

**GROW. PRAY. STUDY.**  
**First United Methodist Church- Weekly Study Guide**  
*“equipping people in becoming deeply committed Christians ”*

***The Last Week***  
***“Sunday: From Hosanna to “How Dare You!”***  
**February 22-27**

**Monday.....READ Luke 19:28-40**

Jesus did not sneak into Jerusalem. He chose to ride into the city in a way that used potent symbols drawn from Israel’s great kings (see 1 Kings 1:38-40) and the Hebrew Scriptures. (We will read several of those Old Testament passages this week.) This thrilled his followers, but not the religious leaders. What clues do you see in the first part of this story that suggest that Jesus pre-arranged the use of the animal on which he rode into Jerusalem? How did this arrival connect Jesus with the history of David’s family and Israel’s kingly tradition? How, if at all, do you live your faith boldly rather than being silent?

***Pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer***

**Tuesday.....READ Zechariah 9:9-17**

Jesus so clearly drew on Zechariah’s ideas that Matthew 21:5 quotes these verses to tell of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Zechariah preached soon after Israel’s return from exile (see Ezra 5:1, 6:14). He spoke of God’s saving king coming to Jerusalem like Solomon, but with eternal spiritual results. How did Zechariah encourage the people of his day? How might this message have lifted their spirits and given them strength? How does knowing Jesus deepen your insight into a phrase like “prisoners of hope”? How does your love for Jesus shape your response to “God will save his people...as a shepherd saves his flock”?

***Pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer***

**Wednesday.....READ Psalm 118:13-29**

Those who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem at the start of the final week, which was Passover week, sang words from verse 26 of this psalm in their celebration. That makes sense, because the Jewish worship tradition used the psalms from 113 through 118 at the great festivals, especially Passover. How do these words and images about salvation help you to appreciate what Jesus did in the final week?

***Pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer***

**Thursday.....READ Jeremiah 7:1-11, Isaiah 56:1-8**

As we'll see tomorrow, Jesus used words and ideas from these passages when he spoke, with kingly authority, about the real purpose of worship. Isaiah and Jeremiah were two of Israel's greatest prophets, and each of them wrote with conviction about God's purposes for the Temple. Jeremiah spoke to people who seemed to think that there was some kind of magic in the Temple that would keep them safe, even when their actions were immoral. What kinds of changes was God seeking from them (verse 6)? What might it look like for you to live out those principles today? Isaiah challenged the human inclination to shut out everyone who is not "one of us." How does this passage connect acting justly with the way we treat those who are outsiders?

***Pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer***

**Friday.....READ Luke 19:41-48**

Jesus entered Jerusalem in a way that claimed kingship. His followers rejoiced, but Jesus knew tragic forces were at work. In this final week, Jesus would die, but in the longer view the city and its religious leaders faced doom. Jesus wept over heedless Jerusalem; his enemies just kept plotting his death. Jesus wept because the people in Jerusalem did not know what would bring them peace. How good are you at listening to God's voice in your life? Is there something that would bring you peace that you are resisting or denying? Will you open yourself to that?

***Pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer***

**Saturday.....READ Luke 19:37-38; 20:1-2**

Today you will be reading the passage we will use in worship tomorrow. Pray that God will open your heart and prepare you for a powerful worship experience as we come together tomorrow as the body of Christ.

***I invite you to pray the following prayer:***

*Dear God,*

*As I read this passage today help me do so with an open heart, sincerely listening for your voice in my life. Use this passage to prepare me for worship tomorrow. As I read it help me to set aside my own agenda and my own desires so that I may come to worship tomorrow prepared to be molded by you as I continue my journey to becoming a deeply committed disciple of yours. In Christ's name I pray, AMEN*

Here at FUMC we believe part of becoming a Deeply Committed Christians is praying daily. If you find yourself struggling with what to say, we suggest you try praying Wesley's Covenant Prayer.

***A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition***

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN