

- Palm Sunday is a reminder of Jesus' great **love** for us.

- The story of Jesus must lead us into a growing **relationship** with Jesus.

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Matthew 16:13-14 (NLT)

- People identified Jesus as a good **man** with a good **message**.

- How we **identify** Jesus will determine how we experience Jesus.

Then he (*Jesus*) asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16 (NLT)

..."I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NLT)

- Is Jesus one of **many** or is he your one and **only**?

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Luke 9:23-24 (NLT)

#### A few really important things:

- Salvation is accepting **who** Jesus is and **what** He has done for us.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIV)

- Lordship recognizes His **authority** in our lives.

...Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16 (NLT)

- Jesus wants us all to become **fully devoted followers**.

...And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG)

- All of us are at **different places** in becoming fully devoted followers, but we're all on the same path.

Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' John 3:6-7 (NLT)

#### Following Jesus means:

- I've made up my mind to **identify** with Jesus.

Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and *keep close to me!* Luke 9:23 (TLB)

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Romans 6:4

- I've made up my mind to live with Jesus' **purpose**.

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible...everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. Colossians 1:16 (Msg)

"Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this?' No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'" John 12:27-28 (MSG)

- I've made up my mind to live out Jesus' **lifestyle**.

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. John 13:15 (NLT)

Someone may say, "I am a Christian; I am on my way to heaven; I belong to Christ." But if he doesn't do what Christ tells him to, he is a liar. But those who do what Christ tells them to will learn to love God more and more. That is the way to know whether or not you are a Christian. Anyone who says he is a Christian should live as Christ did. 1 John 2:4-6 (TLB)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

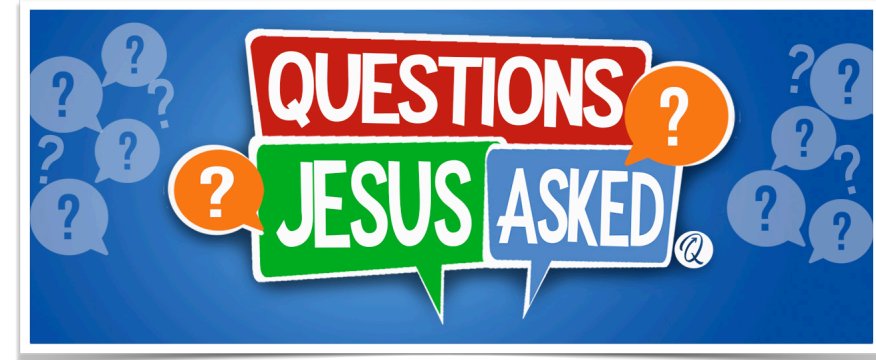
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How do you take the story of Jesus and make it a personal experience with Jesus?
- Why do you think the people of Jesus' day identified him as a good man with a good message?
- When you think of salvation as a gift from God, what scripture comes to mind?
- It's easy to confuse salvation with following Jesus; In your own words what is the difference?
- Why does Jesus want everyone to become fully devoted followers?
- Because all of us are at different places in our walk with God, why is grace important in how we treat each other?
- How do we identify with Jesus? (Or what does that mean?)
- What does it mean to live out Jesus' purpose in our life? How do we do that?
- What does it mean to live out Jesus' lifestyle? Do you find that difficult?

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Today's Talk..



Who do you say I am?

Sunday, March 24th, 2024

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