

# TEACHING GUIDE

## HE IS RISEN

Sample

**OUTREACH**



# SERIES OUTLINE

**Series Title: HE IS RISEN**

**Series Write-Up:**

From the triumphal entry to the empty tomb, the Easter story reveals God's unrelenting love for us. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were not reactions to a broken world but the fulfillment of God's perfect plan from the very beginning. In this series, we'll explore how Palm Sunday celebrates the arrival of our King, Good Friday reflects the depth of His sacrificial love, and Easter Sunday declares His victory over sin and death and a new hope for all of us!

**Palm Sunday: "The King Has Come"**

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-11

**Write-Up:**

Palm Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as the King of Kings. Yet, it also foreshadows His journey to the cross. The crowd shouted "Hosanna!" but would soon cry "Crucify Him!" This Sunday, we'll see how God's plan for salvation was unfolding, even as the people misunderstood His mission. Jesus came not to conquer by force but to save through sacrificial love.

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the King we need, even when we don't recognize it.

**Good Friday: "Love That Bears the Cross"**

**Scripture:** John 19:16-30

**Write-Up:**

Good Friday is a solemn reminder of the immense price Jesus paid for our sins. The cross, once a symbol of shame, became the ultimate expression of God's love. During this service, we reflect on the weight of our sin and the depth of His grace. From the beginning, Jesus' mission was to bear our burdens and bridge the gap between humanity and God.

**Big Idea:** God's love is sacrificial, enduring, and unshakable.

**Resurrection Sunday: "He Is Risen!"**

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10

**Write-Up:**

Easter Sunday is the ultimate declaration of victory. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that sin and death do not have the final word. God's plan from the beginning was to bring life where there was death and hope where there was despair. This week, we celebrate the living Savior who offers us new life and invites us into a relationship with Him forever.

**Big Idea:** God's love conquers all—even death itself - but we must accept it.

# SERMONWEEK 1

## HE IS RISEN

**Palm Sunday:** The King Has Come

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-11 // Philippians 2:5-11

**Write Up:** Palm Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as the King of Kings. Yet, it also foreshadows His journey to the cross. The crowd shouted "Hosanna!" but would soon cry "Crucify Him!" This week, we'll see how God's plan for salvation was unfolding, even as the people misunderstood His mission. Jesus came not to conquer by force but to save through sacrificial love.

**Think:** Think about how God's plan is often better and greater than what we anticipate, even when it seems unexpected or unorthodox.

**Feel:** Let God's humility, sacrifice, and love stir a deeper reverence in your heart for Him.

**Do:** Surrender areas of your life where you are holding back from trusting Jesus as King.

### **Sermon:**

Hello everyone! I want to welcome you to worship today as we enter Holy Week, a journey that leads us to the celebration of Easter and the risen Christ. Each year, this season ushers us once again into an encounter with the transformative power of the crucifixion and resurrection. We begin with Palm Sunday, a day filled with shouts of "Hosanna!" and waving of palm branches as Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem for the last time before His arrest and crucifixion. This moment marks the start of His journey to the cross. Yet, His arrival as the true King was not what many expected in Jerusalem.

**Story:** One year on my birthday, I received a gift-wrapped box from my parents after enjoying cake and ice cream. Based on its size and weight, I was convinced it was the new video game console I had been dreaming about. When it came time, I tore off the paper with enthusiasm, only to find a box containing a new flashlight, knife, and a small white envelope with a note inside. I remember my face fell in disappointment. No matter how I tried, I could not disguise my discontent. But then, my mom told me to read the note I found. I unfolded it and discovered that the gift was actually a backpacking and fishing trip with my dad. Suddenly, the gaming system I had wanted was a thing of the past. My heart

jumped with joy at the thought of getting to spend time with my dad outdoors. My disappointment quickly shifted to delight.

*(Pastor - Share this or a similar story from your life that makes the same point)*

Sometimes, what we expect isn't what we get, but that doesn't mean the gift isn't good, or even better than we had hoped. On Palm Sunday, the people of Jerusalem expected a King to come in power, overthrowing Rome, and restoring Israel's glory. They had long awaited the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, but their vision was limited to earthly victories. Jesus came to bring a deeper freedom—one not from Roman rule, but from the chains of sin and death. His mission was far greater than they imagined, offering eternal life instead of temporary relief.

### **READ Matthew 21:1-7**

What takes place in these first few verses is a pivotal moment in Jesus' earthly ministry that fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and revealed His identity as the Messiah. As Jesus and His disciples approach Jerusalem, coming to the villages of Bethphage and the Mount of Olives, Jesus gives specific instructions to two of His disciples. He tells them to go into the village, where they will find a donkey and her colt tied up. He instructs them to untie the animals and bring them to Him, assuring them that if anyone questions them, they should respond, "The Lord needs them." This instruction may seem odd at first, but it is directly connected to Zechariah 9:9, "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" "God is using foolish things to shame the wise." He is using the unexpected to do the miraculous. That is not how any other king would have planned to make an entrance, but it was in line with God's plan all along.

### **POINT #1 – GOD'S PLAN IS BETTER THAN OURS**

While earthly rulers during this time often entered cities on warhorses, symbols of power and conquest, Jesus deliberately chose a donkey, a symbol of peace and servitude. This plan defied the expectations of those who anticipated a political or military Messiah who would overthrow Roman rule. Instead, Jesus reveals the nature of His divine kingdom. He was bringing about a kingdom of peace, humility, and redemption. The people wanted Jesus to come and free them from an oppressive government, but what was an even more pressing issue was the oppression of sin in their lives.

I don't know about you, but I am glad that God does not do things the way I would do them. What I have found is that God's plans always exceed my own. His perspective is eternal, and His purpose is greater than I can comprehend. While we might pray for immediate relief or temporary victories, God often answers with something far deeper and more transformative than I could imagine. It requires my trust.

**STORY:** A television program preceding the 1988 Winter Olympics featured blind skiers being trained for slalom skiing, impossible as that sounds. Paired with sighted skiers, the blind skiers were taught on the flats how to make right and left turns. When that was mastered, they were taken to the slalom slope, where their sighted partners skied beside them shouting, "Left!" and "Right!" As they obeyed the commands, they were able to negotiate the course and cross the finish line, depending solely on the sighted skiers' words. It was either complete trust or catastrophe. What a vivid picture of the Christian life. In this world, we are blind about what course we ought to take. We must rely solely on Jesus and trust that He knows what is best. Even when his ways may seem unorthodox, we can lean on Him. (*Sermonillustrations.com*)

Just like the people of Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday, we may not always understand His methods, but we can trust that His ways are higher, His love is unending, and His plan is perfect. Palm Sunday reminds us that we can trust God with our marriage, our family, our kids, our career, our mistakes, and our failures. He is always working, and it will be better than anything we could come up with on our own.

As we continue in our passage, Jesus enters the city and a large crowd gathers to welcome him.

### **READ Matthew 21:8-11**

The crowd's actions here reflect the honor that typically would have been given to royalty or victorious leaders. Spreading cloaks on the road symbolized submission and reverence, while the palm branches represented celebration and victory. This was the way Olympic athletes would be welcomed back after victory in the ancient games, they would wave palm fronds before them. The word *Hosanna* means "Save us now" and expresses a plea for deliverance. The crowd's reference to Jesus as the "Son of David" connects Him to the Messianic promises in the Old Testament as well, confirming His royal lineage. While the cries of "Hosanna" were fitting for the Messiah, the crowd misunderstood the nature of the salvation He came to bring. They wanted freedom from Rome, but Jesus came to deliver them from sin, death, and the devil.

### **POINT #2 – JESUS WAS THE TRUE SAVIOR**

The crowds who are shouting hosanna in chapter 21 will be the same crowds who will shout "crucify him" only a few verses later. Why? Disappointment. They want to be saved from physical dangers without recognizing that they are in spiritual danger. Palm Sunday helps us realize that Jesus is the true Savior. His purpose is not simply to make our lives better, but to completely renew us from the inside out. His mission went beyond solving temporary problems; He came to