

Palm Sunday

John 12:9-19—Come And See

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- Have you ever gone out of your way to see someone you were curious or excited about? What drew you to them, and what did you hope to experience?
- What are some of the most memorable invitations you have ever received? Why do they stand out in your mind?
- Have you ever had expectations about how something would turn out, only for it to unfold very differently? How did you respond in the moment?

INTRODUCTION

As we often say this time of year, *"Invitations change lives."* Implicit within the text of John 12:9-19 is an invitation to **come and see** as Christ enters Jerusalem at the end of his earthly ministry after having just raised Lazarus from the dead. The atmosphere is energized and electric, yet in the midst of it all, something dark is also brewing. As we examine Christ's triumphal entry, we do so today seeking inspiration to invite others to **come and see** as we too once did, in order that God might bless his people with fruitful harvest of salvations.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: John 12:9-11

Discuss: Lazarus' resurrection serves as substantiation of Jesus' divine authority as well as a prophetic sign of Christ's own coming resurrection. As he travels with Jesus to Bethany, how does Lazarus' restored life serve as an invitation to come and bear witness to Jesus?

Read: John 12:12-15, Leviticus 23:40, Psalm 118:25-26, Zechariah 9:9

Discuss: As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he is praised by the people in prophetic fulfillment of multiple Old Testament passages. What is the combined testimony of these passages as we are invited to come and see the promised King of Israel as holy Scripture presents him?

Read: John 12:16-19

Discuss: Like those there that day, we too are invited to come and see, come and understand, and ultimately, to come before Christ to choose what we believe. What does this passage suggest about how God's purposes are unfolding, even when people (including disciples) don't fully understand in the moment?

APPLICATION

- The most important take away for us today in light of Jesus' triumphal entry is, again, that *"Invitations change lives."* We are called as disciples of Jesus to be his witnesses to who he is and what he has accomplished. The invitations that we extend the world around us to enter and join us as we gaze upon the Son of God is what has the potential to change the lives of all those God has placed in our lives.

PRAYER

- Pray that God fills us with boldness to proclaim his eternal triumph.
- Pray that God gives those we invite in the grace to cry out to the Lord for salvation.
- Pray that we have occasion to celebrate a fruitful harvest this Holy Week.