

# DONKEY KING

## Discussion Notes

Take a few minutes to catch up about how people are doing. Have there been any developments in your situation since last week? Any new challenges or lessons you've learnt?

Read Luke 19:28-44 together

### Our Hurt

The story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem takes place at a time when the Israelites had been in lockdown in their own land for a hundred years. Even now the Bible can speak directly into our situation.

- Is it comforting that the people of the Bible experienced even greater challenges than we do today?
- What can we learn about to deal with our hurt in these times?

### Our Hope

Philip explained that the Jewish people had two elements to their hope: prophecy and pilgrimage.

First, they turn back to the prophecies in scripture, especially Zechariah 9 (written 500 years previous) where they were promised a 'kurios' to save them and ride into Jerusalem on an unriden donkey. So when Jesus rides in on a donkey the Israelites have hope because of the fulfilment of a prophecy.

Second, they have hope because millions of Jews had joined together in Jerusalem at this moment for the Passover festival. They are looking forward to the time when the story of being freed from slavery they retell at Passover will be repeated today.

- Just like the Jewish people, many of us are looking for hope anywhere we can find it. Have you experienced this yourself? Where do you find yourself turning to for hope at the moment?
- Jesus fulfils both the Jewish hope of prophecy and pilgrimage. What does it look like for Jesus to give hope today? What can we learn from this story about what it means to have hope in Jesus?

### God's Heart

Luke 19:41-44 shows us that the most important thing we can understand of God's heart for us. Jesus seems to be sobbing through the words about those who will miss out on what he is saying. Philip explained that Coronavirus reminds us of how fragile life is, and that actually the greatest threat to us is sin and death.

- How do we gain Jesus' perspective of seeing the bigger picture, not just being focused on today's trouble?
- How can we show Jesus' hope and God's heart in these times when our friends are reminded about how fragile life is?
- Philip challenged us to 'make some noise' in the same way the followers did in Jerusalem. What does this look like today?

We are in Holy Week, so make sure we're all connecting into Good Friday and Metro Easter. These are great services to invite friends too and that is one way we can 'make some noise'!