

Holy Week

Mark 11:1-11, 15:1-15 / 1 Cor 1:18; Mark 8:34-35

OPEN

This is Holy Week—from the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, to the trial and crucifixion, to the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This week, we pause to remember and reflect on Jesus and our life today.

- Do you have any traditions, routines, or rhythms you practice during Holy Week?
- How did you experience Easter as a child? As a young adult? Your most recent adult years?

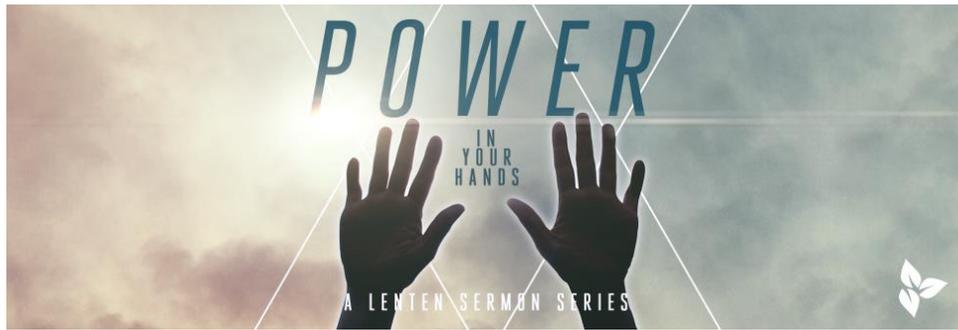
DISCUSS

Read the Bible passages in Mark 11 and 15. Allow yourself to be transported into the first century and into these scenes after you have watched, heard, and maybe even followed Jesus the last three years.

- What do you experience (emotionally) in these scenes?
- How can a crowd shift from such hype/excitement to such condemnation in less than a week?
- What was the Messiah *supposed* to do for the Israel (the people of God)? Did he do it? Explain.
- There is power in influence. What do you think of Pilots actions based on his *wanting to please the crowds* (15:15)?

Read 1 Cor 1:18 and Mark 8:34-35 aloud in the group.

- How would you share to someone the *message of the cross*?
- How has the cross changed (or is changing) your life?
- Has the meaning of *take up your cross and follow me* changed for you as you have journeyed as a follower of Jesus? Explain.
- How has God spoken to, challenged, or encouraged you during the journey of Lent into Holy Week?



YOUR NEXT STEP...

- Pray Psalm 31:5 and the words of Jesus in Luke 23:46 throughout your days as you release your life in a deeper way to God.
- Reflect on your relationship with God in light of the cross (1 Cor 1:18 and Mark 8:34-35).
- Confess your sin to the Lord and receive the new life of the Risen Savior.

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

(Num 6:24-26)

Mark your calendars for a special Group Life Gathering on April 22nd. All Small Groups (both leaders and group members) are invited to come as we celebrate our ministry, dream to the future, and prepare for an exciting 50th Anniversary opportunity designed especially for small groups! We look forward to see you all there!

~ Your Group Life Leadership Team