story, Jesus Himself, John, and Peter). Which of these witnesses' perspectives resonates most with you? Why?
5. Read Hebrews 12:2 together: "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." What was the "joy" Jesus saw? How does this challenge our understanding of His suffering?
6. The Babylonian Talmud confirms Jesus existed, performed miracles, and was crucified on Passover eve. Why is it significant that even Jesus' enemies documented these facts?

Personal Reflection

7. Pastor Brian said Jesus wasn't weak or passive—He had "the power of an indestructible life." How does viewing Jesus as powerful rather than victimized change your perspective on the cross?
8. The sermon mentioned various ways people suffer: abandonment, neglect, being cursed at, misunderstood, or judged. Which of these resonates with your experience? How does Jesus' willing suffering speak to your pain?
9. Reflect honestly: Have you caused suffering in someone else's life through abandonment, judgment, or other hurtful actions? How does Jesus' sacrifice challenge you to respond?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Jesus was not a victim—He was in control. His death was not an accident or political casualty, but a deliberate act of love and sacrifice.
2. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover. Just as lambs were inspected for blemishes, Jesus was examined for four days in the temple and found perfect.
3. The cross demonstrates the power of Jesus' love. He endured the fullness of hell's fury because of His love for us.
4. We are called to live in light of this sacrificial love by valuing ourselves, valuing others, and valuing Jesus above all.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose one of the three closing statements from the sermon to focus on this week:

Option 1: Live like you're the most valuable thing in the world to Jesus—because you are.

- Action Step: Each morning this week, remind yourself: "Jesus chose the cross because He values me." Journal about how this truth affects your decisions, self-talk, and confidence.

Option 2: Live like your neighbor is the most valuable thing in the world to Jesus.

- Action Step: Identify someone you've judged, avoided, or hurt. Take one concrete step toward reconciliation, kindness, or prayer for them this week.

Option 3: Live like Jesus is the most valuable thing in the world—because He is.

- Action Step: Evaluate your priorities. What competes with Jesus for first place in your life? Choose one area (time, money, attention) to realign with making Jesus your highest treasure.

Closing Prayer

- Thank Jesus for His intentional, powerful love demonstrated on the cross
- Pray for healing from past wounds and the ability to forgive those who have hurt you
- Ask for grace to value others the way Jesus values them
- Pray for hearts that treasure Jesus above all else