WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: Lessons from the Donkey
Key Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-9, NIV
Recorded Sermon: www.youtube.com/watch?v=az1hKRS-YM4
Date + Speaker: April 13 2025, Pastor Mark Scarr

Lessons 1-7 from the sermon notes are listed at the bottom of page 2.

Starter Questions:

1. Was there a challenge this week that reminded you to lean on your faith?
2. What's something small we can do to share God's love in the coming days?

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey, rather than a more regal animal like a horse, to enter Jerusalem? What does this teach us about His character?
2. Reflect on Matthew 21:3: "The Lord needs them." How does this demonstrate the intersection of God's power and human cooperation?
3. Discuss Lesson 4: "If you carry the burden of Jesus, He will do the heavy lifting." How does this align with the idea of surrendering to Christ?
4. How can we develop the endurance described in Lesson 5, especially in seasons of spiritual or personal challenge?
5. Lesson 6 reminds us that "Jesus gets the praise." How can we stay humble while carrying out His work?
6. "Jesus can't use you until you've been untied" (Lesson 7). What does it mean to be untied spiritually, and how can we allow Jesus to untie us?
7. How does this sermon challenge your understanding of servitude and humility?
8. How might you apply the lessons from the donkey to your personal life or community today?

Diving Deeper:

1. The imagery of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey symbolizes gentleness and humility. How does this contrast with worldly expectations of leadership and power? How can we embody this humility in our lives?
2. Matthew 21:3 states, "The Lord needs them." Yet Acts 17:25 highlights that God has no needs. How do we reconcile these concepts of divine sovereignty and our role in His plan?
3. Reflect on the crowd's reaction to Jesus ("Hosanna to the Son of David!"). What does this moment tell us about the tension between expectation and reality in faith?
4. Lesson 3 says, "Jesus will use you even when you feel unqualified." What does being unqualified look like in a spiritual context, and how can we embrace this truth?
5. Lesson 7 mentions being “untied” before Jesus can use us. What are some personal or spiritual ties that may hinder us from being fully used by Him? How can we identify and release them?
6. How can the endurance described in Lesson 5 ("A donkey is built for endurance, not speed") be applied to long-term spiritual growth or life's challenges?
7. How does the image of the donkey challenge our views on servanthood, purpose, and praise?

SEVEN LESSONS FROM THE DONKEY … (from April 13 sermon notes)

1. The greater the BURDEN, the greater the BLESSING.
2. Jesus has POSITIONED you for a PURPOSE.
3. Jesus will use you even when you feel UNQUALIFIED.
4. If you carry the burden of Jesus, He will do the HEAVY LIFTING.
5. A donkey is built for ENDURANCE, not SPEED.
6. You carry the BURDEN, but Jesus gets the PRAISE.
7. Jesus can’t use you until you’ve been UNTIED.

Additional Resources:



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional health and healing.

Devotional Resources

- Use devotionals focused on emotional health:
  - *"New Morning Mercies"* by Paul David Tripp.
  - *"Streams in the Desert"* by L.B. Cowman (for those enduring emotional trials).
  - *"Soul Rest"* by Curtis "CZ" Zackery: A devotional centered on finding rest and healing in Christ.



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities.

Activity-Based Studies

- Studies that integrate group tasks:
  - *"Love Does"* by Bob Goff (with practical ideas to show love in action).
  - The *"Living on Mission"* series from organizations like Lifeway, which pairs scriptural studies with active service challenges.



Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent.

Thematic Study Books

- Books that delve into theological topics or specific Bible themes, such as:
  - *"Knowing God"* by J.I. Packer
  - *"The Reason for God"* by Timothy Keller
  - *"The Cost of Discipleship"* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - *"How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth"* by Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart