

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ invite others to serve in the Kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE

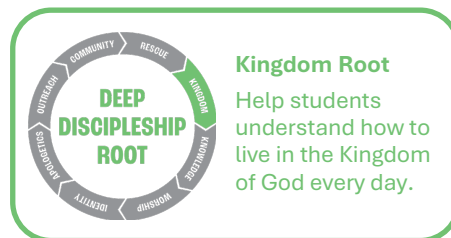
LUKE 19:28–40

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

It is likely that the owners of this colt were followers of Jesus, so they had no problem letting it go so quickly when they heard who needed it (Matt. 21:3). The fact that Jesus made his triumphant entry on a colt was crucial because it was a fulfillment of prophecy (Zech. 9:9). Even though they witnessed the celebration and were part of everything that was happening as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the disciples didn't understand it until afterward (John 12:16). This proves we can be part of God's work even when we don't fully understand it.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/933466248>

FACILITATOR NOTE: We're giving you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.



BELONG

OPENING QUESTIONS

3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- What are the most confusing instructions you've ever received? What happened?



BUILD MEANINGFUL
RELATIONSHIPS

BELIEVE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

3–5 minutes

Today we are in the third lesson of the *Habits of Jesus* series. We will study the importance of inviting others to serve with us in the Kingdom of God. Jesus had unusual instructions for his disciples as they approached Jerusalem. He sent them to a nearby village to find a particular colt, untie it, and bring it back. The disciples obeyed and set in motion one of the most consequential events in Jesus' life. We call this the "Triumphal Entry," and it's celebrated every year on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. Jesus didn't need the disciples in order to accomplish the mission, but he invited them to serve and be part of the bigger story. As we follow the example of Jesus, we should invite others to serve alongside us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7–10 minutes

- Why do you think Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem on a colt?
It fulfilled prophecy (Zech. 9:9). It also demonstrated Jesus' humility. He could have entered on a majestic horse or in a chariot, like most important people chose to do. But Jesus wasn't that kind of Messiah. He showed everyone the power of humility.
- What do you think the disciples thought when they retrieved the colt?
They experienced many things they couldn't fully explain or understand in their time with Jesus, and it's likely they never got used to it! The fulfillment of what Jesus described probably astounded them. They're just ordinary humans, after all!
- Do you think the disciples ever struggled with pride when serving Jesus? Why or why not?



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

The disciples were regular people, just like us. They struggled with pride when they argued about who amongst them would be the greatest (Mark 9:33–34). Pride may have even crept into their hearts when they were called to follow Jesus' instructions!

- **Why is it sometimes difficult to put aside our own pride and serve others?**
Pride might make us think we're too good to do a particular job or work with particular people. Pride is a common temptation for all of us, and it often causes problems!
- **How has the service of other people inspired you?**
Hopefully, acts of service have helped them learn the power of serving others and inspired them to become willing servants of God in his Kingdom as well.
- **What are some practical ways we can serve others in our daily lives?**
Answers will vary, but there are many ways to serve if we're willing to look! Make it a regular part of your prayer life to ask God to help you find service opportunities throughout your day.

Say something like: Retrieving the colt may have seemed like a small thing to do, but the disciples' faithful actions became part of a much bigger story. Because the disciples answered the call to serve, they helped bring great glory to God. God can use our small acts of service to make a big splash in his Kingdom.

BECOME

CONNECTION

5–7 minutes

- **Have you ever seen a small act of service turn into a much bigger result? What happened?**
Answers will vary. Have an experience of your own ready to share to help guide the conversation.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2–3 minutes

Disciples of Christ invite others to serve in the Kingdom of God.

Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5–10 minutes

Service opportunities for God's Kingdom come in all shapes and sizes, and we never know what God will do with our obedience. How can you humbly serve God in big or small ways this week?

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.

CLOSING**PRAYER**

2–3 minutes

Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. Spend some time praying for the wisdom to see when God is calling us to serve, to have the courage to answer, and to take the opportunities to invite others to join.

Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Hebrews 10:24 (ESV)

NOTES

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