**LifeGroup Study**

**THERE WILL BE TESTS**

**The Mountain and the Donkey**

**2022-04-10**

**Participant Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, There Will Be Tests. In this final week of our series and as we anticipate Good Friday, we’ll explore the test Jesus faces as He moves from the Transfiguration to riding a donkey, and then hanging on a cross. This was a path that He struggled to embrace and yet He fully embraced it. Jesus’ example shows us we can trust God even during the crushing time. A key question we need to ask is, “Am I willing to leave the mountain to ride the donkey?” Am I willing to pick up my cross and follow Jesus?

**ICEBREAKER:** My Easter Memory/Tradition

The home I grew up in had several Easter traditions. One, probably my favourite at the time, was the Easter baskets waiting for me and my sister Easter morning, complete with a chocolate Easter bunny. Our family often had Easter lilies in our home during this season. Today the scent of Easter lilies reminds me of those times. Most of all, my parents emphasized to us the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection. How about you? What early memories do you have of Easter? **Share your Easter memory/tradition with the group!**

**STUDY:**

1. On Sunday, Pete talked about the tests Jesus faced as He went from the Transfiguration to riding a donkey, and then hanging on a cross. **What key idea have you been thinking about from what Pete taught on Sunday?**

**THE MOUNTAIN**

READ: Luke 9:28-36

1. In this passage we read about how Jesus was transformed (transfigured) on the mountain. **Why would God create this moment?**
2. There are moments in life we might describe as a “mountain top” experience. When you think of your faith, what moment or event would you say has been a mountain top experience for you? **Share your mountain top experience with the group.**
3. **How can mountain top experiences help us face a test?**

**THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

READ: Luke 19:28-40

1. In this account we read about the triumphal entry of Jesus as he rode a donkey into Jerusalem. **What is the significance of this event?**
2. Humility also plays a big role in the Triumphal Entry. Instead of riding into Jerusalem on a white horse, as earthly kings did, Jesus rides a donkey. **Why was Jesus’ humility such a significant part of the Triumphal Entry?**

READ: Philippians 2:1-8

1. What strikes you from these verses about what it means to be humble like Jesus?

**THE TEST OF THE CROSS**

READ: Luke 22:39-46

1. In these verses we see Jesus facing the test of the cross as prays to the Father. **What do you notice about how Jesus faced this test?**
2. A significant theme from Sunday was the idea of “crushing.” Jesus allowed himself to be crushed by the test of the cross. (see Isaiah 53:5). Imagine Jesus asking you this question – “Will you allow me to crush you? Will you let me make your story one like my Son’s, a story of sacrificial love?” **How would you respond?**

**EXPERIENCE GOD:**

Responsive reading can be an impactful way to experience God and His work in us. In the Heidelberg Catechism we find a question and an answer that speak powerfully to the idea that I am not my own.

Have the Group Leader read the question out loud and then the Group Members respond together.

**THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM**

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| Q. | What is your only comfort in life and death? |
| A. | **That I am not my own,****but belong with body and soul,****both in life and in death,****to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ**. He has fully paid for all my sinswith his precious blood,  and has set me freefrom all the power of the devil.  He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Fathernot a hair can fall from my head;  indeed, all things must work togetherfor my salvation.  Therefore, by his Holy Spirithe also assures meof eternal life and makes me heartily willing and readyfrom now on to live for him.  |

After you read this out loud, ask this question –

**“What does it mean to me that I am not my own, that I fully belong to God?”**

**PRAYER**

This week let’s pray for our local outreach initiative, our “Eats for Easter” food drive.

* Please pray that Creeksiders would give generously as we collect food in the coming weeks. Check out details here <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/eatsforeaster/>
* Pray that those who receive the food would sense God’s love and be drawn to Him.
* Looking for a way to serve as a group? Get your LifeGroup together for a Food Packing Party! Help us box and deliver food from our Easter food drive to Ray of Hope. Will take place at Creekside Waterloo on April 19th or April 20th (at whatever time works for your LifeGroup). Contact Sarah Geiger for details sarah.geiger@creeksidechurch.ca