



LEARN • VOLUME 3 • SESSION 1

Group Session



Small Group Study

Volume Overview

Who is Jesus?

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

We know that the Bible gives us insight into who Jesus is and what that means for us. But why is it important for us to know who Jesus is? Imagine following someone that you don't know. Knowing Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice invites us to know Him as our Lord and Savior and ultimately as our God.

You Will Need

- Phone or device to play music, one per team
- Props or costumes to wear (hats, scarves, instruments, etc.)
- Candy or small prize to give the winning team

Getting Ready

- First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.

QUESTION

What's one of the greatest adventures you've ever experienced?

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for each of the students who came this week. Ask the Lord to use this time to speak to each of them in a unique way as everyone studies His Word together. Thank God for His Word, and ask Him to create a passion in everyone to study it. Ask for each student to grow closer to God.

Introduction

Today, we'll be talking about who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. Following Jesus isn't just a one-time decision that we make. It's a daily choice. And the better we know Jesus, the better we can live out that choice.

Group Activity

My Triumphal Entry

You Will Need

- *Phone or device to play music, one per team*
- *Props or costumes to wear (hats, scarves, instruments, etc.)*
- *Candy or small prize to give the winning team*

Getting Ready

No prep needed for this activity.

Because we're going to be discussing Jesus' Triumphal Entry in our time today, our activity is about making an entrance, too. Just like Jesus entered Jerusalem in a unique way, each team will enter the room in a unique way today. At the end, we'll vote on which team has the best, most creative entry into the room.

- *Divide the group into teams.*

Each team is going to take turns doing their own unique entrance. Be creative! You can use props or a fun move that your group feels best represents who you are. Choose your own theme music to play as you enter. Make sure to pick songs that are appropriate for our group time. The rest of us will cheer as you enter just like people along the route honored and celebrated Jesus.

- *If groups don't have a song to play, use your phone or device to play music as each group enters the room.*
- *Encourage the other students to cheer and clap as each group takes turns entering the room.*

QUESTION

What group did you feel most creatively entered the room?

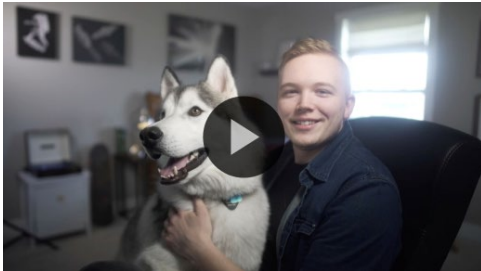
QUESTION

What made their entry the most fun to watch?

- *Award a small prize or candy to the winning team.*

You can tell a lot about someone based on how they enter a room. When it comes to Jesus, we can learn a lot about Him based on how He publicly entered the city of Jerusalem in front of the crowd too. First, let's watch the video.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

QUESTION

What are some words that you would use to describe yourself to others?

QUESTION

What are some words you might use to describe who Jesus is?

We're going to look at a story that gives us a window into the identity of Jesus. Let's see how He publicly entered the city of Jerusalem near the end of His time on earth.

Jesus' Followers Obey Him as Lord

Read Mark 11:1–7.

As we unpack this story, know that the Holy Spirit wants to speak to us directly and show us truth from God's Word that we can take with us. This story is called the Triumphal Entry. It tells us a bit about who Jesus is.

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. It was the capital city of Israel. So, like nations' capitals today, Jerusalem was a very important city where the nation's leaders gathered and big decisions often happened. And Jesus was about to make a historic entrance into it.

QUESTION

What instructions did Jesus give to His disciples?

QUESTION

Has God ever asked you to follow Him in something that seemed a bit strange? What did He ask?

QUESTION

Did the disciples have any issues getting the donkey colt back to Jesus? Why or why not?

QUESTION

What kind of example did the disciples set for us in following Jesus' instructions?

When the disciples did as Jesus told them, they were able to take the donkey colt and bring it back to Jesus without any problems. They simply told the owner that the Lord needed it. Jesus was their Lord because He was the person they obeyed and were committed to following. Just like the disciples, we'll also find that God sometimes works things out on our behalf when we're willing to follow His instructions.

QUESTION

Who is someone in your life you look up to for how they follow and obey God? What is it about this person that you admire?

Our Lord, Jesus, Deserves Worship

Most of what we know about Jesus is from the Gospels. Those are the first four books in the New Testament. Let's look at an Old Testament passage to see how God set up all this way before it happened.

Read Zechariah 9:9.

Zechariah, the man who wrote those verses, lived about 550 years before Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. God gave Zechariah this prophecy that described how Jesus would enter the city.

QUESTION

How does Zechariah refer to the person riding on a donkey colt?

This prophecy helps us understand who Jesus is. He is a royal Lord and King who deserves praise and worship! Let's read more about Jesus and see how He was treated.

Read Mark 11:8–10.

QUESTION

What was the crowd's reaction to Jesus riding by?

The crowd recognized Jesus was more than just a man. They understood Jesus was Someone special. He allowed others to see that He is Lord, and the people responded by worshipping Him publicly.

QUESTION

Are there times when you worship Jesus outside of church or youth group? How do you worship during these times?

QUESTION

Think back to the first time you recognized that Jesus was real in your life. What happened and what was your reaction?

QUESTION

What are some ways you find yourself worshipping Jesus outside of church?

Everyone Can Experience Jesus as Lord

Read Mark 11:11, 15–17.

QUESTION

Why do you think Jesus drove out the people selling and buying animals?

After Jesus came back into Jerusalem, He continued to show others He is Lord. The money changers and livestock dealers were set up in a part of the temple that was supposed to be an open place for all worshippers of God. Instead, this market changed the space from a place of worship to a place of business and profits.

Jesus' actions showed His authority! As Lord, He had the right to push out those who were corrupting this place of worship and connection with God. Jesus' goal then, and now, was for everyone to have access to God. That access comes for us as we surrender our life to Him as our Lord.

Did You Know?

As Jesus neared Jerusalem, He wanted to make a statement by riding a colt (a young donkey) into the city. He told two of His followers to get one from a nearby town. If they were questioned while taking it, those obtaining the colt were to simply say, "The Lord needs it and will return it soon" (Mark 11:3). Jesus' entrance on a colt was symbolic because rulers of that day often rode colts in times of peace. Understanding this helps us see that Jesus was likely showing His kingship and messiahship by entering Jerusalem on a colt. It was also a display of His character, emphasizing peace.

Reflect

Jesus Is Lord

It's easy for us to forget who Jesus really is sometimes, especially when life gets difficult or when circumstances are not ideal. But Jesus is truly the Lord of all. He is able to handle any situation we face in life. Following Jesus is the first step we take in our walk with God, but following Jesus isn't just a one-time decision that we make when we become a Christian. Every day, we have that same decision to make. Will we be obedient to Jesus and follow His commands? We have to choose to allow Him to be Lord of our life, not just once and for all, but every day.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in Jesus as our Lord. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

QUESTION

Is it difficult for you to believe the Lord Jesus can handle any situation you face in life? Why or why not?

QUESTION

What's one area of your life you need to make Jesus Lord over?

Activate

As you reflect on what we learned today, ask the Holy Spirit to give you an insight into areas of your life where you can learn to follow Jesus in a deeper way as you grow in your walk with Him.

QUESTION

What is one step of obedience you can take to make Jesus Lord of every part of your life?

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Following Jesus starts with choosing to have a relationship with Him. God sent Jesus to save you and me because He loves us. He knows everything about us, including the choices we've made in life. Despite our mistakes, He still wants to have a relationship

with us. Only God can lead us toward the amazing future He created for us as we follow Him each day.

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as we close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Conclusion

The Bible tells us so much about who Jesus is and how we can honor Him in our daily lives. It's easier for us to choose to follow Jesus when we recognize who He really is. He is Lord over all. In everything we face, we can know that Lord Jesus is with us.

Prayer

Lord over all, thank You for giving me and the whole world the ability to know You personally. Thank You for giving me grace every day so I can follow You wholeheartedly. Help me to remember You are Lord. Help me to grow in my worship of You with my words and actions each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Next time we'll talk more about how we can know Jesus better by understanding His death on the Cross. Remember to do the devotions on your app this week too. These allow you to have time with Jesus as you learn more about how to follow Him each day.