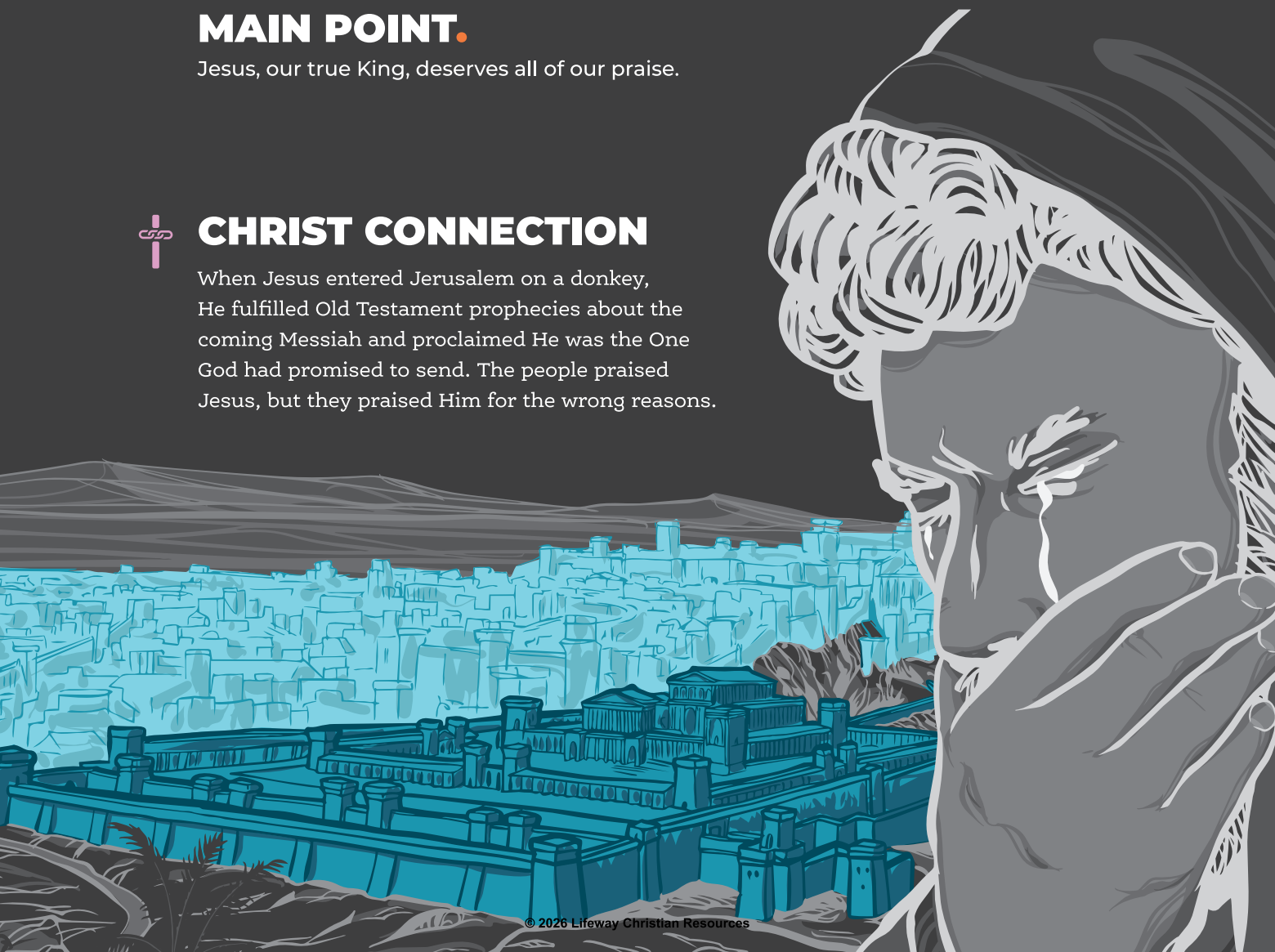
THE STONES WOULD CRY OUT

MAIN POINT.

Jesus, our true King, deserves all of our praise.

CHRIST CONNECTION

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and proclaimed He was the One God had promised to send. The people praised Jesus, but they praised Him for the wrong reasons.



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KINDNESS OF A KING

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

Luke 19

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

LUKE 19:28-40

28 When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples 30 and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 "The Lord needs it," they said. 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. 36 As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. 37 Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen: 38 "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!" 39 Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."

JESUS LONGS FOR US TO KNOW HIM

LUKE 19:41-44

41 As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it, 42 saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come on you when your enemies will build a barricade around you, surround you, and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you and your children among you to the ground, and they will not leave one stone on another in your midst, because you did not recognize the time when God visited you."

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BEFORE YOU TEACH

MAIN POINT.

Jesus, our true King, deserves all of our praise.

Leaders: Jesus longs to save every student—every person. Lead with that truth, letting students know that Jesus doesn't respond angrily when they resist Him. He weeps.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

LUKE 19:28

"Jesus has established Himself as the King in the preceding narrative, but a King who had to go into the far country before returning in power. He has shown the nature of His kingdom—a kingdom different from that expected by the religious establishment. He had shown who would participate in the kingdom—those faithful to Him, who had given up everything to follow Him rather than those who had the religious system locked up in their own hands. . . . Approaching Jerusalem, Jesus passed through two small villages east of the holy city on the Mount of Olives, which looked down on the city and the Kidron Valley. The Mount of Olives, the central of three peaks rising east of Jerusalem, stands 2,660 feet above sea level. Standing on it, a person faced the temple. Zechariah 14:4-5 situates the final battle on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1). The King stood with the holy city at His feet."[12]

LUKE 19:35-36

"Outer garments are laid over the animal to make a saddle, and Jesus is placed on it. The language used to describe Jesus's riding the animal recalls 1 Kings 1:33 and David's selecting of Solomon, while the mention of the colt alludes to Zechariah 9:9. The imagery is regal and even messianic, though it is a humble Messiah who makes the ride."[13]

JESUS LONGS FOR US TO KNOW HIM

LUKE 19:41-44

"All that Jesus prophesies in verse 43 comes to pass. In AD 70 the Romans occupied and destroyed Jerusalem along with the temple. No stone was left on another. What had been known of that great city was obliterated. Our Lord effectively says, 'It would have been different for you if you had known I had come to visit you.' . . . Christ has fulfilled God's law by sacrificing Himself on the cross. His act of self-giving made peace—peace between men, peace within, and peace with God. When Christ died on the cross for our sins He ended the strife so characteristic of a fallen world. So whether we are Jews or Gentiles, by the preaching of Jesus Christ crucified, buried, and resurrected, we have peace. By faith in the Son of God we receive reconciliation with God. We stop trying to earn God's approval by our good works. We stop trying to please men. Instead, we begin to live to please God who accepts us in His Son."[14]

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CONTEXT

This week brings us near to the culmination of Jesus's earthly ministry, to the last week of His life, which included a profound series of events. Jesus riding on a donkey was deeply significant, a cultural example of bringing peace to the people and to the city and the way royalty typically rode. A general or military figure would have come in on a horse, but not Jesus.[15] Jesus asking for a colt "on which no one has ever sat" (Luke 19:30) was meaningful too. Jesus is unlike anyone else, and "the seat of authority is for Jesus and Jesus alone."[16] Jesus could have made a grander entrance into Jerusalem, but the King of kings chose to come in a manner that was eye level with people He loved so deeply—humbly and lowly. The crowd welcomed Jesus with joy and excitement, but days later, they'd call for His crucifixion. Our human minds struggle to reason with the events that unfolded during Jesus's last week, but God was incredibly intentional with every moment. Jesus's heart broke over His people, and He wept as He entered the city. Jesus knew what was coming: Jerusalem would be destroyed, many would choose not to believe in Him, and He would sacrifice Himself for them anyway. The depth of His grief grew deeper with every step.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

Worship

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship are God, giving Him the praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

LEADERS' PRAYER

JESUS, HELP US TO SEE THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE. HELP OUR EYES TO BE OPEN TO THE TRUTH AND THE DIFFICULTY OF THIS STORY. GIVE US WISDOM AS WE FOLLOW JESUS TO THE WEEK OF HIS DEATH. BE GLORIFIED IN OUR CONVERSATION TODAY.



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KICK STARTER

♡ HEART CHECK

Let's check in on how you're doing spiritually. How did you seek Jesus last week, as we saw Zacchaeus do? Where did you struggle to **seek Jesus on a daily basis**? What got in your way?

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These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.



GRAND ENTRANCE

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses:

- **IF YOU COULD RIDE INTO SCHOOL ON AN ANIMAL, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? WHY?**
- **WHAT WOULD YOUR WALKOUT SONG BE?**
- **WHAT DO THESE THINGS SAY ABOUT YOU?**

Students will either take this seriously and give an intentional answer, or their answers will be silly—either is fine! The song is the more intentional question, so don't miss their answers. They can give you insight into what matters to them or reveal something they're struggling with. The songs we connect with often reveal feelings we struggle to express. We'll see today that Jesus's ride into Jerusalem revealed truths that most people missed.



CULTURAL CONNECTION

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you knew you only had a little bit of time left to live? We often feel a sense of urgency when we know an end is coming, changing the way we function and think. What would be different? What would stay the same? Would you put your phone down and quit doomscrolling? Who would you spend time with? What conversations would you need to have? The decisions you'd make would say a lot about who you are and what's most important to you. Some of us might spend time with our family and our friends. We might ditch school and work to take a trip somewhere we've always wanted to see. We might eat all of our favorite foods and watch all of our favorite movies. Some of us might have important conversations with people we love, expressing forgiveness or offering an apology. Here's the truth: Our lives here are brief in light of eternity, and living like eternity is close will help us live wisely.

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DISCUSSION

MAIN POINT.

Jesus, our true King, deserves all of our praise.

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

READ LUKE 19:28-40



WHAT IS WORSHIP, AND WHY IS IT AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES?

A dictionary definition of worship is "to honor or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power; to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion."[17] **Whether or not we worship isn't in question because God created us to worship; whether or not we worship God only is the question.** We worship lesser "gods"—social media, money, possessions, and friends become objects of our worship. Worship is more than singing songs—it's where our heart's attention and affection are aimed, a lifestyle instead of a playlist. **True worship is laying down anything that steals our devotion from the One who deserves it all.**



WHAT MADE JESUS WORTHY OF THE PEOPLE'S PRAISE? OF OUR PRAISE?

Jesus was sinless. He performed miracles, freed captives, preached, taught, healed, comforted, and rebuked. **But even if Jesus had not done *any* of this, He was and is worthy of praise because He is the King of kings, the Son of God.** The crowd honored Jesus in the best ways they knew how—by waving palm leaves, laying their clothes on the road, and shouting praises. Those who encountered Jesus and experienced life change realized His way is better. **When we encounter Jesus, we should overflow with worship in every way we know how, with every part of our lives. He is absolutely worthy.**



JESUS SAID IF THOSE PRAISING HIM FELL SILENT, "THE STONES WOULD CRY OUT" (V. 40). WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO GET THE PHARISEES TO UNDERSTAND?

God will get the glory He deserves. If humans don't give it, creation will—always pointing praise to God because He is Creator. Think about it: Trees, flowers, and every blade of grass grows upward, constantly pointing to the One who formed them. Mountains reach to the heavens. The sunset displays God's beauty. **We—God's *best* creation—are the only part of God's creation capable of withholding from Him the worship He so rightfully deserves.** Jesus wasn't stepping into His last few days lightly, and God was about to be glorified and glorify His Son in a way no one had ever experienced. But if the people refused to praise Jesus—and they would—creation would testify. **Jesus wanted the Pharisees to understand that their refusal to acknowledge His identity and to worship Him didn't change the truth: He is God's Son.** Worship isn't just singing but how we live our lives. Knowing we often refuse to worship God with our words, our hearts, and our actions should shake us. **He is the Author and Creator of all life, and His creation will testify forever. Let's join them every minute we have breath.**

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JESUS LONGS FOR US TO KNOW HIM

READ LUKE 19:41-44

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS FROM HIS WEEPING OVER JERUSALEM? DIG DEEP: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Jesus felt deeply, just like we do—*more* deeply than we do. He felt pain, loss, and heartache, and He wept. Jesus saw what the people around Him couldn't see, and His desire was for their eyes to be opened to the truth. For some, no miracle, no healing, no sign was enough to see Jesus for who He is. And Jesus wasn't angry; He wasn't disappointed. He was *heartbroken* for the destruction that was coming and for the separation between them and the Father. **Jesus didn't desire to cast unbelievers from His presence; He longed to draw them in, to protect them, to save them. But they had to surrender to His lordship. Knowing Jesus's heart aches like ours does, and more importantly, that He aches for us, reveals the depth of His love for us. He is our kind, loving, compassionate Savior.**

WHY COULDN'T THE PHARISEES SEE WHO JESUS WAS? HOW CAN WE AVOID MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE?

The Pharisees were blind to Jesus—to the miraculous work He did and to the prophecies He fulfilled right in front of their eyes. They missed Jesus because they were looking for a different kind of king—one who sat on a throne and came with great power. But Jesus came in humility, born in poverty and dirt. He represented God's kingdom, a kingdom utterly different than the one the Pharisees expected. Jesus seemed to push back on all their religious rules, calling them out, holding them accountable, and bringing light to Scripture. **We must look for Jesus as Scripture presents Him, not the Jesus we've created with our own expectations. We must accept Jesus—His kingdom, His call to accountability when we sin, His example for how to live according to God's Word.**

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR PEOPLE TO SEE JESUS?

A relationship with Jesus changes everything, but we can't get there on our own. We actually *need* the Lord to reveal Himself to us through the Holy Spirit. He convicts us and draws us in. **The Pharisees followed their rules so well that they missed Jesus; they couldn't see their *need* for Him.** They couldn't see the Messiah, even when He spoke directly to Him. **Sometimes, we see Jesus only once we've reached the end of ourselves—once we're exhausted by our failed attempts at being "good." Sometimes, we see Him only once we've walked through tragedy and despair.** Seeing Jesus, seeing our need for Him, is the greatest gift!

WRAP-UP

HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON JESUS AND HIS MISSION, EVEN WHEN DOING SO ISN'T EASY?

Look around your group. These are the people God gave you. What can you do to help each other? If you're connected at school, what could you do there that will help you keep your eyes on Jesus? If you're in a text group or will see each other again at church this week, how can you encourage one another? We read in Ecclesiastes 4:9 that, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts." **As believers, we're never alone! We have resources, accountability, and community to lean on when following Jesus feels difficult and comes at a cost.** As a group, brainstorm specific ways you can follow Jesus together. In what area do you need help? Where does faith get difficult—at home, school, work, or with friends? Support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Christian life wasn't meant to be lived alone.

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