



Life Group Discussion Guide

"I'm Going"

April 9, 2017

OPEN IN PRAYER

- Can you remember a time in life when your circumstances changed suddenly? Did they change for better or worse? What happened?
- How do you interact with God when life is going well? How do you interact with God when life is not going well?
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The Big Idea: Palm Sunday reminds us that God keeps his promises. Holy Week shows us that God sometimes calls us to hard places. When God calls us to hard places, we can **go and know** God is in control and will use our suffering. Do we recognize him with us in our suffering?

Read Luke 19:28-44

- Why did Jesus welcome attention on Palm Sunday but not earlier in his ministry?
- Expectations for the coming messiah during the 400 year gap between the promise and fulfillment. What have you had to wait for in life?

Zechariah 9:9 - **Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

- God fulfilled his promise to send a messiah 400 years after the last promise was given. How does that impact how you feel about waiting on God's promises?
- What can we do to keep our hope and faith in times of waiting? What have you done personally?

One of the understandings we have for the change among the crowd is that the people became disillusioned and resentful toward Jesus when they realized he would not bring them political freedom from Rome.

- Has God ever answered a prayer differently than you expected?
- How can we recognize God's activity in our lives? In what ways/places have you noticed God showing himself in your life recently?
- The Jews in Jesus' day wanted a savior, but they wanted one of their own creation, not what God intended for them. How do we try to remake God in our image/desire?

Verse 41 says - **As [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**

- Have you ever felt rejected for your faith? How did you respond?
- What can we do when people reject us or our message of Jesus?

1. GOD CALLS US TO HARD PLACES

- How did Jesus' sense of purpose influence his obedience to God's will?
- What do you feel is something God has given you to do as part of your purpose? How have you pursued this?
- What is God's general purpose for us as believers? How do we know or become aware of God's purpose for us?



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- What is God calling you to that might be uncomfortable? How do you respond to uncomfortable situations? What are comforts you're willing to give up? What are comforts that would be harder to give up?

Hebrews 12:1-3 [The Message]

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Deuteronomy 8:2 - Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

1 Peter 4:12 - "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Sometimes God's call leads us into suffering, and sometimes suffering is imposed upon us through the evil and sinful actions of others.

2. GOD IS IN CONTROL AND WILL USE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

- When you think of Jesus' suffering as part of God's plan, how does it affect your view of God?
- Do you think suffering in the world refutes God's existence? Why or why not?
- What promises does God offer in response to our earthly suffering?

In Romans 8:18 Paul writes, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

3. DO WE RECOGNIZE GOD IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES?

Questions for Self Reflection

- **What promises has God given that I need to continue believing in?**
- **To what difficult places or tasks is God leading me?**
- **Do I believe God has a plan even in the middle of all my uncertainty and pain?**
- **Where do I see God with me in my suffering?**