



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 21:1-11

Message for the Week: "Sunday"

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Who is/was your favorite teacher? Why?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 21:1-11](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

Have you ever changed your view on something? What caused the change to occur? How did you come to a fuller understanding?

What type of Messiah were the people of Jerusalem celebrating? What type of Messiah was he?

How is Jesus' kingdom similar and different from the kingdoms of this world?

What do we need to listen and learn from someone else? What do we need to listen and learn from Jesus?

What behaviors reflect Jesus well? What behaviors do not reflect Jesus well?

Why do we do what we do?

## Try It:

Pick any belief you have and try to give just cause for it to Jesus. How did it go? What did you learn, hear, and experience?

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, as I go through this season of Lent, show me where I need to repent; show me where I have made Jesus in my own image; teach me to accept the Jesus you have sent to redeem the world. Amen.

## Missional/Spiritual Practice for March: Holy Curiosity for the Other

During the month of March, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Holy Curiosity for the Other](#). By engaging in this practice, we seek to create safe and inviting space in meaningful conversation with others. This involves us risking new and deeper relationships with the people we meet in the context of their lives, developing a holy curiosity that transcends your own needs for affirmation or expression and calls you into full attentiveness and discovery of another person's life and story. When we provide safe, inviting, and prayerful space for another to share, transformative encounters with God and one another occur over time.

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# Matthew 21:1-11

New International Version

21<sup>1</sup> As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Say to Daughter Zion,

    'See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
    and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna<sup>[b]</sup> to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"<sup>[c]</sup>

"Hosanna<sup>[d]</sup> in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

## The Message

21<sup>1-3</sup> When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

<sup>4-5</sup> This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion's daughter,

"Look, your king's on his way,  
    poised and ready, mounted

On a donkey, on a colt,  
    foal of a pack animal."

<sup>6-9</sup> The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup> The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."