

Palm Sunday 2018

1. Have you ever visited a “holy place” that wasn’t Christian? When? Where? What did it feel like?
2. The number of people who followed Jesus during his three year ministry varied greatly. At times there were great crowds, such as when he fed the 5000. On other occasions He spoke to lonely individuals, such as the woman at the well. Recall some of his ‘big crowd days’ and some of his dealings with individuals.
3. Jesus came down from the Mount of Olives on a donkey and headed towards Jerusalem (Matt 21:8-9). Almost everybody believed that Jesus was the Messiah that day. Why did the people change their minds so quickly?
4. Attitudes can change very quickly - from shouting *Hosanna* to shouting *crucify Him*. Share an example of when and how an important person in our country took a tumble at the height of his popularity.
5. Share briefly with the group when, where & how you met Jesus? (No more than 2 mins each)
6. There are times in our lives, when there is a real awareness of God’s presence, when we have no doubt that God is alive and real. Many know about Jesus, but don't really know Him, follow Him, or worship Him. Many are willing to wave but few are ready to join the procession and march behind Him. Share a time when you had to publically stand up for of Jesus.
7. Mother Teresa started her work among the poor in Calcutta by kneeling at the bedside of a skeletal figure of a man lying in a state of indescribable filth, with swollen legs and sores. A special calling is needed to do this kind of work. We may visit a poor country for a few days and call it a “mission trip”, how would you feel about leaving the safety and security of life in NZ to do what Mother Teresa did?

8. Jesus is waiting for us, in the poor and dispossessed of the world. What is one thing your group could do to help the poor?
9. A Roman centurion, who was moved by Jesus' death, called out, "*Surely this man was the Son of God*". To encounter Jesus we also need to stand at the Cross. Meeting Jesus at the Cross is about realizing how seriously Jesus loves us. It's a love that's willing to sacrifice and to die. Jesus doesn't ask for our admiration or acknowledgment, He desires our commitment!

Pray for each other