



Sermon Discussion Guide

April 12 & 13, 2025

"How Does Jesus Save Us?"

[John 12:12-16](#)

"The Jesus Who's More Than We Think" is a six-week sermon series exploring the true identity of Jesus beyond cultural assumptions and watered-down beliefs. This series invites you to rediscover Jesus in his fullness and experience the transformation that comes from knowing him as he truly is.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Zechariah 9:9](#) – "The Coming of Zion's King"

- What does Zechariah's prophecy tell us about the kind of king Jesus is?
- Why do you think God chose such a specific and lowly form of transportation to fulfill this prophecy?
- How does Jesus' fulfillment of this prophecy reveal God's long-term plan for salvation?
- What do you think it meant to the man in the sermon video clip to realize his colt was chosen for this moment?

Read [John 12:12-16](#) – "Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King"

- What does it say about Jesus that he enters not as a conquering warrior but as a humble savior?
- Why do you think the disciples didn't understand what was happening at first, even though it fulfilled prophecy? What does this reveal about how God's plans often unfold in ways we don't immediately recognize?
- What emotions come up when you realize the same crowd who praised Jesus would later turn on him?
- Why is it significant that the people laid down palm branches and cloaks for Jesus?

Read [Mark 10:32-34](#) – "Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time"

- Why do you think Jesus was so clear about the suffering he would face?
- Jesus knew exactly what awaited him. What does this reveal about the nature of God's love and Jesus' mission?
- The passage describes Jesus "setting his face toward Jerusalem" and not turning back. How does that unwavering determination affect your view of his purpose and character?
- Jesus' prediction includes resurrection—but the disciples didn't seem to grasp that part. What gets in the way of seeing hope when you're focused on pain or fear? How can you remind yourself (and others) that the story doesn't end at the cross?

Read [Luke 9:51](#) – "Samaritan Opposition"

- Why do you think Jesus moved forward with such resolve, knowing the suffering he would endure?
- The sermon emphasized that Jesus didn't have to go—he chose to. What does this say about Jesus' character and the heart of God?
- Pastor Mike compared Jesus' choice to descend into our world with acts of self-sacrificial service. What does it look like to "go down the mountain" in your everyday life?
- Who around you might need someone to bring love, peace, or presence into a difficult place?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- Set aside 10 minutes to quietly reflect on Luke 9:51. Ask yourself: Why would Jesus choose this path for me? Let it sink in that he came down the mountain for you—willingly, lovingly, and purposefully. Write down any thoughts or prayers that arise.
- Look for an opportunity to serve someone this week—especially someone who may be overlooked or hurting. This could mean encouraging someone who feels forgotten, helping a neighbor, or sacrificing comfort to bring peace into someone else's chaos.
- Jesus' journey to Jerusalem was public, visible, and filled with purpose. Follow his lead by inviting someone to join you at a worship service this Holy Week or Easter. Use the invitation not just as an event invite, but as a chance to share why this story matters to you. If you've already invited someone, consider following up with a prayer, ride, or personal message.