

John 12:12–16 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To help us read our stories in light of God’s story and thus make his agenda for life our agenda too.

Sermon Refresher: Palm Sunday shows us God’s big story and his unstoppable agenda for all of creation and our lives.

- Jesus enters Jerusalem during Passover, a story about Israel’s need for salvation, a story that points to the bigger story of Jesus.
- God’s story is the only big story for all eternity, but we often try to impose our story and agenda on God.
- Only God’s story can be trusted as the best story for your life, because Jesus meets our deepest need by being our Passover lamb.

Discussion:

1. Let’s start by reading John 12:12–16. What stands out to you about how the crowds welcome Jesus? How much do the crowds and the disciples understand of what’s happening?
2. The crowd rightly welcomes Jesus as the king. But their problem is what agenda they have for the Messiah. They want him to lead an army and conquer as king. But that’s not Jesus’s agenda. If you’re honest with yourself, what agenda do you want Jesus to accomplish for you (that might not be his agenda)?
3. What does the timing of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem during Passover tell us about God’s story and agenda?
4. Read Romans 8:28–39 aloud as a group. What truths in this passage can give us confidence that God’s agenda really is unstoppable?
5. What difference could these promises from Romans 8 make for you . . .
 - a. Tomorrow at 10 a.m. when you’re in the midst of your normal day?

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- b. What about when something goes wrong, either you go through hardship or screw up in sin?
 - c. What about when you want your own agenda?
6. In what way is God challenging you to live in his story? What could you do this week to re-read your story more within God's bigger and better story?