



# Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Sermon Study

Week of March 25, 2018  
Sermon: Palm Sunday

# Life Group Schedule

**15 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker Game: **Categories**. Divide your group into four teams or more, with about five members each. Encourage them to team with people they know the least. Instruct each team to find at least six things in common with every team member. Don't allow teams to use simple things like height, hair color, or clothing worn. Limiting the similarities to non-material things helps people learn more about each other and engage in active, more meaningful conversations that will promote inclusion and lasting connections. The game ends once every team has come up with six things they have in common; the winner is the team that achieves the objective first.

**NOTE:** Feel free to use as much or as little of the study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

## OPENING PRAYER

**45–60 MIN** Palm Sunday

**Q1.** How good or bad is your eyesight?

**LUKE 19:28-31** After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

**LUKE 19: 36-38** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

- These people had "drive by" vision!
- If we're not careful, we forget how powerful those Scriptures are that we've heard hundreds of times:

**PHIL. 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Here is Jesus, right in front of them, literally doing a "drive by" on a donkey.

**Q2.** Did people of Jesus' day really see who was right in front of them?

**Q3.** Do you see what (or who) is right in front of you?

**JOHN 12:36** “All these God signs he had given them and they still didn’t get it, still wouldn’t trust him. First they wouldn’t believe, then they couldn’t: Their eyes are blinded, their hearts are hardened.”

**LUKE 19:39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

- People thought the King would come to meet all of their needs, wipe out the opposition, and rescue everybody like a conquering king!
- But Jesus was the exact opposite—he came to serve, not rule over.

1. Some of us are far-sighted.

- We’re focused on the wrong things, spending so much time thinking of ourselves, that we are the center of our own universe.
  - › But when God is the center of our world and we focus on Him, He holds everything in place.
  - › Priorities line up when the Word of God is the measurement.
  - › When we’re holding onto these areas of our life, we’re actually holding them back from God.

**Q4.** What area of your life are you holding back from God’s control?

**PHILIPPIANS 2:7** ...of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant.

**JOHN 12:25-26** Anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you’ll have it forever, real and eternal. If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me.

- “Serving” to Jesus meant to follow Him, to put your life on the line for Him.

2. Being served is a near-sighted mentality.

**LUKE 19:41** When the city came into view, he wept over it.

**ISAIAH 50:6-7** I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have set my face like flint, I know I will not be put to shame.

## **JESUS WAS FOCUSED ON US.**

**JOHN 12:25** Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

- Once the commitment is clear, you do what you can, not what you can't. The heart regulates the hands.
- Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem, because he was focused on you.

**Q5.** How well do you know your neighbors—those in close proximity to you every day?

**Q6.** What do you need in order to see people around you the way Jesus does?

- Jesus in you is the answer people are looking for at work, school, all around us.

**Q7.** Who in your sphere of influence can we pray for today?

## **PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH ANY NEED THAT HAS SURFACED.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**