

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mark 11:1-11



REDEEMER
ROUND ROCK

CONNECT, REVIEW, PRAY

~5-10 minutes

- Announce any church activities/events and handle any housekeeping for the GC
- What are you thankful for / have struggled with this week?
- How did you apply or share what we learned last week?
- How can we pray for each other?

READ & RE-TELL

~5-10 minutes

- Have someone read out loud from the ESV translation.
- Have someone read out loud from a different translation.
- Do we need to define any confusing/unknown/curious words or phrases?
- Ask one person to re-tell the passage in their own words (different from the person reading).

ASK, LISTEN, LEARN

~30+ minutes

- What does this passage tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What does this passage tell us about ourselves/humanity?
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?
- Review “FURTHER APPLICATION” questions.

APPLY, OBEY, GO

~10+ minutes

- Does anything in this passage change how you should live, or how you view God / people / yourself?
- Does this passage reveal a specific sin in your life?
- How can you live differently this coming week, with what you’ve learned?

FURTHER APPLICATION

1. There is a crowd of people who have been following Jesus and witnessing his life and ministry. If you are currently a Christian, what was the time like in your life when you were just learning about Christ? If you are not a Christian, what is your impression of Jesus currently?
2. What biblical and historical connections were mentioned in the sermon regarding Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey/foal? (*hints: Zechariah 9:9, 2 Kings 9:13, Psalm 118*) What does this action convey about the person and nature of Christ?
3. Some in the crowd would have “fickle” faith - Jesus would not meet their expectations and they would turn on him. In what areas of your life do you feel He isn’t meeting your expectations? Be honest here.
4. Are there things in your life you are not trusting Jesus with because you feel they might not turn out how you desire? What are those things?
5. How does today’s text show us we can trust Jesus with those things and with any outcome?

5 HELPFUL GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

1. *If you talk a lot, allow space for someone else to speak up.*
2. *If you don't talk as much, work on sharing more.*
3. *Focus on what this passage is saying, don't stray too far from it. Seek not only to understand more about God through the passage, but also how it specifically applies to your own life as a Christian.*
4. *Give other people time to respond, silence is ok.*
5. *Respect your GC family and exercise grace.*

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

***Mark 1:1-11**

Jesus enters Jerusalem (see Mt. 21:1–9; Lk. 19:28–38). 'Foil' would be a better word to use than colt here, for the other gospels make clear that Jesus rode on a young donkey, not a horse. Perhaps Mark did not know which it was, or perhaps his Roman audience would not care. They would not know the words of the OT prophet, telling of the meek and humble king, riding on a donkey (Zc. 9:9). V 2 may refer to an arrangement already made with the owner by Jesus, or it may be an example of his supernatural insight. If the NIV is right in translating v 2 as The Lord needs it, then it might be a rare use by Mark of the later title for Jesus. Usually in Mark the disciples simply call Jesus 'master'; after the resurrection they all called him 'Lord'. But the verse could equally mean 'The owner needs it', and then the second half would mean 'he [the bystander] will send it here at once'.

So Jesus rode into Jerusalem, as David or Solomon might have entered the capital, with branches and clothes spread on the road before him (like a red carpet at an airport today, or palm and banana leaves at a village festival in the Third World). We are used to the cheering crowds on these occasions, but these were not summoned by government decree; they were coming of their own free will. Their chanted slogans were taken from the Psalms and hailed a coming king of the family of David who would restore the kingdom of Israel to its old glory. They were expecting a political and nationalist leader, perhaps a violent social reformer, as many do today. Was this not exactly what Jesus had feared from the start, that all would misunderstand if he claimed to be God's Messiah? Nevertheless, on this day Jesus rode on in triumph into the capital that he would soon weep over (Lk. 19:41) to inspect the temple.

Cole, R. A. (1994). Mark. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 967). Inter-Varsity Press.