

Growth Group Discussion Questions
Series: "...And Then Came Jesus"- Part 3"
"Heroes Run In Our Family... Towards Trouble"
Week of March 28th, 2021

Message Summary: It's the last week of Jesus' life on earth! How much drama do we need leading up to Resurrection Sunday! Riding on a donkey, Jesus enters Jerusalem to the cheers and Hosanna's of a huge crowd! Yet, in just 5 days, the crowds will be chanting, Crucify Him, Crucify Him this time! How fickle are the crowds! Yet Jesus has work to do to get His men ready for his death and life after.

Yet we must never forget that Jesus... walked back into danger... back towards the Cross! As our ultimate hero, he ran towards the trouble only He could face for all mankind. And, even though it would be the most painful, humiliating and terrifying event ever, He faced it. That's a big reason why He is our hero! Let's see some more that we can learn from Him as we look back at the message from this Palm Sunday.

ICE BREAKER

1. What about Jesus giving Himself to be crucified on a cross is most impactful to you? What makes you love Him the most for what He did?

GOING DEEPER

1. Jesus, facing the cross for the redemption of mankind, is a great example of long-term thinking. Jesus chose to face the short-term pain and agony of the cross to gain the long-term benefit of forgiveness for sin for all who would trust in Him. Look at the questions below and discuss the long term-short term thinking problems involved in each situation.

a. COVID put pressure on each of us and we traded some of our long term thinking strategies for short term ones that maximized our convenience and pleasure. Discuss reasons why we tended to choose short term thinking in the following situations during the COVID pandemic:

1. We paid for a lot of take-out meals to be delivered to us at our homes.
2. We purchased nice-to-have things at a higher than normal rate through our Amazon purchasing connection.

3. We cancelled some memberships and activities that we used to find necessary for our good health and happiness because of COVID.
4. Working from home meant I didn't have to wear clean clothes or clean up as often, and we could have meals anytime.
5. We lost contact with friends and family because of social distancing, not wanting to gather in groups, or they were hard to get hold of. Also, visiting became harder to do so we just didn't do it as much.
6. We got a little lazy with our devotional life as the pandemic dragged on. Things didn't have to happen in such a timely way so we let our reading the Bible lapse a bit, or maybe we didn't pray as much, Zoom small group meetings were hard to do and we only watched church online now and then.
7. What other situations did you see where short term thinking became the norm in your circle of friends and family during the pandemic? How would thinking more long-term in this (these) situation(s) have been a benefit to your life, family and future?

2. Jesus, our hero, ran towards the troubles He encountered to face them head on. We want to be more like Him in how we face our troubles and struggles. Discuss how you could face the following struggles you might come across.

a. Relationship struggles...

1. Making peace with your parents.
2. Repairing relationships with fellow employees.

b. Money Struggles...

1. Acknowledge that there is a problem.
2. Get your spending under control.

c. "Following Jesus" Struggles...

1. Find ways to spend some time with Him regularly.
2. Make prayer your go-to first response in acknowledging His partnership in your life.