

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 26

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you were king or queen for a day, what new law would you establish?

A KINGLY PROCESSIONAL

Chances are you've read about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It's quite a stark picture compared to the Jesus in hiding we read about last week. Jesus is ready to make his grand entry into Jerusalem, and every part of the scene in view testifies to Jesus as the Messianic King of Israel.

The Old Testament Prophet Zechariah told the people to rejoice, for their king would come to them victorious yet humble, riding on a donkey ([Zech 9:9](#)). The crowds of pilgrims from all over Israel shout *Hosana! Blessed is the one who comes representing God, the King of Israel!* Even the palm branches they wave are tied to two famous festivals. At the Festival of Tabernacles, they represented God's provision and the hope God would once again provide for them a savior. At Hanakuh they were a celebration of the rebels who restored the temple and hope that God would bring a new renewal movement to His people. The crowds also cry out a quotation from Psalm 118, a royal processional psalm that was traditionally used as part of the Passover celebration.

Jesus' ride into Jerusalem is like a royal processional, a declaration of himself as the promised Messiah come to save God's people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about the reading from this week? Was there a verse or idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Jesus enters Jerusalem with great fanfare. How have you seen God entering into your life in the past few weeks?

3. Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem set him up to be king over Israel, but he wasn't the kind of king they expected. Have there ever been times when you felt like God didn't meet your expectations? What was that like and how did you handle it?
4. Have you ever experienced a time when you worried about what people would think or say if they knew you were a follower of Jesus?
5. John makes the point that no matter how many signs they see, some people will never believe in Jesus. Why do you think that's the case and do you think the same thing happens today?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

For the next few weeks, we'll follow along with the Lenten Companion Guide as our weekly practice. Each week, we'll encourage you to either give something up or take on something new in hopes of simplifying our lives, standing in solidarity with those who are suffering, and becoming people who love God and love others well.

Week One: Technology Detox

Identify the different types of technology, or "screens," you turn to regularly for entertainment—your favorite social media platform, gaming console, TV, etc. Pick one to abstain from for the entire week. At the end of the week, reflect on your experience: *What did you find yourself reaching for instead of screens? Was this a more fulfilling use of your time?*