



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of March 25, 2024

1. Have someone in your group read Mark 11:1-11. What do you know about “Palm Sunday”? What was the reasoning behind Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a donkey? Was Jesus looking for power, popularity, or fame? (see also Zech. 9:9)
2. You may use your study Bible or a Google search: What is the meaning of the phrase “Hosanna”? Why would the people be shouting this phrase during Jesus’ arrival? What were the crowds hoping Jesus would do?
3. Read Mark 11:12-26. The American flag is a visible symbol of our nation. In ancient times, the fig tree was a national symbol of the nation of Israel (read Hosea 9:10). Jesus curses the fig tree because it did not have any visible buds or fruit. In what ways was this symbolic of the nation of Israel during this time? What was the spiritual health of the nation?
4. In verses 15 and following, Jesus drives out the merchants from the Temple courtyards and overturns the tables of the money-exchangers. Why was Jesus so righteously angry? How had greed replaced prayer and worship?
5. Why did the religious leaders fear Jesus so much? (see Mark 11:18) What was it about Jesus that caused the leaders to view Him a threat to be eliminated?
6. In what ways is Jesus still a threat to people today? How is He a threat to the atheist woman who mocks Christianity – or even the secular man who is proud of his morality?
7. The disciples were shocked when they passed the same fig tree the next day and saw that it was withered and dead. What valuable lessons did Jesus unveil here about the power of faith and persevering prayer?
8. Is God obligated to give us anything or everything we ask in prayer? What other Scriptural guidelines help us to pray in God-glorifying ways? (Read Matthew 6:9-10 and James 4:3)
9. Since the phrase “Hosanna” literally means “save us” – in what ways can people today still call on Jesus to save them? What do people like us need saving from? (see Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:16) Is there anything in your life where you need Jesus’ help and power right now?

Close your LifeGroup in prayer, thanking Jesus for His saving power and bringing your requests to Him.

King Jesus is faithful to answer the call of “Hosanna”!