

SESSION SIX

THE LAMB OF GOD

Opening Thoughts (4 minutes)

The Very Words of God

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

Think About It

People who lived during the time of Jesus created their own pictures of who he was just as people do today. Which words or phrases have you heard people use to describe who Jesus is, and how accurately do they reflect what the Bible says? Why do you think people cling to their own ideas of who Jesus is instead of discovering who the Bible says he is?

DVD Teaching Notes (20 minutes)

Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

“Lamb day”

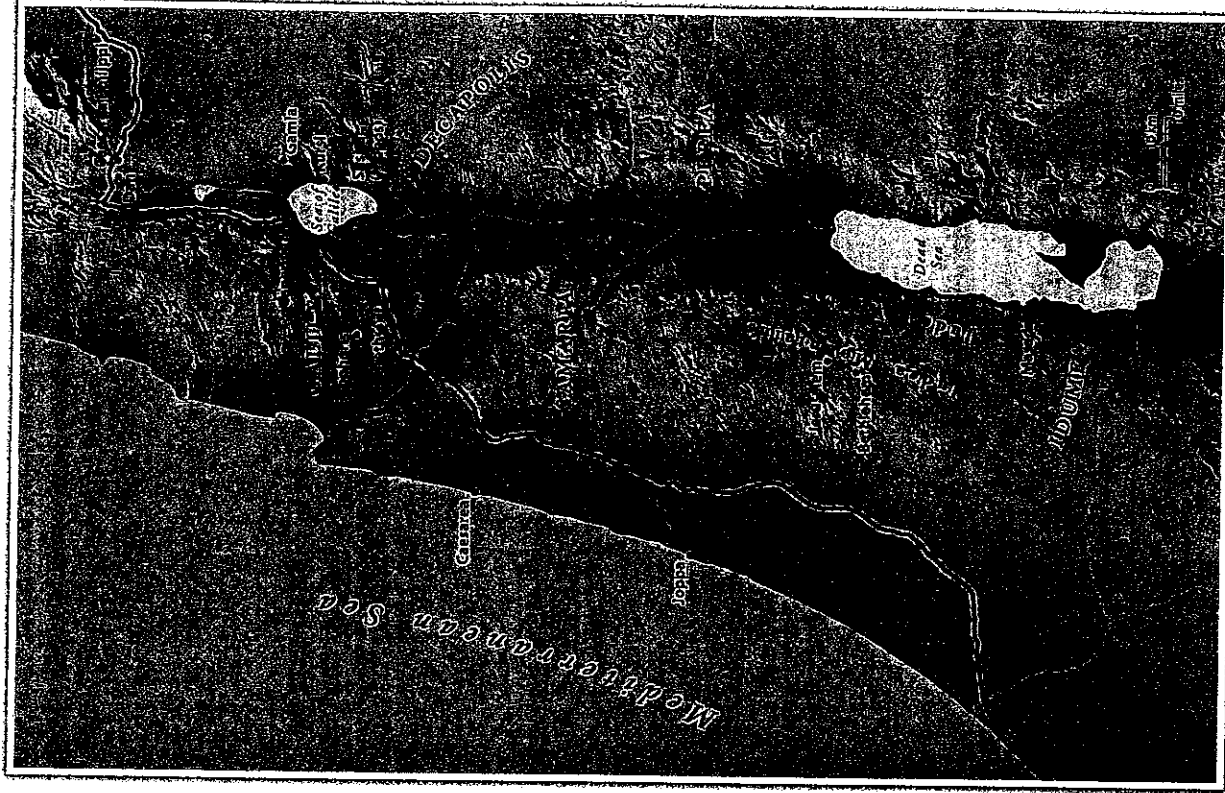
Passover politics

Jesus’ tears

DVD Discussion (7 minutes)

Refer to the map of the land of Jesus’ ministry on page 177. Trace the route Jesus took from Caesarea Philippi through the Decapolis, Perea, across the Jordan, to Jericho and through the Judea Wilderness to Jerusalem.

1. What did you learn about Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem that was new to you, and how does it help you to understand what happened that day?



2. Imagine the different people who were in the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem. What hopes, expectations, and fears do you think various people in that crowd experienced? Pharisees? Ordinary people? Zealots? Jesus' disciples?
3. The Jews who cried "Hosanna" had an expectation of the Messiah that he could have fulfilled, but did not. Would you say their expectation was wrong, or misapplied? Why?

What do you think leads people of faith to truly believe that God is doing something he isn't?

If you feel comfortable doing so, share about a time in your life when you have done this.

Small Group Bible Discovery and Discussion (18 minutes)

Jesus Demonstrates His Love

The Bible provides many insights into who Jesus is and how he lived that out while he was on earth. From its pages, for example, we know something of his knowledge of Scripture, how he reached out to different kinds of people and responded to their needs, and his faithfulness to live according to the will of his heavenly Father. Let's

take a few minutes to consider the love and compassion Jesus felt and demonstrated toward the people he came to save.

1. Jesus expressed his love in the tears he shed at Lazarus' tomb. (See John 11:1 - 3, 17, 30 - 44.)
 - a. How well did Jesus know Lazarus? (See John 11:1 - 3.)
 - b. How did Jesus respond to Mary's pain and the pain of other Jews who had come to comfort her? (See John 11:32 - 36.)
 - c. What were Jesus' feelings when he came to the tomb? (See John 11:38.)
2. Jesus expressed his love in the tears he shed at Jerusalem. (See Luke 18:31 - 33; 19:28, 37 - 44.)
 - a. What did Jesus know would happen to him in Jerusalem? (See Luke 18:31 - 33.)
 - b. How does his determination to travel through the wilderness to get to Jerusalem and face what was ahead add to your understanding of his great love for humanity?

- c. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem? (See Luke 19:37 - 44.)
 - d. How would you describe what Jesus, the Messiah, wanted to do for Jerusalem and its people if they had accepted him as a redeeming Messiah rather than a conquering Messiah?
3. In everything he did, Jesus demonstrated true love — the pure, perfect, boundless love of God. What do Romans 5:8, Ephesians 5:1 - 2, and 1 John 4:8 - 9 add to your understanding of what true love is?

How does this picture of love differ from the kind of love we usually see demonstrated in life?

Memorize

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins