

3

Leader Guide

When the City Doesn't Love You Back

October 16, 2022

Main Passage: Luke 19:35-44

Theological Theme

It is tempting to hold back from caring about others to the point that their suffering or sin causes us heartache and grief. Jesus experienced extreme grief over the city of Jerusalem that led Him to weep and mourn.

Introduction

- ❓ When have you ever experienced a celebration that turned into sorrow? What was the catalyst that changed your rejoicing to mourning?
- ❓ How would you describe the connection between those extreme emotions?

1. Entering Jerusalem (Luke 19:35-40)

Jesus and His disciples prepared to go into Jerusalem for what would be the last time in His earthly life. Every detail was in place, even down to the animal Jesus rode on. Jesus chose a humble yet victorious approach to the city.

- ❓ How do you respond in rejoicing and praise when you think about all that Jesus has done for you?
- ❓ Why does Jesus deserve all the glory in your life? How do you seek to give that to Him?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to praise and celebrate Jesus for today? What tempts you to hold in your praise for Him?

2. Mourning over the City (Luke 19:41-42)

Though Jesus knew the fate that awaited Him in Jerusalem, His distress was not about Himself but about the future that awaited the city and its people. Although He would face physical pain and suffering Himself, the fate of Jerusalem was what moved Him to tears.

- ❓ When has someone else's situation moved you to strong emotion even more than your own difficulties?
- ❓ What would it take for you to weep over the suffering of someone who has done you wrong as Jesus did?
- ❓ Application: Where are you tempted to look for peace outside of Jesus? Why is that enticing?

3. Coming Destruction (Luke 19:43-44)

There are things in life that cannot be avoided. It is common to say death and taxes are two of those. Add to those the fact that because our God is just and righteous, we will answer for the choices we make.

- ❓ When was a time you missed the truth and believed a lie until your eyes were opened?
- ❓ How did Jesus's grief over Jerusalem show His love and grace toward them?
- ❓ Application: How is the destruction of Jerusalem a warning for us to heed as we choose how to live in light of Jesus's second coming?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).