



THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

THE ACCOUNT OF CHRIST'S PASSION WEEK

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GUIDES TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS



Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the celebrated King. Five days later, He died a criminal's death. And seven days after His arrival, He walked out of an empty tomb. One third of the accounts of Jesus' life in the gospels focus on one week in His life. In our teaching series, *The Week that Changed the World*, we will see how these seven crucial days change everything for us. We will see how Jesus is a very different King, One who overthrows tables, washes feet, knows our pain as He sweats blood in agony, and whose death is the death of our death.

SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Remember that you aren't in this alone! God will help you prepare and lead your group discussion. Make it your goal to keep in step with the Holy Spirit!

Pray and read the passage a few times on your own. Take a few minutes to identify what makes an impression on you and how the passage might impact your group.

Once you've taken some time to read the passage on your own, read through the entire Discussion Guide. Make sure you understand the Main Point. Identify which questions you want to use in your group time and rewrite them in your own words.

Once your group time is over, take a few minutes to evaluate the discussion. What went well? What could have been different? If you had a "bad night," DON'T GIVE UP! Everyone has tough nights. There were times when even the disciples didn't get what Jesus was talking about!

**FREE
RESOURCES**

To equip you as a leader, we provide resources each series to help you and members of your group understand and respond to the biblical truths we're studying as a church. Don't forget about the Mariners Annual Read and the [Gospel Every Day](#) podcast discussing each devotional.

The CSB Study Bible is an excellent resource if you'd prefer a physical copy of the translation used by Mariners Church. It is available for purchase online and in the [bookstore](#) at Irvine.

All Scripture references in this guide are CSB unless otherwise noted.

HOW TO USE THE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Discussions often take on a life of their own, but they typically lack power when they lack focus. The Discussion Leader ought to use the Main Point to keep everyone on the same page. To do this, you might say something like, "That is very interesting and a good topic for another discussion, but today's study is about..." and ask a question that brings people back to the topic of discussion. There will be times when it makes sense to ignore the Main Point—for example, when someone in your group experiences a significant crisis. If you decide to move away from the lesson's Main Point, you want to do so on purpose and not by accident.

RHYTHM REMINDERS

A prompt will be provided when one of the 7 Rhythms of Rooted has a natural point of emphasis. We want to help everyone continue to grow holistically in their spiritual journeys. Obviously, some rhythms always exist, like prayer, but occasionally it will be helpful to draw fresh attention to or spend additional time in one of the rhythms.

LEADER NOTES

Where needed, each lesson may have several Leader Notes. This material will provide insight on how to steer the conversation and care for your people. Additionally, these notes will provide greater context to help you understand a difficult word, phrase, or verse.

**LEAN IN
BREAK THE ICE**

These questions will help kick-start your discussion time. The main goal for this time is to get everyone talking and prepare them for the more focused conversation to follow.

**LOOK DOWN
LOOK AT GOD'S
WORD**

The goal for this section is to let the passage speak for itself and stand on its own. This isn't easy! During this time, you will read the passage out loud (twice) and answer questions focused on the details of the biblical text.

**LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD**

Jesus calls us to love others, just as He loved us. Based on your understanding of the text and how God is transforming your heart, how will you treat others? How will you apply this teaching to all of your relationships and to everyone you will see this week and beyond?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD**

Transformation comes from renewing your mind (Romans 12:2). The goal for this section is to look inward to allow God's Word to change you from the inside out. Use this time to discuss how your thoughts and feelings are affirmed and/or challenged.

Be sure to close your time together in prayer. You can take requests from the group, invite others to lead, and bring God the needs that stood out to you in your group time.

WEEK 1: A PROMISED KING ARRIVES

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at marinerschurch.org/messages.

MAIN POINT

There is a week in Jesus Christ's life that is so important that one-third of the gospel accounts in the Scripture are devoted to this week—to Passion Week—the week leading to His death. We will take a close look at the events of the week, given to us in raw honesty, and see that Jesus is the Promised Savior-King who arrived for us, but a very different King. One who overthrows tables, washes feet, promises He will never leave His own, knows our pain as He sweats blood in agony, and whose death is the death of our death. This one week changed the world and still changes us as we look to Jesus and all He did for us.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

We celebrate all kinds of things—birthdays, baptisms, graduations, and more. Think of a celebration that was especially powerful or meaningful, whether you were being celebrated or someone else was. What made that celebration so meaningful?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Luke 19:28-44.

How did Jesus go into Jerusalem? What is the significance of how he rode into Jerusalem?

What do the crowds watching Jesus ride into town shout about Him?

Why do the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke His disciples?

What does Jesus mean when He tells the Pharisees, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out” (Luke 19:40)?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE IF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

Consider how the crowds responded to Jesus as He entered Jerusalem, and then how a different crowd mocked Him on the cross. How do people around us respond to Jesus today?

What is it about Jesus that makes Him attractive or repulsive to people?

How do people misunderstand Jesus today?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

Many in Jerusalem missed Jesus because He didn't come as the powerful, conquering sort of king they wanted. What does it look like to receive Jesus as He is, not as we might wish He were?

How does Jesus' humility, even as King and Lord, shape how we understand our need for humility in our own lives?