



Thank you for opening this guide. We're glad that you've decided to "continue the conversation." Below you will find discussion questions geared toward adults and families. Whatever "unit" you are in, we would love for you to interact with each other and dig deeper into what we learned today. If you are alone, feel free to pick up the phone to call, text, or digitally interact with a friend on these questions.

The age-based questions for families cover four different stages of life--preschoolers, elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens. Parents, it's always awesome to model vulnerability with your children, so even though each section does not specifically invite parents to share, please do so.

## **AGE-BASED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Use the section that works best for those you are with.

### **ADULTS**

1. Take some time to quietly reflect and enter into some of the most intense pain you have faced in your life. Be sure to include physical pain, relational pain, and situational pain that you have faced. Some examples include chronic pain with illness, betrayal, loss of a friend, the loss of a job, the loss of graduation ceremony, the loss of time with friends, or the loss of your health. Share some of these stories as a family with one another.
2. Transition to thinking about Christ and His journey from the last supper to the garden, the betrayal of His disciples, His arrest, His beating, and finally His crucifixion. Consider reviewing Christ suffering by reading all or parts of John 18 and 19 together. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin." Jesus, as our high priest, is able to deeply connect with our pain. What's it like for you to know that Christ knows pain personally and that he cares deeply about your pain? Consider praying together as a family and personally bringing Him into the pain you are currently facing.

3. Why did Jesus go through all this? Scripture tells us that he endured the cross because of the joy that was set before Him. That joy was YOU!

## FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS

1. Ask your preschooler what fun things they got to do during the week. Then ask them if they remember any of the fun things Jesus got to do on Palm Sunday (rode a donkey, saw lots of palm branches waving for him, saw crowds of people with bright colored clothes, etc.). Show them the pictures below to help with your conversation. Ask them to point out different things they see and point out some of your own observations.



2. Explain to your preschooler that when Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people thought He was coming to be their king. Ask your preschooler if they know what Jesus' plan was when he came into Jerusalem. Tell your preschooler that when Jesus came, He had a plan to save all of us from our sins.

3. Pull up the song Hosanna Rock by Yancy on Spotify or YouTube. Find some makeshift palm branches (sticks, feathers, anything around the house) and ask your preschooler to sing and praise Jesus with you as the Israelites did.

## FAMILIES WITH ELEMENTARY KIDS

1. Ask your child what cool things they get to do in the coming week. Then ask them if they remember any of the cool things Jesus got to do on Palm Sunday (rode a donkey, saw lots of palm branches waving for him, saw crowds of people with bright colored clothes, etc.). Show them the pictures below to help with your conversation. Ask them to point out different things they see and point out some of your own observations.



2. Ask your child if they know why Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Explain to them that while the people thought Jesus was coming to be their king, Jesus had a different plan in mind. He came to save all of us from our sins!
3. Jesus' plan to save us was not an easy thing to do. Ask your child what they think Jesus might have been feeling coming into Jerusalem. He could've been excited to see the people, sad that they did not understand what He was there for, and maybe he was anxious about the hardship ahead of Him.

## **FAMILIES WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**

1. What are some things you are looking forward to this week? What are some things that you are not excited about?
2. When Jesus was going into Palm Sunday and holy week, what do you think He was feeling? What are some things He might've been looking forward to or struggling with?
3. Although the people praising Jesus thought He was coming to be their king, what was Jesus' actual plan coming into Jerusalem?

## **FAMILIES WITH TEENS**

1. Share a couple of things that you are looking forward to in the coming week and a couple of things you quite honestly want to avoid altogether.
2. Step into the shoes of Jesus as He enters into holy week. What do you think Jesus was looking forward to and what was He struggling with as He faced the suffering ahead of Him? Share your thoughts with your family.
3. Why did Jesus go through all this? Scripture tells us that he endured the cross because of the joy that was set before Him. That joy was YOU!