

Small Group Activities

In a family, small group or community ...

Discussion

What are the Empires you can identify around you? How do they compare with other people's? How do they affect you?

"What have the Romans (the Empires) ever done for you?"

You aren't 'Civis Romanus' - you are a follower, a child, of the king. How does this affect your expectations of God?

When Jesus says 'take up your cross and follow me,' what's your response? Be honest!

Imagine yourself watching Jesus passing by on his colt "the foal of a donkey" - Yes, you know it fulfils prophecy (and yes, we have 20/20 hindsight) but how does this make you think about him as a king?

Ideas for Prayer

Using your tags (or any other aids) pray through your response to Empire and following the King/building the kingdom.

Sing/Pray "Build your kingdom here" (overleaf)

Pray for each other to be released from Empires and to be released into the freedom of following Jesus, the King

More to discover

Consumer Detox (Mark Powley) explores more about one particular Empire and offers some ideas as to how you can turn away from it!

How God became King (Tom Wright) explores in detail the kingship of Jesus through the gospels - it's mind-bendingly good!

The Last Week (Crossan and Borg) talks in detail about the two processions idea—if you google Crossan and Borg the last week you'll find a sermon from John Crossan that talks about it.

PALM SUNDAY

John 12:12-19

"The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him.



And they cheered, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel!"

(from The Message)

The king returns to Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 "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."

Today we too celebrate the return of the king.

EMPIRES

KING

Response?

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Come, set Your rule and reign in our hearts again,
Increase in us we pray, Unveil why we're made.
Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope, Like wildfire in our very souls,
Holy Spirit come invade us now.

We are Your church, We need Your power in us.

We seek Your kingdom first, We hunger and we thirst,
Refuse to waste our lives, For You're our joy and prize.
To see the captive hearts released, The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace;
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause,

We are Your church, We pray: 'revive this earth.'

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far,
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this, Awake the kingdom seed in us,
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ,

We are Your church, We are the hope on earth.

Build Your kingdom here, Let the darkness fear;
Show Your mighty hand, Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire, Win this nation back;
Change the atmosphere,

Build Your kingdom here we pray

(René Collective 2011)