



for the one

Leader's Guide - The King Who Stopped

John 12:12-13 | Pastor Dave Bennett | March 29, 2026

Session Overview

This session explores Palm Sunday through the compassion of Jesus. Participants will reflect on how the King sees individuals in the crowd, why He stopped in the middle of celebration to grieve spiritual need, and how His example calls us to step out, invite our one, and partner with Him during Holy Week.

Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Have you ever been in a crowd but still felt personally noticed by someone? What made that moment memorable?

Purpose:

To help participants begin thinking about how Jesus sees people personally, not just as part of a crowd, and to prepare them to respond to His compassion with action.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read John 12:12-13 aloud.

Optional: Also reference Luke 19:41, Matthew 21:12, Luke 22:31-34, Luke 23:34, and John 19:26-27 during discussion.

3. Discussion (40-50 min)

Use 6-8 of the following questions depending on time and group size. Encourage personal reflection, honest application, and practical obedience more than abstract debate.

Leader Coaching Sidebar: The King Who Stopped

- Remind the group that Jesus saw individuals in the middle of the crowd.
- Highlight that Palm Sunday is not only about celebration, but also about compassion.
- Encourage participants to identify where they personally fit in the stories from Holy Week.
- Keep returning the conversation to Jesus' heart for the one.
- Help the group move from being seen by Jesus to stepping out for Jesus.
- Emphasize partnership: Jesus stops for us and then invites us to stop for others.

Discussion Questions

1. The crowd celebrated Jesus as King, but He wept over the city. What does that reveal about His heart and priorities?

Leader Note: Draw out the contrast between public celebration and spiritual need. Help the group see Jesus' compassion clearly.

2. The sermon says Jesus sees the one in the middle of the crowd. How does that truth affect the way you think about your own relationship with Him?

Leader Note: Reinforce that no one is hidden from Jesus. He sees deeply, personally, and compassionately.

3. Which group from the sermon do you most connect with right now - the hurting, misunderstood, guilty, seeking, or overlooked? Why?

Leader Note: Create room for honesty. This question helps participants move from observation to personal connection.

4. Jesus kept stopping for people all throughout Holy Week. What does that teach us about how we should treat others when life feels busy or important?

Leader Note: Move the group toward practical imitation of Jesus, not just admiration of Jesus.

5. The message says, "Jesus stopped. Will you step out?" What might stepping out look like for you right now?

Leader Note: Encourage specific application. This could involve confession, invitation, obedience, or asking for help.

6. How does Jesus' heart for the one shape the way we should think about inviting people to the Easter Egg Hunt, Good Friday, or Easter services?

Leader Note: Help the group connect the sermon to the church's current mission and outreach opportunities.

7. Where have you seen God use a simple act of compassion, invitation, or obedience to make a bigger impact than expected?

Leader Note: This is a good place to build faith by drawing out stories of how God works through small but intentional steps.

8. Who is your one right now, and what is one concrete step you can take this week to stop for them, pray for them, or invite them?

Leader Note: End with action. Push toward prayerful specificity, not vague intention.

4. Application and Prayer (10-15 min)

Invite each person to reflect on where Jesus may be asking them to step out this week. Ask: “What is one specific way you can partner with Jesus in reaching your one during Holy Week?”

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You that You are the King who stops for people. Thank You that You see us personally, care for us deeply, and never overlook our need. Help us not stay hidden, but step out in faith. Give us courage to pray, invite, serve, and partner with You for our one this week. Amen.