

# Mental



**✔ Prepare in Advance**

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Review today’s scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

**✔ Explore**

Begin by asking the following questions:

- What kinds of things do you do when you welcome a stranger into your home? An important guest? What about when you welcome a friend? What does our welcome of someone into our homes say about their importance to us?
- Have someone read Luke 19:28-40 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*. Allow time for the group to respond to the video.

**✔ Coming as a King**

Use the following questions to encourage discussion.

- In what ways can we know that this was a premeditated and important event, not just an impromptu celebration?
- According to verse 37, why were the people praising God?
- In what ways did the people welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as a king?
- What conclusions might outsiders draw from this event – from the way Jesus was welcomed?
- Remember that Jesus knew what was going to happen. Why do you think Jesus would allow the people to welcome him in this manner, even though he was going to be a very different kind of Messiah?
- In many ways, Jesus really is this kind of Messiah. How?

**✔ Singing Stones**

- What is our usual assumption about the Pharisees’ concern in verse 39?
- According to the video, why might they also have been frightened about these events?
- From Jesus’ answer (verse 40) do you think the rocks would literally be crying out, or was he speaking in parable? What do you think Jesus meant by this, and what was he saying about the nature of praise?

**✔ Closing**

- Ask the group to consider what these things mean for their lives by asking the following questions.
- In closing, let’s look at this in spiritual terms. As we begin holy week, we are celebrating Jesus’ coming, both as the Suffering Servant and as the King of Kings. In what ways are you preparing – how are you welcoming Jesus?
- Does this welcome reflect your true feelings for Jesus?
- If not, how could you prepare a different kind of welcome, more befitting of the King of Kings?

Give a few moments for silent reflection, then close with prayer.

**By Jon Parks**