

Seeking God's Ways (6 of 6)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, April 10th, 2022



Series Focus: Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. What do those ways look like? Join us for our Lenten series as we explore the higher ways of God and embrace his will for our lives.

Sermon Title: From Power Over to Power Under/With/For

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:25-45; Luke 19:28-40; John 19:10-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18

Sermon Focus: The final week in the life of Christ began with palm branches and a bit of political theater. While Pilate parades into Jerusalem from the west on a stallion with soldiers and an imperial procession, Jesus of Nazareth rides in from the east on a humble donkey to chants of “Hosanna!” from a crowd longing for freedom. In this final message of our Lenten series, Pastor David shares how the last days of Jesus reveal God’s power through serving and sacrifice, which we are to emulate as his disciples.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Luke 19:28-44 together. While we have often viewed Palm Sunday as a celebratory day, notice in verses 41-44 that Jesus weeps over the people and the fate of Jerusalem because they were on a course for destruction. Imagine how anti-climactic this scene would have been for those wanting Jesus to form a violent revolt against the Romans. Be honest. How have you been disappointed in your faith journey? Have you had to give up on some bad theology or wrong ideas because you realized they were not only inaccurate, but not good for you?
2. Pastor David shared the historical and socio-political context to shed light on the reason for the waving of palm branches, the donkey, and the shouts of Hosanna. How was this helpful to you? How did this challenge you? Did you feel the Spirit showing you anything or speaking to you through these insights into the text?
3. Did you know that Pontius Pilate would have been coming into Jerusalem through the western gate to “keep the peace” on the same day Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey through the eastern gate? Knowing this, and also knowing how Jesus planned to prophetically act out Zechariah 9:9-10, this challenges us to see that Jesus is deliberately contrasting his peace and power with that of empire. What implications might this have for us today—in our relationships, in the church, and also in the way we live within an American empire?
4. Read Mark 10:42-45 together. Jesus is telling his disciples that the power of his Kingdom isn't like that of the world, as the world use “power-over” others to get things done. In other words, Jesus wants his followers not to trust in power that intimidates through threats, uses force, coercion, and “lords it over” other. It's easy to see (or believe we see) when others are doing this, but in what ways do you seek to utilize this power in your home, relationships, at work, in the church, etc.? Take some time to reflect and then be honest with your responses.
5. Click on [this link to the Palm Sunday art](#) that Pastor David used in his message. Take some time to reflect on what you see in this painting. After a minute or two of reflection, each of you share what you see and how God is speaking to you. Then close your time in prayer to receive our Messiah who serves and sacrifices.