# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"JESUS: OUR KING HAS COME" MARCH 24

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Imagine you're looking through a crack in a doorway. You can see that there's something on the other side, but you can't see the whole picture. To really know what's on the other side you would have to open the door all the way. Reading the Bible can be like that. You might read a bit about David, or one of Jesus' parables, about Queen Esther or a talking donkey, some handwriting on the wall, and a guy that got shipwrecked. But how does it all fit together? What's the big picture of the Bible? Over six weeks, we're going to work our way through the one story that the Bible is telling, how God has been at work from the beginning in the Garden of Eden through the Old Testament to Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We'll look back at what has happened and what it all means for what is happening now and what is to come.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.



#### **PRAY**

About 1 minute

Open with prayer.



#### **BIG IDEA**

A minute to read

500 years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Zechariah tells God's people that their King will come, righteous and victorious because of the covenant God made and sealed with blood. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem to shed His blood, fulfilling the old covenant and establishing the new, defeating death at its own game.



#### **CONNECT**

About 10 minutes

How have you seen someone you know reflect Jesus' light in humility, integrity, compassion, and service to others this week?

Share the story as a praise to God.



### March 24, 2024

"Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." - John 12:15 NLT

#### Reflect

A prayer to start...Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - John 12:12-19.

What is something that is catching your attention from the passage? Pause here, camp on this a bit, be curious.

Let yourself enter this scene for a moment...imagine the crowds, and observe how Jesus has set his heart on fulfilling his purpose.

Notice the words, "Don't be afraid...your King is coming." Could these words be for you today? Do they stir anything in you?



#### **DISCUSSION HELP:**

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?



About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Read Zechariah 9:9-11 and 9:16. What does it mean for Jesus to be a different kind of king, coming in humility rather than power? How does this challenge our traditional notions of kingship and authority? Reflect on the image of Jesus as a shepherd king. How does Jesus' role as shepherd impact the way we view leadership and service in our own lives?

Read Zechariah 8:16-17. We are called to live differently as people of the Kingdom. What are some practical ways we can live out this call in our daily lives? How can we demonstrate humility, integrity, and honesty in our interactions with others?

Read John 11:45-53. Reflect on Caiaphas' statement in v 50. Notice how he unwittingly foreshadows Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Explain in your own words how Jesus' sacrificial death lead to new life and redemption for all who believe in him. How does this reality shape our understanding of suffering, sacrifice, and hope in the Kingdom of God?





Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Share prayer requests and pray for the person on your LEFT in a circle prayer now. The leader or apprentice may close with the prayer below.

"Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times when we have sought our own ambitions and desires above Your will. Forgive us for our wavering faith, shouting "Hosanna" one day and "Crucify Him" the next. Help us to always see You for who You truly are – the King of kings and Lord of lords. Lead us to humble ourselves before You, and acknowledge Your authority over our life, and walk in obedience to Your will. Amen."

# THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

## **Pray**

Turn to God in prayer...sharing your heart with Jesus and listening for his response.

What is God's purpose for you? Talk to God about this.

Thank God that he sent his son to rescue you from sin and invite you into a rich, full, purposeful life.

#### Live It Out

As we enter into Holy Week, create some quiet space, maybe 15-30 minutes to prepare for the significant events of this week.

Read Mark 14 - 16, inviting God to speak through his word and ignite your heart with a renewed passion to follow Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for inviting me into this LIFE of following you today!



#### LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.