

# Lifeline

## BELONG

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### ICE-BREAKER

What's your favorite example of something that doesn't seem connected, but upon deeper understanding, is actually very connected? (e.g. to a young child, ice, liquid water, and water vapor might not seem connected, but with some understanding, we can understand they are deeply connected.)

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11 NLT

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. 2 "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'" 4 The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. 5 As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6 They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. 8 Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!" 11 So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

Zechariah 9:9 NLT

Rejoice, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

He is righteous and victorious,

yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—

riding on a donkey's colt.

Revelation 7:9 NLT

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

## BE

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Did you celebrate Palm Sunday in the past? Growing up? What was your experience like? What did you understand the "why" to be about Palm Sunday? What do you understand about Palm Sunday now?

Read Mark 11:1-11 NLT. Re-read. Now, take turns re-telling the passage in your own words, helping fill in the gaps for each other. What stands out to you? What questions do you have?

Read Zechariah 9:9 NLT. This scripture was written roughly 500 years before Jesus enters Jerusalem. Why is this prophecy significant? Do you think Jesus knew this scripture? Did the people? What were the people expecting? What did Jesus know would happen?

Why is "David" important? What is the Temple? Where is the Mount of Olives? Consider using other resources like online maps to help understand the context.

Why is it important that Jesus is both "king" and "humble"? Do we normally expect that of kings? What other examples point to Jesus being a "humble King"? What other "types" of kings might people have expected?

Read Revelation 7:9 NLT. Why do you think palm branches are continuously used throughout scripture? What significance might they have? Consider searching online for the cultural and historical context of palm branches. How does this information subvert human expectations?

## DO

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Spend time adoring Jesus aloud. To adore means to worship and honor.

Next, spend time in silence as a group, keeping your focus and attention on Jesus. Allow significant time to pass as you keep your hearts in a place of worship of the King.

Finally, welcome the Holy Spirit to move in power and to glorify Jesus. Invite each person to use their bodies to worship in a different way than they are used to. Consider kneeling.

Thank the Lord for all that He has done!

TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH  
DIANNE LEMAN

