



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## BREAKING THE ICE

What are your favorite Easter traditions?



## MAIN CONTENT

This week is often referred to as “Holy Week,” the time when we remember and celebrate the week in history leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection. You can find the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem (traditionally accepted to have taken place on Palm Sunday) in all of the gospels.

### **READ MATTHEW 21:1-11**

As Jesus is traveling toward Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, he’s aware of the events that will take place as the outcome of this week (his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion). Pastor Kevin mentioned that there are many possible detours off of that road.

1. How does it make you feel that Jesus continued on the path to Jerusalem anyway?

When he’s greeted by the crowds on the road into Jerusalem, they are throwing their cloaks and palm branches down and shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David.” They’re celebrating Him because they believe that He’ll save them from Roman oppression.





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2. When you think about Jesus as your rescuer, what do you need Jesus to save you from?

Pastor Kevin talked about receiving an encouraging word or text from someone that truly made a difference for him.

3. Share a story of when you've heard the right thing at the right time that made a difference for you. Have you ever felt you needed to share some encouragement with someone (even if it made you nervous) and what was the outcome?

Often, we can convince ourselves that our past disqualifies us from being used by God. The reality is that everyone who God has ever worked through has a past. (Noah got drunk, Abraham was too old. Jacob lied, Moses was a murderer. Gideon was insecure, Rahab was a prostitute, Elijah was suicidal, Jonah ran from God, Esther experienced abuse. Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, Peter denied Christ, Paul was a terrorist, Timothy was too young, Lazarus was dead. The first missionary Jesus sent out was a woman who had been married 5 times. She changed her whole town.)

### **READ EPHESIANS 2:10.**

4. What is your reaction to the truth that God has good works planned out specifically for you?

Pastor Kevin shared that he often repeats this idea to himself before he preaches, "Be the donkey that gives divinity a ride."

5. What are practical ways in your daily life that you can "be the donkey?"

Just a few days before he travels to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. In John 11:33 it says, "When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled." Then, Luke 19: 41-42 tells us, "As he approached Jerusalem and



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saw the city, he wept over it 42 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.” Jesus is moved when He sees people hurting and He is moved when he knows that people don’t see Him as He is.

6. Who is somebody close to you who is far from God? Share their name with your group and maybe borrow some courage from each other to extend and invite to Easter.

We received communion on Sunday as an act of remembrance.

7. What rhythms do you have in your life that help you remember what Jesus has done for you?





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## PRAYER

Jesus, thank you that you see all the highs and lows of our lives. And thank you for the extent of your great love for us that, even knowing what was to come, you walked toward your death for us. Stir us and stir our city with your love and hope. Give us chances this week to “be the donkey” who gives you a ride wherever we go. In Jesus name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

If you'd like to receive 3 prayer prompts each day between now and Easter, it's not too late to join in! Simply **TEXT PRAY to 615-422-4766**.

If we want God to stir our city, we can start by praying, “God, stir me.” Pray this simple, but powerful prayer each day and pay attention to the things God begins to stir in you. Come back to group next time ready to share!

