



SESSION 5 | April 2, 2023

Alpha Prayer Points

1. Pray for the people of FPC to engage with non-Christians and those who are searching to invite them to Alpha.
2. Pray for God to raise up people to serve with this Alpha. Our needs include 15-20 hosts at the tables and hospitality providers—who can commit eight Thursday evenings. Join us in also praying for a dedicated prayer team for this Alpha.
3. Pray for God to be working in the hearts of those He wants to be a part of this Alpha whether they are non-Christians or Christians who are searching.

How Did It Go

- How did you express gratitude for the times when Christ has “held you fast”?
- In what ways did you contemplate or reflect on the depth of Christ’s love for you?
- Did you ask God who He wants you to pray for this week? Were you surprised by who came to mind? What was praying for them like?
- Did you ask God to place someone in your path with whom you share your faith story this week? How did that go?
- In light of being compelled by Christ’s love, what tangible steps did you consider taking to participate in His ministry of reconciliation? Were you able to take any first steps?

Read Aloud the Passage

Luke 19.28-44

Discuss

HEAD | 10–15 MINUTES

Observe the text and the author's main points.

1. Commonly referred to as “the triumphal entry,” these verses bring conclusion to Jesus’ repeated “passion predictions” in Luke 9.22, 9.44-45, and 18.31-33 in which He said He would be mocked, insulted, spit on, flogged, and killed in Jerusalem. Why, in light of these repeated predictions, do we still see His entry into the Holy City as “triumphant”?
2. Biblical scholars see Jesus’ action as a prophetic fulfillment of Zechariah 9.9-13. After reading these verses, what do you think? Was it just by chance that Jesus entered Jerusalem “lowly and riding on a donkey”? Or was it on purpose? What influences your thinking?
3. Why do “the whole crowd of disciples” joyfully praise God? How would our world, nation, city, or your neighborhood respond to our doing the same? What do you think Jesus meant when He said: “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out”?

HEART | 15–20 MINUTES

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

1. Verse 28 tells us Jesus “went on ahead,” leading His disciples toward Jerusalem—perhaps even walking some distance in front of them. In what ways have you experienced Jesus “going on ahead” of you through your journey of faith?
2. How are you being called to trust in and yield to Jesus’ leadership each day? What “next step” do you need to take for Jesus to truly be your King?
3. What was Jesus proclaiming about Himself by entering Jerusalem this way? What does it suggest about the nature of the Kingdom He is inaugurating? If Jesus is our King and He rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, how would He want us to live our lives?
4. There are two responses to Jesus in these verses. How could you be more like the whole crowd of disciples (in verses 37-38) and less like the Pharisees in the crowd (in verse 39)?

HANDS | 10 MINUTES

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Psalm 113-118 were recited by Passover pilgrims as they journeyed toward Jerusalem. Psalm 118 is the climax of them all, depicting a King in a procession to the Temple celebrating a victory. Read these psalms slowly, savoring each verse. What prophecies point forward to Jesus?

- Verses 41-44 move from laud to lament, with Jesus Himself weeping over the city. Ultimately, His words rang true 40 years after His crucifixion when Romans destroyed Jerusalem. Spend some time in prayer asking God to break your heart for the things that break His. Then ask Him to lead you, by His Spirit, to engage these things with the good news of the gospels.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Verses 37-38 depict a “whole crowd of disciples” ready and willing to lift their voices. How could you do so in your network and neighborhood in these days leading up to Holy Week? Who could you engage in spiritual conversation? Who could you invite to join you for Easter?

Reaching Beyond

- Spend some time in silent reflection asking the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to help you “recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”