



Session 4: More Than a Prophet?
Suggested Week of Use: March 26
Core Passage: Matthew 21:1-11

News Story Summary

President Donald Trump surprised the first White House tour group since his inauguration by popping out from behind a room divider. The tour group, largely made up of young children, cheered and clapped when he appeared.

Trump invited Jack Cornish of Birmingham, Alabama, age 10, to come stand with him. The young man appeared to be pleased as Trump told the crowd to “work hard.” One young girl said after Trump had walked away, “Really? That was awesome!”

Participants in the tour group were obviously excited and moved by this brief greeting from the leader.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Trump surprises”.)

Focus Attention

To supplement the focus attention idea share the news story and ask: *How do you think you would respond if you came face to face with the President of the United States?* Explain that political differences often disappear when people encounter an important leader.

The people in Jesus’ day mostly did not understand His true significance, but were still excited when He arrived in Jerusalem. The enthusiasm of the crowd was contagious. Sadly, it would just be a few days before many of them would abandon Him as public sentiment changed with His arrest and trial. There were no loud “Hosannas” while He hung on the cross.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind group members of the news summary and ask: *When we first encountered Jesus in our lives, we were likely beside ourselves with joy. If our enthusiasm has waned since then, what can we do to restore our joy in the presence of the living Savior?*

Remind the class of those sad words Jesus delivered to the church of Ephesus, “I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love” (Revelation 2:4). Ask: *Could we be like the Ephesian church, orthodox in every way but without passion?* Remind the group members that our love for Jesus goes beyond our feelings and must be evident in action. Encourage the members to commit to allow the Lord to show His grace in their lives, and to share the message of His coming as the long-awaited King.