

Scripture and Background Information for April 14-20

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background for Luke 19:36-40

Luke 19:28-40 records Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Matthew 21:1-11 offers a parallel account of this same account. This important passage traditionally starts the Passion week, the week in which Jesus is crucified, buried, and resurrected. This is the moment in the Gospels when everything begins to turn toward Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus' triumphal entry is packed with many details. These details show how His entry was a fulfillment of the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9. Jesus sends his disciples to find a donkey for His entry into Jerusalem. This unriden donkey or colt was a sign of Jesus' royalty. It would have been expected by any Jewish king to enter on a previously unriden donkey.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the center of the world for Jewish people, he was greeted by many. Some acknowledged his kingship by laying down branches and outer garments for the donkey to walk on; however, some were not as impressed and took this as an insult.

This moment was promised nearly 500 years before. When the Pharisees rebuked Jesus, He tells them that the world has been waiting and longing for this moment for a very long time. Nothing could silence the rightful King of Israel, and nothing could stop the events that would later unfold that same week.

Some were indifferent. Some were enraged. Some were bowed down and waiting. These different responses to Jesus remind us of our potential responses to Jesus during this season.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

April 21	1 Cor 15:17-20
April 28	1 Peter 3:15
May 5	Colossians 4:5-6